

## **STUDY COURSE MATERIAL**

### **ENGLISH**

#### **SESSION-2020-21**

#### **CLASS-X**

### **TOPIC: FIRST FLIGHT \_ CHAPTER-1 (A LETTER TO GOD BY G.L FUENTES)**

### **DAY-1**

#### **❖ TEACHING MATERIAL: - CHARACTER SKETCH OF LENCHO**

Lencho is the protagonist or in simple words main character of the short story A Letter to God. He is a poor farmer but is very dedicated and hard-working. We find that he leaves no stone unturned to feed his family and fulfil their needs.

However he is also an uneducated person and without knowledge, he is unable to make a difference between belief and reality. For him God lives on the earth and it is possible to communicate to Him.

So he writes a letter to God and when he gets the money, he is not surprised at all. Rather he is angry over the employees for stealing some amount because he firmly believes that God has sent complete money. Lencho is thus very innocent as well.

Introduction.

The story, "A Letter to God" by G.L Fuentes revolves around the idea of having unquestionable belief in something. The story is set in a Latin American country. Lencho, the farmer, who is the protagonist of the story, writes a letter to God seeking help from the almighty after discovering his entire crop yield destroyed by a devastating hailstorm. Although, his wishes get fulfilled partially, if not completely, he is ungrateful in the end and questions the honesty and modesty of the post-masters who actually helped him with money (anonymously) in the name of god.

#### **Word meanings:-**

1. Crest: Top of a hill
2. Dotted: Full Of
3. Downpour: Heavy Rain
4. Intimately: Closely
5. Exclaimed- cry out suddenly in surprise, strong emotion, or pain.
6. Regarded- Consider Or Think Of In A Specified Way
7. Draped- Adorn, Cover, Or Wrap (Someone Or Something)
8. Hailstones- A Pellet Of Hail
9. Resemble- Have A Similar Appearance To Or Qualities In Common With (Someone Or Something); Look Or Seem Like.
10. Exposing- make (something) visible by uncovering it.; reveal

## **A Letter to God Summary.**

The story, "A Letter to God" by G.L. Fuentes depicts unwavering faith of a farmer in God. It begins with a farmer, named Lencho expecting for a rain shower to nourish his field of corn. He is confident that his harvest is going to yield him huge profits just like it does every year. To his utmost excitement, rainfall did happen but sooner, it turned into a hailstorm destroying his entire crop field. The damage posed a threat to the family's survival as their entire livelihood was dependent on the year's produce. Although disheartened, the family had robust belief in the almighty. Lencho, despite having worked day and night at the field, knew how to write and thus, decided to write a letter to God explaining his situation and asking for help. He went to town to post his letter addressed "To God". The letter on being noticed by the postmaster, at first amused him, but then motivated him want to do something for the farmer so as to keep his immense belief intact. He contributes from his salary and collects money from his colleagues and friends who willingly contributed for an act of charity. To his dismay, he could only collect 70 pesos which he wrapped in an envelope to make it seem like a reply from the deity. On having found the letter, the writer (Lencho) is not at all shocked, but instead, he gets angry on finding that the amount is less than what he had expected. He again writes a letter to God conveying his disappointment and distrust in the employees of the post office who he thought had stolen the remaining amount.

## **❖ VIDEO-LINKS**

<https://youtu.be/VHhkNhzVGFM>

## **DAY-2**

## **❖ TEACING MATERIAL : - QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

**Q1. What did Lencho hope for?**

**Ans.**Lencho hoped for a rain shower for his crop field.

**Q2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?**

**Ans.** After the rain shower, everything was going as per Lencho's plan and he had immense confidence that his harvest would yield substantial profits. Thus, he referred to the droplets as "new coins, the larger ones being equivalent to ten pesos and smaller ones, five pesos.

**Q3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?**

**Ans.** Soon after the rainfall had begun, the wind became strong leading to a hailstorm. As a result of which, Lencho's crop fields got withered, the trees had shed their leaves and the flowers had fallen.

**Q4. What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?**

**Ans.** Lencho was extremely disheartened and his soul was filled with immense sadness.

**Q5. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?**

**Ans.** Lencho had unwavering faith in God. Thus, he decided to write a letter to God conveying his grievances and asking for 100 pesos for survival and rejuvenation of crops.

**Q6. Who read the letter?**

**Ans.** A postman who was also an employee of the post office read the letter.

**Q7. What did the postmaster do then?**

**Ans.** The postmaster was amazed at Lencho's unshakeable faith in the deity and thus, to retain it, he decided to collect money for him from his friends and colleagues.

**Q8. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?**

**Ans.** Lencho was not at all surprised on seeing the letter because this is what he was expecting. Instead, he was angry when he found that the amount was less than what he had asked for.

**Q9. What made him angry?**

**Ans.** Lencho was displeased when he found that the money was less than what he had asked for.

**Q10. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?**

**Ans.** Lencho has immense faith in God. These lines are evident to this fact: "Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence - but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested." □

**Q11. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?**

**Ans.** The postmaster did not want to shake the writer's faith in the almighty, and thus, out of virtuous intentions, decided to collect money for "an act of charity" □. He also signed the letter in the name of God to conceal his identity as he wanted Lencho to think it was actually a reply from God.

**Q12. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?**

**Ans.** No, Lencho did not try to find out the sender because he was very optimistic about the existence of almighty and that, his letter is actually received and replied to, by God. It was his unshakeable faith that made him not question the identity of the sender.

**Q13. 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.)**

**Ans.** Lencho thought that it is the postmaster or the employees of the post-office who had stolen his remaining amount, as is evident from his second letter to God where he requests the deity not to send money by mail next time. The irony here is that, it was actually the postmaster and the employees who had collected the money

out of their clean intent to keep Lencho's faith intact, but are the ones who ended up getting blamed for stealing the missing amount.

**Q 14. 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, naive, stupid, ungrateful,  
Selfish, comical, unquestioning

**Ans.** No, it is hard to find people like Lencho in reality. Lencho is naive and unquestioning because of his lack of judgement about the actual physical existence of God. He did not question receiving an actual reply from the almighty. Also, he is ungrateful in some manner because on seeing 70 pesos, he is not happy but instead, complained about the missing 30 pesos.

**Q15. There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?**

**Ans.** The story "A Letter to God" depicts two types of conflicts; one between man and nature and the other among men themselves. In the beginning of the story, the farmer hopes for a rain shower for the benefit of his corn field. On actually receiving rain, he becomes overjoyed and starts thinking about all the profit that would come in. Not much later, his joy is turned into sorrow when the wind becomes strong leading to a hailstorm. This depicts the disagreement between man and nature wherein humans want the nature to act according to their aspirations. The second divergence arises when Lencho starts doubting the honesty of the post-office employees who actually helped him with the money anonymously. This is the conflict among men themselves, wherein, we are ready to trust in the idea of God's existence but we are not ready to trust each other.

## **DAY-3**

❖ **TEACING MATERIAL: - FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET- CHAPTER-1 (A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY BY- JAMES HERRIOT)**

### ➤ **Character Sketch.**

#### **Introduction to the lesson**

Tricki, a small dog, is pampered and overfed by his rich mistress. He falls seriously ill and his mistress consults a veterinary surgeon. Does he perform an operation? Does the dog recover?

This story is about Tricki, a dog who is the pet of a rich lady named Mrs. Pumphrey. She loves her dog very much and is unable to refuse him anything he wants. Tricki, is fond of

eating cream cakes and chocolates. So one day when Mrs. Pumphrey is out with Tricky for a walk the narrator sees them and stops to talk. While talking to Mrs. Pumphrey he realises that she has been overfeeding Tricky and also had been giving him things that he shouldn't eat due to which Tricky had started looking like a bloated sausage. Soon Tricky got unwell and Mrs. Pumphrey has to call Mr. Herriot (narrator) for help. She does not want to send him away but the only way suggested by Mr. Herriot is to get him hospitalised for 15 days. Then the story unfolds into how he gets well.

### ➤ **Summary.**

The story starts when Mrs. Pumphrey, a rich lady takes her dog out for a walk. A nearby veterinary doctor who knows the lady sees the dog and is shocked as he sees that the dog looks like a bloated sausage with a leg at each end. He advises her to stop giving him unhealthy things to eat but Mrs. Pumphrey is not able to refuse him. Soon he falls sick and the doctor is called. The narrator, Mr. Herriot then somehow takes Tricky, the dog to the hospital even though he knows that Mrs. Pumphrey is not ready to leave her dog and nearly fainted just by hearing these words. Then he takes the dog along and puts a bed for him in his surgery. The dog doesn't move much nor eats anything for the first two days. On the second day he looks around and whimpers a bit. He wanted to go out on the third day and started playing with the bigger dogs when he was taken out. He also licked the bowls of other dogs clean on the third day.

Then his condition started improving very fast. He started fighting for his meals with other dogs. Then when this news reached Mrs. Pumphrey, she started sending him eggs as she thought that Tricky was recovering from an illness and needed energy foods. Mr. Herriot and his partners started eating those eggs for morning breakfast. Then for improving Tricky's blood, Mrs. Pumphrey started sending in bottles of wine which was again consumed by Mr. Herriot. He used to take two glasses before lunch and some more glasses while having his lunch. Then when she started sending in bottles of brandy for Tricky that was the time when Mr. Herriot thought that he would really like to keep Tricky as a permanent guest in the surgery. Mr. Herriot used to be really happy someday by having two extra eggs every morning. Then having few glasses of wine in the afternoon and closing the day by having brandy at night. But then he took a wise decision and called up Mrs. Pumphrey as she was really worried and on this side Tricky was ready to be taken back home. Tricky was really happy to see his mistress and jumped into the car. Mrs. Pumphrey said that she won't be able to ever thank him for what he had done and also, that his surgery had been successful as Tricky was now cured.

### **Word Meanings.**

1. Mistress- a woman in a position of authority or control.
2. Bloated- excessive in size or amount.
3. Sausage- an item of food in the form of a cylindrical length of minced pork or other meat encased in a skin, typically sold raw to be grilled or fried before eating.
4. Bloodshot- (of the eyes) inflamed or tinged with blood, typically as a result of tiredness.
5. Rheumy- watery.
6. Lollid- sit, lie, or stand in a lazy, relaxed way.
7. Hastened- be quick to do something.

8. Listless- lacking energy or enthusiasm.
9. Malnutrition- lack of proper nutrition
10. Cod liver oil- oil pressed from the liver of cod
11. Relent- become less severe or intense.
12. Lumbago- pain in the muscles and joints of the lower back.
13. Jostling- push, elbow, or bump against (someone) roughly, typically in a crowd.
14. Scrimmages- a confused struggle or fight.
15. Trampled- tread on and crush.
16. Squashed- flat, soft, or out of shape as a result of being crushed or squeezed with force.
17. Shaggy- long, thick, and unkempt.
18. Hovered- remain poised uncertainty in one place or between two states.
19. Anxiously- feeling or showing worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.
20. Dozen- 12 in number
21. Bulletins- a short official statement or broadcast summary of news.
22. Convalescing- recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or medical treatment.

#### ❖ VIDEO-LINKS

<https://youtu.be/UmNBUIkiZGs>

## DAY-4

#### ❖ TEACING MATERIAL : - QUESTION AND ANSWERS

**Q1. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of commonsense?**

**Ans.** The narrator, a veterinary doctor is a very compassionate and an honest man as he does not unnecessarily operate upon Tricki. He goes out of the way to guide Mrs. Pumphrey that she should start keeping a strict check on Tricki's diet and his exercise schedule. He is tactful because he knows how to get Tricki to the hospital and his common sense can be seen by the simple fact that he just changed the eating and exercise schedule of Tricki which helped him recover from his problems. He did not unnecessarily put him on medicines.

**Q2. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?**

**Ans.** Yes, Tricki was as happy to go home as much as he was staying in the surgery. He was happy staying in the surgery because he got many friends which he did not have at home and was happy to go back home because he did not have his lavish lifestyle at the surgery. His excitement to go back home can be seen from the fact that as soon as he saw his mistress, he jumped back into the car and started licking her face and roaming around

in excitement. I think now he will be fine at home as well because earlier Mrs. Pumphrey did not take Mr. Herriot's advice seriously which led to Tricki's hospitalization.

**Q3. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?**

**Ans.** I feel that this story is a mixture of both because it is not a new thing that rich people overfeed their dog or maintain excessive wardrobes for their pets but for a doctor to go out of his way to help another person who doesn't want his advice is unusual. A doctor being so honest that he doesn't wrongly treat the dog and instead, just works on him by keeping him in his surgery and tracks his health by feeding him less and maintains a regular exercise schedule seems to be more of a fiction.

**Q4. Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricki?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Pumphrey was worried about Tricki as Tricki was not eating anything, not even his favourite dishes. Tricki was vomiting and lied down on the rug, panting. He did not even want to go out for walks or anything.

**Q5. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?**

**Ans.** She calls the doctor to see him as he was unwell. Yes, she was wise this time as earlier, she was acting foolish by overfeeding him. The doctor told her that Tricki needed to be hospitalized. She was crying over it but later accepted that she needed to listen to the doctor.

**Q6. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?**

**Ans.** "I" refers to the narrator who is a veterinary doctor, Mr. Herriot.

**Q7. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?**

**Ans.** According to the story, the narrator is not as rich as Mrs. Pumphrey because Mr. Herriott is able to provide Tricki with a box bed whereas in Mrs. Pumphrey's house he has his own bed, different bowls to eat and servants at his disposal. Then Tricki's mistress used to send two dozen eggs, wine and brandy everyday for Tricki's recovery. Towards the end of chapter, Tricki's mistress comes in 30 feet of gleaming black metal which is obviously a luxury car. So, it can be seen that Tricki's mistress used to live a very luxurious life in comparison to the narrator.

**Q8. How does he treat the dog?**

**Ans.** He treats the dog very well. He knows that Tricki does not need medicinal treatment but requires a change in his lifestyle. He gives him only water for two days and then he sees that Tricki has started licking the empty food bowls and started mixing up with other dogs. Then he gives him food and Tricki starts to recover well. Then soon after living there for a few days, he is much better and goes back home.

**Q9. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?**

**Ans.** He is tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest because Mrs. Pumphrey wants Tricki to recover quickly. So she used to send two dozen eggs, wine bottles and brandy everyday. Mr. Herriot knew that there was no need of giving Tricki all that so he used to eat the extra eggs and drink the wine with his partners. With all that food and drinks coming in, Mr. Herriot used to be very happy so he was tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest.

**Q10. Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?**

**Ans.** Tricki had recovered completely in two weeks. He had been turned into a hard muscle animal. Upon seeing Mrs. Pumphrey, Tricki ran towards her, jumped on her lap and

started licking her face. She was overwhelmed to see Tricky all well and so she says as a token of gratitude that it was “a triumph of surgery”.

## **DAY-5**

### **❖ TEACHING MATERIAL : - COMPOSITION**

#### **➤ Formal letters.**

A formal letter is one written in a formal and ceremonious language and follows a certain stipulated format. Such letters are written for official purposes to authorities, dignitaries, colleagues, seniors, etc and not to personal contacts, friends or family. A number of conventions must be adhered to while drafting formal letters.

#### **➤ Types of Formal Letter.**

- ★ Letter of Enquiry
- ★ Order Letter
- ★ Letter of Complaint
- ★ Reply to a Letter of Complaint
- ★ Promotion Letter
- ★ Sales Letters
- ★ Recovery Letters

### **❖ Format.**

**A formal letter comprises of following elements:**

- ★ **Sender’s address**
  
- ★ **Date**
  
- ★ **Receiver’s Address**
  
- ★ **Subject**

★ **Salutation**

★ **Body of the letter**

★ **Complimentary closing**

★ **Sender's Name, signature and designation**

❖ **Complaint letter.**

A Complaint Letter is a type of letter written to address any type wrong doing, offence, grievance, resentment arising out of a product, service etc. Complaint Letter writing is not only a pre-warning for the offender but also a chance for them to rectify their act in time.

**Q. Write a letter to M/s. Oxford Publishing House, London complaining that the books sent by them were not those you had ordered for. Ask for replacement. You are Varun Joshi, Sector-20, Chandigarh.**

Examination Hall,  
Sector-20, Chandigarh.

Date: February 20, 2019.

M/s. Oxford Publishing House  
Consumer Complaint Division  
London.

Subject- Complaint regarding receipt of wrong set of books.

Respected Sir/Madam,

On February 1, 2019 I bought a book set (Order No. 000154) to be delivered to Chandigarh, Sector-20.

To my dismay, I have not received the set I ordered for and have instead, received the wrong book set. I am highly disappointed. To resolve the problem, I would appreciate it if you could replace the wrong book set with the one originally ordered. Please let me know as soon as possible what action you propose to take. I look forward to hearing from you within the next ten days.

Enclosed are copies of the transaction document and the receipt.

I look forward to your reply and a resolution to my problem and will wait until the aforementioned time before seeking help from a consumer protection agency or the Better Business Bureau. Please contact me at the above address or by phone at 098100XXXXX.

Yours sincerely,  
Varun Joshi  
Enclosure(s)- Copy of receipt and transaction docs.

❖ **Inquiry letters.**

Inquiry Letter is a letter written to request information and/or ascertain its authenticity. A letter of inquiry deals with various matters like job vacancies, funding, grants, scholarships, projects, sales, pre-proposals and others. The term is common in various business setups as it implies fund request or pre-proposal information.

**Q. Write a letter to M/s Vikrant Electronics, Circular Road, Bengaluru asking for the price list of pre-recorded music cassettes of some of the latest Hindi films. You may sign yourself as David of 110, Moti Bagh, Lucknow.**

110, MotiBagh  
Lucknow.

Date: March 5, 2020

M/s Vikrant Electronics  
Circular Road.  
Bengaluru.

**Subject: Inquire about the pricelist.**

Respected Sir,

I run a music shop in Lucknow. I wish to purchase in bulk quantity some of the pre-cassettes of some Hindi films. You are requested to let me know your price list for the music cassettes of the following films:

Chakde India, Sarfarosh, Kesari and Jhansi - the pride of India.

Please send me the information soon so that I may place an early order.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
David.

LINKS

<https://nvseng10.weebly.com/a-letter-to-god.html>

# MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE Chapter-1

