



QUESTION BANK-  
A LETTER TO GOD

Sub: ENGLISH

Class: X

**KEY POINTS**

- Lencho was a farmer.
- His house was the only house in the valley and on the top of a hill.
- Lencho's field needed rain for a good harvest.
- He looked expectantly at the sky and it did rain.
- The drops of rain were like the coins for him.
- But his happiness was short lived as very large hailstones began to fall after the rain.
- The hailstones destroyed all the leaves on the trees, plants and flowers.
- There was no crop that year.
- There was a single hope: help from God.
- On the following Sunday, he wrote a letter to God.
- He needed a hundred pesos to sow his fields again and to live until the new crop came.
- He wrote 'To God' on the envelope and put the letter into the mailbox.
- The postman laughed heartily and took it to the postmaster.
- The postmaster laughed too but soon he became serious.
- He decided to reply to the letter and help Lencho.
- He collected seventy pesos only from his employees and himself contributed a part of his salary.
- He put the money in an envelope and posted it to Lencho.
- Lencho had an unbroken faith in God and he was not surprised when he received the money.
- His happiness was turned into anger as there were thirty pesos short of the money.
- Lencho could never believe that God could ever deceive him.
- So, he wrote another letter to God reminding Him that he received only 70 pesos sent by Him.
- He asked God not to send the rest of 30 pesos through the mail as the post office employees were a 'bunch of crooks.'

**SUMMARY**

Lencho was a dedicated farmer. He was expecting a decent harvest. However, to his grief, a hailstorm came and destroyed his harvest completely. Lencho was very sad. However, he had a strong belief in God. He was certain that God would help him. Also, he was an extremely straightforward man. Although working for a long time on the farm, he knew writing. Thus, he composed a letter to God. In the letter, he asked God to send him one hundred pesos. At that point, he went to the post office and put his letter into the post box. The postman removed the letter from the letter-box. He read the address on it and laughed very much. Also, he rushed to the postmaster and demonstrated to him that strange letter. Moreover, the postmaster also laughed in the same way when he saw the address of God. However, on reading the letter, he got very serious. He lauded this man who had unquestioned faith in God and decided to help him in terms of money. He asked the employees of the post office to give charity. Moreover, he gave a part of his salary too. However, they were able to collect only a little more than 50 pesos as requested for by Lencho. The postmaster put the money in an envelope. It was addressed to Lencho.

On Sunday, Lencho once again came to the post-office. He asked if there was a letter for him. The postmaster took out the letter and handed it to Lencho. Lencho was not surprised after seeing the money. But when he counted the money, he became angry on God. He was sure that God could not have made a mistake. He took paper and ink and wrote one more letter to God. Then he put it into the letter-box. After Lencho had left the place, the postmaster and the employees read the letter. In it, Lencho had complained to God that he had received only seventy pesos. Also, he requested God to send him the rest of the money this time. However, he asked God not to send the money through the mail. He wrote that the post-office employees were a bunch of crooks and thus might have stolen the money.

### **CHARACTER SKETCH**

**Lencho-** Lencho is the main character of the story “A Letter to God”. He is a poor farmer who is the sole bread-earner of the family. He had faith in God. Lencho lived in a small house which was situated on the crest of a low hill in the valley. Throughout the morning Lencho sat in his house and waited for the rain to come. He wished for the rain or the shower for his field in which he had grown his crops but due to hailstorm his crops were destroyed. Lencho wrote the letter to God as he thought that he would be the only one to help him in his bad times. He wrote a letter addressing to God to send him hundred pesos so that he and his family can survive in such a difficult situation.

**Postmaster** - The postmaster was a fat and amiable fellow. He was a sensible and a compassionate human being who was amazed by the depth of faith in God that is shown by Lencho. Although at first, he was amused by Lencho’s letter to God, he became serious and wanted to help Lencho because he didn’t want his faith to be shaken. The postmaster himself gave a part of his salary and also requested his employees and a few friends to contribute for charity. He felt happy and satisfied when Lencho received the money. This shows that he was a kind and empathetic person as well. He loved to help others.

### **FIGURES OF SPEECH USED IN THE TEXT**

Personification :

The house sat on the crest of the hill

The field promised a good harvest

Metaphor :

New coins

The big drops are ten cent pieces and the little ones are fives

A curtain of rain

New silver coins.

Frozen pearls

Lencho was an ox of a man

Simile :

The field was white, as if covered with salt.

This seems like a total loss

Working like an animal in the fields

A plague of locusts would have left more than this.

There are two main literary elements in the story.

- The Use of Metaphor
- Irony

### **The Use of Metaphor**

Fuentes makes use of metaphor in the story to draw unlikely comparisons between things. Some examples of metaphor are:

- In the phrase 'Huge mountains of clouds' the author draws a comparison between 'hugeness' of mountains with the clouds.
- The author compares the raindrops with new coins. This shows that Lencho is hoping the harvest will bring him money (new coins)
- The hailstones have been called 'the frozen pearls'. Lencho was unhappy with the beautiful hailstones as they destroyed his yield.
- Through the phrase 'a plague of locusts', locusts have been compared with a disaster that spreads rapidly and destroys everything, just like the hailstorm.
- The author compares Lencho with an ox in the phrase 'An ox of a man', meaning, he is a hardworking man, just like an ox works hard in the fields.

### **Irony**

- Irony is when words are used to express something that is very different from the actual intent.
- The author has given the story an ironic ending.
- The people at the post office had helped Lencho out of genuine intent, but ironically, Lencho blames them for stealing his thirty pesos.
- Lencho believes God had sent him the money but it is actually the people at the post office had sent the money.

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:**

**Read the following questions and choose the best option as answer:**

1. Lencho was a \_\_\_\_\_ farmer.  
(i) content                      (ii) greedy                      **(iii) hard working**                      (iv) satisfied
2. Lencho calls the big rain-drops \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) gold coins                      (ii) 5 pesos                      **(iii) silver coins**                      (iv) money
3. Who sent the money to Lencho?  
(i) **postmaster**                      (ii) God                      (iii) relatives                      (iv) well wishers
4. The postmaster- a fat, *amiable* fellow. AMIABLE means  
(i) unsociable                      **(ii) friendly**                      (iii) manner less                      (iv) charitable

5. “experiencing the contentment of a man .....”. The underlined word means \_\_\_\_\_  
disgust (ii) derision (iii) ridicule **(iv) satisfaction**

6. Why did Lencho become angry when he counted the money?

- a) Lencho received forty pesos less than what he had demanded from God
- b) Lencho received thirty pesos less than what he had demanded from God
- c) Lencho received hundred pesos less than what he had demanded from God
- d) Lencho received seventy pesos less than what he had demanded from God

Correct Answer: Option (b)

7. Where was Lencho’s house?

- a) Near the sea
- b) At the top of a hill
- c) At the bottom of a hill
- d) In a valley

Correct Answer: Option (b)

8. Lencho’s field needed.....for a good harvest.

- a) Manure
- b) Hail
- c) Rain

d) Ploughing

Correct Answer: Option (c)

**Extract 1:**

The house – the only one in the entire valley – sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height, one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a good downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning, Lencho – who knew his fields intimately – had done nothing but see the sky towards the northeast.

**Q1) The field of corn dotted with flowers means that .....**

- a) Not a single flower was bigger than a dot
- b) The flowers were scattered across
- c) The flowers were shaped like dots
- d) The flowers had shrunk in size

Correct Answer: Option (b)

**Q2) Based on the detail of the house's location, how can it best be described?**

- a) Majestic
- b) Imposing
- c) Solitary
- d) Unique

Correct Answer: Option (c)

**Q3) Lencho wished for a downpour or a heavy shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for the kinds of rain.**

(1) Heavy Rain	(i) Light rain that falls in very fine drops
(2) Thunderstorm	(ii) Very heavy rain, tropical rain
(3) Drizzle	(iii) It's coming down quite strong, and you get very wet very quickly
(4) Torrential rain	(iv) Really heavy rain that comes very suddenly
(5) Downpour	(v) It is a violent, short-lived weather disturbance associated with lightning, thunder and strong, gusty winds

a) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-v, 4-i, 5-iii

b) 1-iv, 2-i, 3-iii, 4-v, 5-ii

c) 1-v, 2-iii, 3-iv, 4-ii, 5-i

d) 1-iii, 2-v, 3-i, 4-ii, 5-iv

Correct Answer: Option (d)

**Q4) Which quote supports the idea in the given extract?**

a) "Farming is a profession of hope."

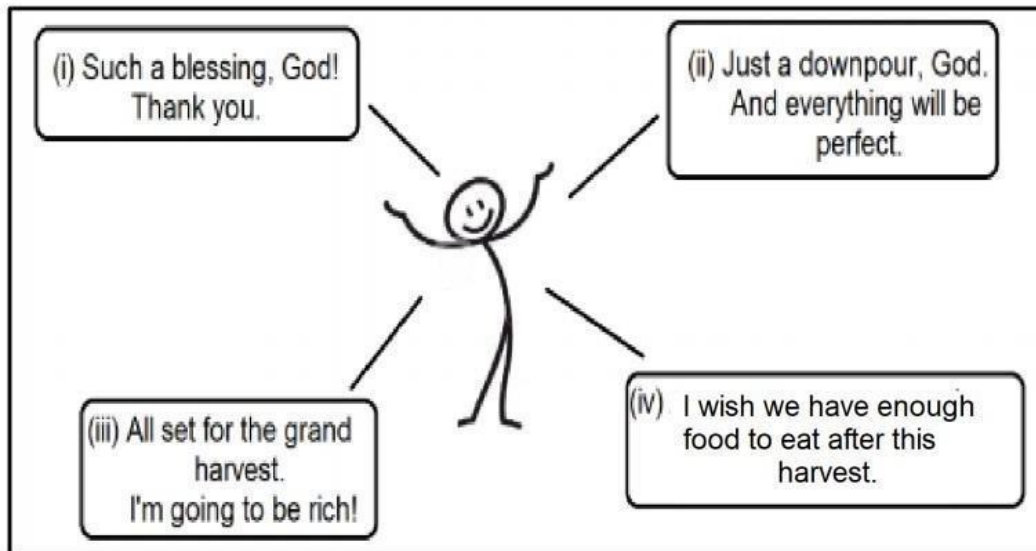
b) "I would rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world."

c) "Farming looks mighty easy when your plough is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

d) "Those too lazy to plough in the right season will have no food at the harvest."

Correct Answer: Option (a)

**5. Based on the given extract, what is Lencho NOT likely to think while looking at his field?**



- a) Option (i)
- b) Option (ii)
- c) Option (iii)
- d) Option (iv)

Correct Answer: Option (d)

**Extract 2:**

When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox, the postmaster went to open it. 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. But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho.”

**Q1) What was the most likely response that the postmaster expected in Lencho’s second letter?**

- i) Sorrowful
  - ii) Gratitude
  - iii) Disappointment
  - iv) Elation
  - v) Shock
- a) ii and v
  - b) i and iii

c) ii and iv

d) iii and v

Correct Answer: Option (c)

**Q2) Lencho's letter included .....**

a) Details of his problems

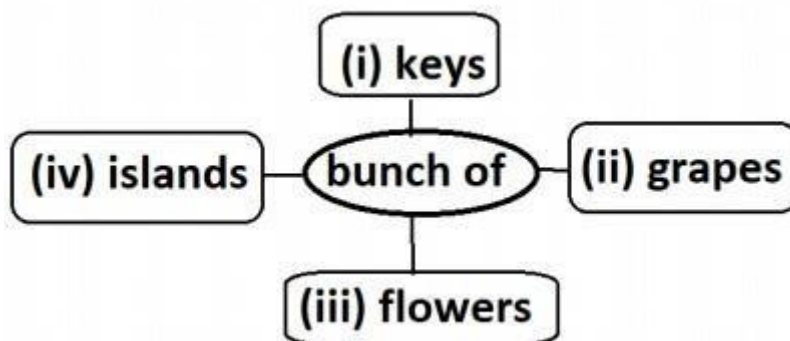
b) Description of the post office

c) Belief in being looted

d) List of further demands

Correct Answer: Option (d)

**Q3) '..... bunch of crooks.' Pick the option that DOES NOT collate with 'bunch of' correctly.**



a) Option (i)

b) Option (ii)

c) Option (iii)

d) Option (iv)

Correct Answer: Option (d)

**Q4) Pick the most suitable quote for this extract.**

a) "It is easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled." – Mark Twain

b) "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance."- Confucius

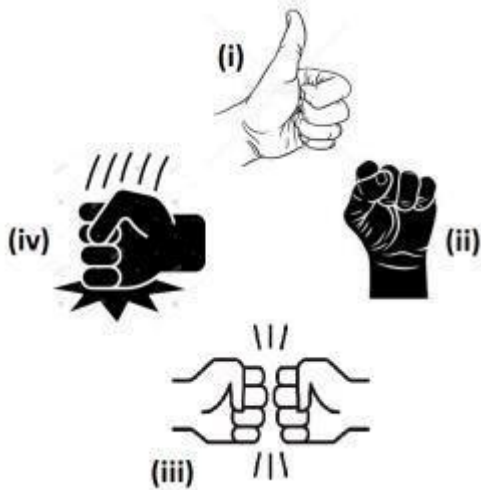
c) "You see a person's true colours when you are no longer beneficial to their life."- anonymous

d) "True generosity means accepting ingratitude." – Coco Chanel



Correct Answer: Option (d)

Q5) Pick the option that lists the option corresponding to — ‘with a blow of his fist.’



- a) Option (i)
- b) Option (ii)
- c) Option (iii)
- d) Option (iv)

Correct Answer: Option (d)

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: -**

*“God,” he wrote, “if you don’t help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because of the hailstorm ....”*

- (a) What help has he asked for?
- (b) Why did he need help?
- (c) Why did Lencho write a letter to God?
- (d) Why were Lencho and his family in distress?

**Answer.**

- (a) **He has asked for a hundred pesos in order to sow his field again.**
- (b) **He needed help because the hailstorm had destroyed his crop, and his family would go hungry.**
- (c) **Lencho’s crops were completely destroyed by the hailstorm. He had nobody to help but he had faith in God.**
- (d) **Lencho’s crops were completely destroyed by the hailstones. He feared that he and his family would go hungry.**

*“That’s what they say: no one dies of hunger.” All through the night, Lencho thought*

*only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, is deep in one's conscience. Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write".*

- (a) What was Lencho's only hope?
- (b) How did Lencho work in the field?
- (c) Find the exact word of similar meaning 'moral sense' given in the passage.
- (d) Explain 'an ox of a man'.

**Answer:**

- (a) **Lencho's only hope was the help of God.**
- (b) **Lencho worked like an 'ox' in the field. He was strong and hardworking.**
- (c) **The word is 'conscience'.**
- (d) **It means to be strong and working hard like an ox.**

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

#### **1. Describe the destruction caused by hailstones in Lencho's fields.**

Ans: The hail rained on Lencho's house, garden, cornfield, the hillside and the entire valley for an hour. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn in Lencho's cornfield was totally destroyed.

#### **2. What were Lencho's feelings when the rain/hail had stopped?**

Ans: Lencho was filled with sadness after the rain/hail had stopped. His corn was totally destroyed. He told his sons that they would have no corn that year. But he was hopeful of getting help from God.

#### **3. What did the postmaster do in order to not break Lencho's firm belief/faith in the Almighty/God?**

Ans: In order to not break Lencho's firm belief/faith in the Almighty/God, the postmaster decided to answer the letter as God himself. He collected money from his employees, friends and contributed a part of his salary to send to Lencho. He put the money in an envelope and sent it.

#### **4. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter with money in it? Why/Why not?**

Ans. No, Lencho was not at all surprised to receive the envelope with the money in it because he had utter faith in God. His unshakeable faith gave him utter confidence.

#### **5. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like "new coins"?**

Answer – Lencho's crops were ready for harvest. As raindrops would help him in getting a better harvest, resulting in more prosperity, So, Lencho compares them with new coins.

#### **6. How did the rain change? what happened to Lencho's field?**

Answer – The rain is about to pour down. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and very large hailstones begin to fall along with the rain. Therefore, all the crops of Lencho's field got destroyed.

#### **7. How did the employees help Lencho?**

Ans – When the postmaster used to read the letter, he found that very funny but also he gets serious about the matter later. He thought why not helping him, He used to discuss this matter with other employees in the post office and ask them to donate a little bit of

money from their salary. So, after that everyone agreed to the postmaster and everyone donated some money from their salary. After that, he puts that money in a letter and handed over to Lencho.

### **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

#### **1. Describe Lencho's qualities in light of his faith in God. Do you have faith in God like Lencho? Was Lencho's reaction towards post office employees, right?**

Ans: Lencho was a poor farmer who totally depended on the harvest to survive and fulfill basic needs of his family. Once his crops were destroyed due to heavy rainfall and hailstones and he was afraid to think how his family would survive. He believed that God would help him overcome the situation. He had firm faith in God, he believed that God would not let him and his family go hungry. Now-a-days faith in God like Lencho is almost impossible and unseen.

People are very aware that nobody is willing to help others without any self-interest. Lencho's reaction towards post office employees was not right or justified, but it could be because of his innocence as he could not believe that God had made such a mistake. Therefore, only the post office employees who had stolen money according to him.

#### **2. "Humanity still exists", this is what we get to know after reading 'A letter to God' in which firm faith in God of a poor farmer and helpfulness of the post office employees are aptly depicted thought. Write a paragraph on the values in it, in about 80-100 words.**

Ans: After reading the lesson, 'A letter to God', our faith in humanity becomes strong. We learn from the story that there still are people who help others without any self-interest. The postmaster and the post office employees lay an example for every one of us to be kind. Though they all laughed at Lencho's letter, they were really moved by the strong faith he had in God. The way they all decided to help the stranger in his hard times restores our faith in the existence of humanity and motivates us to be noble and kind.

#### **3. How did the postmaster and post office employees help Lencho? How did he react to their help?**

Answer: The Postmaster and post office employees were very generous as they contributed for the act of charity. First, they laughed when they saw Lencho's letter to God, but soon they were impressed by his faith in God. They decided to send some money to Lencho so that his faith in God does not get shaken. They collected seventy pesos and sent it to Lencho. When Lencho got the envelope and opened it to count money, he became angry. He again wrote a letter to God demanding the remaining thirty pesos. He thought that post office employees had taken away the remaining money and called them a bunch of crooks, which was not justified at all as they were the people who had helped him. But it shows his innocence and firm faith in God.

#### **4. How did the hailstones affect Lencho's field? What was Lencho's only hope?**

Answer: Lencho, a hardworking farmer, worked like an ox for a good harvest, depended completely on his fields to take care of his family. He expected a good harvest that year. He needed a downpour for the crops to ripe, but the rain followed by hailstorm completely destroyed the crops. It made him sad. He was worried for his family as he loved them so much. But Lencho had firm faith in God and believed that nobody died of hunger. So, he decided to seek help from God. He wrote a letter to God and asked him for a hundred pesos to survive and to sow new crop.

Intext Questions – On Page 5\* – A Letter To God (Extra Questions)

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

Answer – Lencho hopes for a downpour for at least a shower.

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

Answer – Lencho said the raindrops were like “new coins” because he hoped for a good harvest.

**Q3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho’s field?**

Answer – At first the big drops of rain began to fall. then suddenly a strong wind begins to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones begin to fall. The corn was totally destroyed. Lencho’s fields turned white as if covered with salt.

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

Answer – When the hail stopped, Lencho’s soul was filled with sadness because the hailstones had completely destroyed his crop. He feared his family would starve that year. Thus, his hopes were shattered. However, Lencho had only one hope. It was the help of God.

Intext Questions – On Page 6\* – A Letter To God (Extra Questions)

**Q1. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?**

Answer – Lencho had faith in God, whose eyes see everything, even what is deep in one’s conscience. He said ‘no one dies of hunger’. He decided to write a letter to God to seek his help. In his letter, he represented God to send him a hundred pesos.

**Q2. Who Read the Letter?**

Answer – The postmaster read the letter which was given to him by the postman.

**Q3. What did the Postmaster do then?**

Answer – The postmaster read the letter. He was highly impressed by the writer’s faith in God. So, in order not to shake the writer’s (Lencho’s) faith in God, he decided to answer the letter and help the man in distress. He collected 70 pesos and sent them to Lencho.

Intext Questions – On Page 7\* – A Letter To God (Extra Questions)

**Q1. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?**

Answer – Lencho showed not the slightest surprise to find a letter for him with money in it, because such was his faith in God. He believed that God sees everything, even what is deep in one’s conscience. He had also heard people say, “No one dies of hunger”.

**Q2. What made him (Lencho) angry?**

Answer – When Lencho received the letter and counted the money, he became very angry. The envelope contained only seventy pesos, whereas he had requested God to send him a hundred pesos. God could not make a mistake. He thought that the post-office employees had cheated him and kept the rest of the money.

**THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT**

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

Ans. Lencho had unwavering faith in God. The lines which tell us this are:

‘But in the hearts of all who lived in the solitary house in the middle of valley was a hope: help from God.’

‘All through that night, Lencho thought of his one hope: the help from God...’

“God,” he wrote, “if you don’t help me my family and I will go hungry this year.”

He wrote ‘To God’ on the envelope...

‘Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money: such was his confidence ...God could not have made a mistake...’

## **2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter ‘God’?**

Ans. The postmaster initially laughed at the letter addressed to God, but immediately turned serious in admiration of Lencho’s immense faith in God. So, he decided to collect money and give it to Lencho, in name of God, as an act of charity in respect for his devotion to God.

He signed the letter ‘God ‘ to reinstate Lencho’s faith in God.

## **3. 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 source from where the money came.

Lencho had immense faith in God and believed that God could never deny his request nor could he ever make a mistake. There was not a sliver of doubt in him about God. Such was his confidence that he did not show the slightest surprise when he received the money sent by God.

## **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.)**

Ans. Lencho believed that the post office staff had taken his money.

The irony in the situation was that it was the employees of the post office who had given a part of their hard-earned money to retain Lencho’s unshakable faith in God. However, the faith turned to be so unshakable that Lencho thought that God could never make a mistake of sending him only seventy pesos instead of the hundred that he had requested. He came to the conclusion that it must be the post office employees who had taken the money instead of the other way around.

## **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, naive, stupid, ungrateful, selfish, comical, unquestioning

Ans. Yes. There are people like Lencho who have immensely deep faith in God. Although they might not be as naive as Lencho but they believe everything that is taught to them without questioning the practicality or its validity.

The words naive, stupid, comical, unquestioning, greedy are appropriate for Lencho's character. He is naive enough to think that he could send a letter to God via post. He is stupid enough to write 'To God' as the address of God. He takes the money unquestioningly and is comical in writing a complaint letter to God in receiving less than what he had requested, which again shows his greed as is not satisfied with what he received.

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

Ans. The first conflict depicted in the story is between human and nature. Nature bestows its bounties on all creations for their survival, but humans take nature's bounties for granted and their greed is endless. Lencho was happy to receive the first showers which seemed to him as new coins instead of priceless water. Later, when nature disagrees with his aspirations and the crop is destroyed by the hailstorm he turns to God for help.

The second conflict is among humans themselves. Humans teach that one must have unshakable faith in God and goes to all extent to keep that faith intact. However, they doubt integrity of humans and do not trust each other, while retaining their blind faith in God.

Find metaphors from the story to complete the table below.

<b>OBJECT</b>	<b>METAPHOR</b>	<b>QUALITY OR FEATURE COMPARED</b>
CLOUD	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
RAINDROPS	New coins	They seemed like cents which would bring profits
HAILSTONES	Silver coins/ frozen pearls	Shiny priceless frozen drops resembling coins and pearls
LOCUSTS	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
LENCHO	An ox of a man	Lencho did hard physical labour just like an ox.