

Class X - English

A Letter to God

CBSE NOTES

A Letter to God - Practice Worksheet

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Practice Questions

1. Describe Lencho's character and his faith in God. How does his faith influence his actions?

Hint: Focus on Lencho's reaction to the hailstorm and his subsequent actions.

Solution: Lencho is a simple, hardworking farmer with unwavering faith in God. His faith is so strong that he writes a letter to God asking for financial help after his crops are destroyed by a hailstorm. This act demonstrates his belief that God will directly intervene to solve his problems. His faith influences his actions by giving him the courage to face adversity and the hope that he will receive the help he needs. Despite the postmaster and his colleagues' efforts to help, Lencho's blind faith leads him to believe that only God could have sent him money, showing his innocence and naivety. His character is a mix of determination and simplicity, making him a memorable figure in the story.

2. What role does the postmaster play in the story 'A Letter to God'? How does he contribute to the development of the plot?

Hint: Consider the postmaster's reaction to the letter and his subsequent actions.

Solution: The postmaster plays a crucial role in the story by acting as a bridge between Lencho's faith and the reality of human kindness. Upon receiving Lencho's letter addressed to God, he is initially amused but then moved by the farmer's faith. He decides to help Lencho by collecting money from his colleagues and himself to send to Lencho, signing the letter as 'God'. This act of kindness shows the postmaster's empathy and his desire to preserve Lencho's faith. His contribution to the plot is pivotal as it introduces the theme of human goodness and the irony that Lencho attributes the help to God, not recognizing the human effort behind it.

3. How does the hailstorm affect Lencho and his family? What does this event reveal about their life and struggles?

Hint: Focus on the immediate and long-term effects of the hailstorm on Lencho's family.

Solution: The hailstorm completely destroys Lencho's crops, leaving him and his family without food or income for the year. This event reveals their dependence on agriculture and the vulnerability of farmers to natural disasters. Lencho's sorrow and desperation highlight the harsh realities of rural life, where a single natural calamity can lead to financial ruin. The storm also sets the stage for

Lencho's letter to God, showcasing his faith as his only hope in dire circumstances. This event underscores the themes of faith, survival, and the unpredictability of nature in the lives of farmers.

4. Discuss the irony in the story 'A Letter to God'. How does it enhance the story's message?

Hint: Consider Lencho's perception of the help he receives versus the reality.

Solution: The irony in the story lies in Lencho's unwavering faith in God, which blinds him to the human kindness that actually helps him. Despite the postmaster and his colleagues' efforts to collect money for Lencho, he believes it is God who has sent him the money. The ultimate irony is when Lencho writes another letter to God, complaining about the missing amount and accusing the post office employees of stealing it. This irony enhances the story's message by highlighting the contrast between divine faith and human actions, and how sometimes, the latter goes unrecognized in the face of blind belief.

5. What is the significance of the title 'A Letter to God'? How does it reflect the central theme of the story?

Hint: Think about what the letter represents and how it drives the story.

Solution: The title 'A Letter to God' signifies the direct communication between Lencho and his deity, symbolizing his absolute faith. It reflects the central theme of the story, which is the power and naivety of faith. Lencho's letter represents his belief that God will intervene in his life to solve his problems, a belief so strong that it overlooks the human agency that actually comes to his aid. The title encapsulates the innocence of Lencho's faith and the irony that his letter, meant for God, is answered by humans, thus questioning the nature of divine intervention and human compassion.

6. How does the setting contribute to the story 'A Letter to God'? Describe the importance of the rural backdrop.

Hint: Consider how the physical environment influences the plot and characters.

Solution: The rural setting of the story is crucial as it establishes the context of Lencho's life as a farmer, dependent entirely on nature for his livelihood. The isolation of his house in the valley underscores his vulnerability and the lack of immediate help in times of crisis. The natural elements, like the rain and hailstorm, play direct roles in the plot, affecting Lencho's fate. The rural backdrop also highlights the simplicity and innocence of Lencho's character, making his faith in God more poignant. This setting reinforces the themes of faith, survival, and the harsh realities of rural agricultural life.

7. Analyze the relationship between Lencho and the postmaster. How does their interaction develop the story's themes?

Hint: Focus on the postmaster's motives and Lencho's unawareness of his role.

Solution: The relationship between Lencho and the postmaster is indirect yet significant. The postmaster, upon receiving Lencho's letter to God, is initially amused but then deeply moved by Lencho's faith. This leads him to act as a mediator of kindness, collecting money to help Lencho. Their interaction, though not face-to-face until the end, develops the themes of faith, human kindness, and irony. The postmaster's actions contrast with Lencho's expectations, highlighting the difference between divine and human intervention. This relationship underscores the story's exploration of how faith can inspire goodness in others, even if the believer remains unaware of it.

8. What does Lencho's second letter to God reveal about his character? Discuss his reaction to receiving only part of the money.

Hint: Consider Lencho's expectations versus reality and his response to the discrepancy.

Solution: Lencho's second letter reveals his unwavering faith and his inability to see human kindness. Despite receiving help, he is angry about the missing amount, showing his expectation of complete fulfillment of his request by God. His reaction highlights his naivety and his simplistic view of divine intervention. The letter also shows his lack of gratitude towards the postmaster and his colleagues, whom he accuses of theft, reflecting his blind faith and the irony of his situation. This reaction underscores the story's critique of unquestioning belief and the human tendency to overlook the efforts of others when they don't meet our expectations.

9. How does the story 'A Letter to God' explore the theme of human kindness? Provide examples from the text.

Hint: Look at the postmaster's initiative and the employees' contributions.

Solution: The story explores human kindness through the actions of the postmaster and his colleagues, who, moved by Lencho's faith, collect money to help him. Despite their own limited means, they contribute to preserve Lencho's belief in divine help. This act of collective generosity is a testament to the capacity for empathy and selflessness in humans. The irony that Lencho attributes this kindness to God adds depth to the theme, suggesting that human goodness often goes unrecognized in the shadow of faith. The story thus presents kindness as a powerful, albeit underappreciated, force in the world.

10. Discuss the moral or lesson of the story 'A Letter to God'. What does it teach about faith and human nature?

Hint: Reflect on the outcomes of Lencho's faith and the postmaster's actions.

Solution: The story teaches that while faith can be a source of hope and strength, it can also lead to blindness to the kindness and efforts of others. Lencho's unwavering faith in God is admirable but prevents him from recognizing the human compassion that actually aids him. The moral underscores the importance of acknowledging and appreciating human kindness, suggesting that divine intervention often manifests through people around us. It also highlights the irony and complexity of human nature, where good deeds may go unrecognized due to the beneficiaries' preconceived notions or beliefs.

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