

Questions & Answers about A Letter to God

3-Mark Questions and Answers (approx. 50 words each)

1. **What was Lencho's primary hope at the beginning of the story, and why was it so important to him?**

Lencho, a farmer residing on the crest of a low hill, was **eagerly waiting for a good rain to have a successful harvest**. His field was full of ripe corn, and he believed the rain would bring him a **good harvest and money**. This was crucial for his family's livelihood and future.

2. **How did the rain change, and what was its immediate impact on Lencho's fields?**

Initially, the rain was welcomed as Lencho compared raindrops to new coins. However, his joy was short-lived as the **rain quickly turned into a hailstorm**. The **large hailstones completely destroyed his ripe corn crops**, leaving the field **covered with snow like a layer of white salt**.

3. **Describe Lencho's feelings when the hailstorm finally stopped.**

When the hailstorm ceased, Lencho was **filled with despair and sorrow**. He stood in his ruined field, realizing all his hard work had been destroyed. He knew that without a harvest, his **family would have nothing to eat and no way to survive**. His soul was heavy with sadness.

4. **What unwavering belief did Lencho possess after the destruction of his crops, and what action did it prompt?**

Despite losing everything, Lencho had **unshakable faith in God**. He saw God as his last hope. This strong belief led him to **write a letter to God**, requesting 100 pesos to re-sow his field and support his family until the next crop.

5. **How did the postmaster react when he first saw Lencho's letter addressed to God?**

When the postman showed the letter addressed to God, the postmaster **initially laughed** because he had never seen anything like this. However, he quickly became **serious and impressed by Lencho's faith**, deciding he must do something to preserve it.

6. **What motivated the postmaster to help Lencho, and how did he go about it?**

The postmaster was **impressed by Lencho's faith in God** and did not want to disappoint him or **shake the writer's faith**. He decided to answer the letter himself. He **collected money from his employees and friends** and also **contributed part of his salary** as an act of charity.

7. **How much money did the postmaster collect for Lencho, and what was Lencho's immediate reaction upon counting it?**

The postmaster, with help from his colleagues, managed to collect **only seventy pesos**. Lencho was **not surprised** to receive the money, as he had complete faith in God. However, he became **angry when he counted the money** because it was less than the 100 pesos he requested.

8. Why did Lencho refer to the post office employees as a bunch of crooks?

Lencho's **unshakable faith in God** led him to believe that God could not make a mistake or send him less money. Therefore, when he received only seventy pesos instead of a hundred, he concluded that the **post office employees had stolen part of the money**.

9. Explain the central irony in the story A Letter to God.

The central irony lies in Lencho's accusation of the **post office employees as a bunch of crooks**. These were the very individuals who, out of **kindness and a desire to preserve his faith**, had selflessly collected money and sent it to him, acting as God's representatives. Lencho's absolute faith in God blinds him to human generosity.

10. How does the story A Letter to God demonstrate the theme of hope?

Hope is a powerful theme, evident in Lencho's relentless optimism. Initially, he **hopes for rain to ensure a good harvest**. When his crops are destroyed, his hope immediately shifts to **help from God**. This unwavering hope, even in a desperate situation, drives him to write the letter and expect a divine response, highlighting its sustaining power.

11. What does the postmaster's decision to sign the letter as 'God' reveal about his intentions?

The postmaster signed the letter God because he **didn't want to disappoint Lencho** and aimed to retain his faith in God. His act was to make Lencho believe the money came directly from God, thus **preserving the farmer's strong belief** and providing him with the hope he desperately needed after the destruction of his crops.

12. Describe the appearance of Lencho's field after the hailstorm and what it signified for him.

After the hailstorm, Lencho's field was **covered with snow like a layer of white salt**. The large hailstones had **destroyed completely** his corn crops. This devastation signified a total loss, wiping out all his hard work and leaving him **no hope of feeding his family** for the year.

13. How did Lencho's family members react to the destruction of their crops?

When the hailstones ruined their crops, Lencho became **worried for his family** as they faced hunger. Despite the total loss, the family held onto **a single hope: help from God**. They collectively acknowledged that **no one dies of hunger**, sharing a resilient spirit even amidst despair.

14. What characteristics of Lencho are highlighted by the phrase an ox of a man?

Lencho is described as **an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields**. This phrase emphasizes his **immense strength, diligence, and tireless hard work** as a farmer. It also implies his simple, honest nature, though capable of writing, distinguishing him as a robust individual deeply connected to his land.

15. What is the significance of the comparisons Lencho makes between the raindrops and coins?

Lencho compares the big raindrops to ten-cent pieces and the smaller ones to fives, calling them **new coins**. This comparison signifies his **optimism and expectation that the rain**

would bring prosperity and a bountiful harvest, translating directly into money for his family. It highlights his deep connection to his livelihood.

16. What does Lencho's prompt decision to write a second letter imply about his character?

Lencho's immediate decision to write another letter requesting the remaining pesos and instructing God not to send it via mail demonstrates his **unwavering trust in divine power** and **absolute certainty that God would respond**. It also shows his **naivety and suspicion of human integrity**, as he automatically assumes the post office workers are crooks.

17. How does the story highlight the unpredictability and destructive potential of nature?

The story showcases nature's unpredictability as the welcomed **rain turned into a hailstorm**. This sudden shift from a blessing to a disaster demonstrates nature's **destructive potential**, completely **wreaking havoc on Lencho's crops**. It underscores humanity's vulnerability to uncontrollable natural forces, leaving Lencho feeling sad and hopeless.

18. Why was it important for the postmaster and his colleagues to keep Lencho's faith intact?

The postmaster and his colleagues were deeply impressed by Lencho's faith. They recognized the profound impact of his belief and **did not want to shake the writer's faith in God**. Preserving his faith was paramount, as it was Lencho's only source of hope and resilience in his desperate situation.

19. What does the story imply about the potential for human kindness in difficult times?

The story strongly implies that **even in difficult times, people can come together to help each other**. The postmaster and his staff, though strangers to Lencho, were moved by his faith and collectively gathered money for him. Their act of kindness demonstrates empathy and communal support.

20. Identify two main themes of A Letter to God and briefly explain how they are presented.

Two main themes are **faith and kindness**.

Faith is central, portrayed through Lencho's unwavering belief in God despite his crops' destruction.

Kindness is shown by the postmaster and his colleagues, who, moved by Lencho's faith, **come together to help** him financially, illustrating human compassion.

6-Mark Questions and Answers (approx. 120 words each)

1. Discuss the importance of faith in the story. How does Lencho's faith affect his actions?

Faith is the **most important theme** in A Letter to God. Lencho, a poor farmer, has an **unshakeable belief in God**. After a bad hailstorm destroys his whole crop, he thinks **God is his only hope**. His strong faith makes him write a letter directly to God, asking for **100 pesos** to save his family from hunger and plant his field again. Lencho's faith is so complete that he is **not surprised when money arrives**. Instead, he gets angry because the amount is less than he asked for, believing God cannot make a mistake. This strong belief causes him to

accuse the helpful post office workers of being thieves. His faith gives him hope in difficult times.

2. **Analyze the character of the Postmaster. How does he demonstrate humanity and kindness in the story?**

The postmaster in the story is a **fat, amiable, kind, and caring person**. When he first sees Lencho's letter to God, he laughs. But quickly, he becomes **serious and is deeply touched by Lencho's strong faith**. He decides he must not let Lencho's faith in God be broken. To help Lencho, the postmaster collects money from his employees, and he also **gives a part of his own salary**. He is able to collect 70 pesos, which he sends to Lencho, signing the letter as God. His actions show **great generosity and a good heart**. This proves that **people can help each other** even when things are hard. He performs a truly good deed.

3. **How are conflicts illustrated in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves?**

The story shows two main conflicts. First, there is a conflict **between humans and nature**. Lencho, the farmer, depends on nature for his living. He needs rain for his crops. However, the same rain turns into a destructive hailstorm, destroying his entire ripe cornfield. His field looks as if it is **covered with white salt**. This shows nature's unexpected and powerful destructive side. Second, there is a conflict **between humans themselves**. This is seen in the irony at the story's end. The postmaster and his employees are kind and help Lencho by sending him money. They give their own money to keep his faith alive. But Lencho, with his strong faith in God and little trust in people, accuses them, the very people who helped him, of being **a bunch of crooks**.

4. **How does the story teach us about charity and kindness, especially through the actions of the post office staff?**

The story clearly shows **themes of charity and kindness**. After reading Lencho's letter, the postmaster, who is a kind and friendly man, is **deeply moved by Lencho's strong faith in God**. He does not want to break Lencho's hope. So, the postmaster decides to help. He asks for money from his employees, and he **gives a part of his own salary**. His colleagues also contribute money out of kindness. Even though they could only collect 70 pesos, they send it to Lencho, signing as God to keep his faith strong. This combined effort shows that **people can come together to help each other** during hard times, showing true human kindness.

5. **What does the story A Letter to God tell us about the power of faith and its potential to cause misunderstanding?**

A Letter to God strongly shows how **faith can give hope** even when things are very bad. Lencho's **firm belief in God** is key; he is sure God will answer his request for 100 pesos after his crops are ruined. His faith is so strong that he shows **no surprise** when he receives money. However, the story also shows how such strong faith can lead to **misunderstanding and irony**. When Lencho receives only 70 pesos, he immediately blames the post office employees, calling them **a bunch of crooks**. He cannot imagine God making a mistake or sending less money. This reveals his complete trust in God versus his quick suspicion of

others. It highlights the irony that he blames the very people who helped him with kindness and charity.

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