

A Letter to God

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What did Lencho hope for?

Answer

Lencho hoped for rains as the only thing that his field of ripecorn needed was a shower.

2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?

Answer

Lencho's crops were ready for harvest. As raindrops would have helped in getting a better harvest, resulting in more prosperity, so Lencho compared them with new coins.

3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?

Answer

The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow and very large hailstones began to

fall along with the rain.

All the crop in Lencho's fields destroyed.

4. What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?

Answer

After hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. He could see a bleak future for him and his family. He was worried about lack of food for the coming year.

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Oral Comprehension Check

1. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

Answer

Lencho had faith in God. He believed that God's eyes see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. He wrote a letter to God saying that he needed a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

2. Who read the letter?

Answer

Postmaster read the letter.

3. What did the postmaster do then?

Answer

The Postmaster first laughed. But then he became serious. He was deeply moved by the writer's faith in

God. He did not want to shake this faith. So he decided to collect the money and send it to Lencho.

Oral Comprehension Check

1. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

Answer

No. Lencho was not at all surprised to see the letter from God with money inside it. His confidence and

faith in God was such that he had expected that reply from God.

2. What made him angry?

Answer

When he finished counting money he found only seventy pesos. But he demanded hundred pesos. He was

confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him what he had requested. Therefore, he concluded that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos.

Thinking about the Text

1. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

Answer

Lencho had complete faith in God. The sentences in the story that show this are as follows:

(i) But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single

hope: help from God.

(ii) All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had

been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.

(iii) "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."

(iv) He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town.

(v) God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

(vi) It said: "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I

need it very much."

2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

Answer

Postmaster was moved by Lencho's complete faith in the God. So, he decided to send money to Lencho.

Moreover, the postmaster did not want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So, he signed the letter 'God'. It

was a good ploy to convey a message that God had himself written the letter.

3. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?

Answer

No, Lencho does not try to find out who had sent the money to him. This is because he had great confidence in God and never suspected that it could be someone else other than God who would send him

the money. His faith in God was so strong that he believed that God had sent him the money.

4. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation?

[Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. An ironic situation is strange or amusing because it is the opposite of what is expected.]

Answer

Lencho thinks that the post office people have taken the money. It is the post office people who send the

money to Lencho. But, on the other hand, Lencho thinks they have stolen his money. He calls them crooks.

Thus there is an element of irony in this situation.

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5. Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is? You may select appropriate words from the box to answer the question.

Greedy Naïve stupid ungrateful

selfish comical unquestioning

Answer

I don't think there can be any such people in the real world. Lencho is literate and yet he doesn't know how

his letter will reach God without any address.

He probably would be naïve and unquestioning.

6. There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

Answer

The conflict between humans and nature is shown by the destruction of Lencho's crops by the hailstorm.

As the crops failed by hail, Lencho started feeling sad and gloomy after the storm appropriately projects the

conflict of the nature and the man. The Story also shown another conflict, between humans themselves. The

postmaster, along with the help of the other post office employees, sent Lencho the money that they could

manage to collect. They were not related to Lencho in any manner. It was an act of kindness and selflessness on their part. Even though they did a good deed, Lencho blamed them for taking away some

amount of money. This shows that man does not have faith in his fellow humans, thereby giving rise to this

conflict.

Thinking about the Language

1. There are different names in different parts of the world for storms, depending on their nature.

Can you match the names in the box with their descriptions below, and fill in the blanks? You may use a dictionary to help you.

gale, whirlwind, cyclone,

hurricane, tornado, typhoon

1. A violent tropical storm in which strong winds move in a circle:

___ c ___

2. An extremely strong wind: ___ a ___

3. A violent tropical storm with very strong winds: ___ p ___

4. A violent storm whose centre is a cloud in the shape of a funnel:

___ n ___

5. A violent storm with very strong winds, especially in the western Atlantic ocean: ___ r ___

6. A very strong wind that moves very fast in a spinning movement and causes a lot of damage: ___

___ l ___

Answer

1. Cyclone

2. Gale

3. Typhoon

4. Tornado

5. Hurricane

6. Whirlwind

2. Match the sentences in Column A with the meanings of 'hope' in Column B.

A B

1.

Will you get the subjects you want to study in college?

I hope so.

– a feeling that something good will probably happen

2.

I hope you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.

–

thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened).

3.

This discovery will give new hope to HIV/AIDS sufferers.

– stopped believing that this good thing would happen

4.

We were hoping against hope that the judges would not notice our mistakes.

–

wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)

5.

I called early in the hope of speaking to her before she went to school.

–

showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person: a way of being polite

6.

Just when everybody had given up hope, the fishermen came back, seven days after the cyclone.

–

wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely

Answer

A B

1.

Will you get the subjects you want to study in college?

I hope so.

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wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)

2.

I hope you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.

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showing concern that what you say should not offend
disturb the other person: a way of being polite

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This discovery will give new hope to HIV/AIDS sufferers.

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We were hoping against hope that the judges would not notice our mistakes.

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wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely

5. I called early in the hope of speaking to her before she – thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have

went to school. happened.)

6.

Just when everybody had given up hope, the fisherman came back, seven days after the cyclone.

– stopped believing that this good thing would happen

3. Join the sentences given below using who, whom, whose, which as suggested.

1. I often go to Mumbai. Mumbai is the commercial capital of India. (which)

2. My mother is going to host a TV show on cooking. She cooks very well. (who)

3. These sportspersons are going to meet the President. Their performance has been excellent. (whose)

4. Lencho prayed to God. His eyes see into our minds. (whose)

5. This man cheated me. I trusted him. (whom)

Answer

1. I often go to Mumbai, which is the commercial capital of India.

2. My mother, who cooks very well, is going to host a TV show on cooking.

3. These sportspersons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.

4. Lencho prayed to God, whose eyes see into our minds.

5. This man, whom I trusted, cheated me.

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4. Find sentences in the story with negative words, which express the following ideas emphatically.

1. The trees lost all their leaves.

2. The letter was addressed to God himself.

3. The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Answer

1. The trees lost all their leaves.

Not a leaf remained on the trees.

2. The letter was addressed to God himself.

It was nothing less than a letter to God.

3. The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

5. In pairs, find metaphors from the story to complete the table below. Try to say what qualities are being compared. One has been done for you.

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
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Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains.
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Raindrops		
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Hailstones		
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Locusts		
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An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead.

An ox of a man.

Answer

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
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Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
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Raindrops	A curtain of rain	The draping or covering of an area by a curtain
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Hailstones	The frozen pearls	The resemblance in colour and hardness of a pearl
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Locusts	A plague of locusts	The consequences (destruction) of plague
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Locusts	A plague of locusts	
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An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead

Man	An ox of a man	The working of an ox in the fields (hard work)
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