



6	He wrote a letter to God asking for a hundred pesos to sow his field again and to survive until the next crop came up.
10	After some days, Lencho went to the post office to receive the money as the postmaster watched him.
12	He immediately went to the counter and asked for a pen and paper, wrote a few lines and posted the letter.
1	Lencho, his wife, and their children lived in a lonely house in a valley.
13	When the postmaster opened the letter, it said "Oh! Thanks for sending the money. But I have received only seventy pesos. Next time you please send the money directly to me. The people at the post office are a bunch of crooks. They have taken the thirty pesos."
11	He opened the letter and was happy to find the money. He counted and found it was only seventy pesos.
9	The postmaster collected about 70 pesos from his colleagues and sent it to Lencho.

Create a graphic description based on the given summary of 'A Letter to God'.

A. Lencho in his corn field.



UNIT 1

A LETTER TO GOD



1076CH01

LET'S BEGIN

1. You have read about Lencho in 'A Letter to God', *First Flight*, textbook in English for Class X. How has the story of Lencho moved you? What do you think about Lencho's faith in God and his attitude towards the officials in the post office? Do you think he is right in asking God for support and then blaming the people at the post office? Discuss his actions with your friends. Why does he do so?
2. The summary of the story of Lencho is given below. The sequence of the story is jumbled up.

Read the story again and rearrange the jumbled sentences to make a coherent story.

Write the correct order in numbers in the column below	Jumbled sentences
4	But it rained heavily and hailstorm thrashed his corn field and all the corn was destroyed.
7	He wrote 'To God' on the envelope and posted it.
3	Lencho predicted it will rain and it did. He and his wife were happy.
5	Lencho felt desperate but believed that God would help him.
2	Their corn field was longing for water.
8	The postman and the postmaster laughed at Lencho's letter but were surprised by the faith of the man.

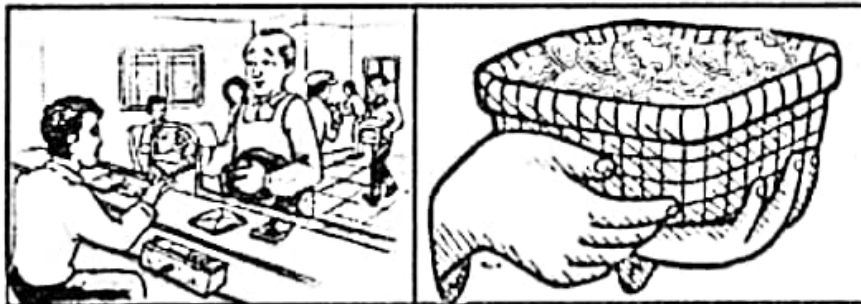
B. Lencho writing letter to God asking for compensation.



C. The Post-master surprised to read the letter and the other staff also astonished.



D. Post office employees helping Lencho by providing monetary help that he had asked for.



E. Lencho surprised on receiving a sum less than what he had asked for; decides to write another letter to God complaining about the same.



The trader was laughing, the tailor was cutting, the trader closed his eyes in joy, the tailor cut extra pieces, tucking them under his thighs, hidden away from all but God. From his delight at the tailor's tales, the trader's former boast went out of his mind. What satin? What boast? What wager? The trader was drunk on the jokes told by the tailor.

Then the tailor told such an incredible story that the trader fell over on his back with laughter. The tailor swiftly stitched a swatch of the satin to the hem of his underpants while the trader was paying no attention at all, greedily sucking with every guffaw at the jests the tailor told. The tailor continued to tell funnier and funnier tales and jokes until the trader was completely within his power.

With his eyes shut and his reason vanished, the bewildered and boastful trader was drunk with joy. And the tailor continued to cut, filching yet more of the beautiful cloth, with nothing to stop him now. And yet the trader begged for more.

You who becomes the slave of the jest, no story is more laughable than you yourself, think on this at the edge of your grave. How long will you listen to the lies of this world that leave your mind and spirit unhinged? The Universal Tailor will cut and stitch the hems of a hundred travellers, silly as children.

Eventually the tailor became bored with the whole story and told the trader that he better leave before another tale was told, "For if I tell another one, the coat will be too tight for you, and you will stop laughing and weep tears of blood."

Rumi (Abridged)

**LOOK UP
AND
UNDERSTAND**

filching
incredible
swatch
unhinged

Did you enjoy the story of 'The Trader and the Tailor'? The story is summarised below. Read the story again with your friend and complete the paragraph using short sentences with the given hints.

Once there was a tailor who was known for _____
beating others in the art
of cheating and thievery _____ (cheat and thievery). He could
cheat anyone with his cunning way of deceiving people. A
trader challenged that the tailor would not be able to cheat
him. He **went** (go) to the tailor with **a piece of**

satin tucked

Words

Sentences



under his arm (satin). The tailor welcomed him with great cordiality (welcome). The trader was very pleased (please) by the tailor's praise. He told the tailor to make a coat for him. The tailor praised (praise) the trader to his maximum (maximum). The trader experienced (joy). The tailor recounted (recount) innumerable, funny tales and the trader forgot (bet). The tailor started snipping completely the cloth rapidly and tucking in the extra pieces under his thighs hiding from the trader (tears and joy) and yet the trader kept on asking for more and more (stories). At last, the tailor told the trader that if he told another story the coat would be too tight for him (tight) and he would weep tears of blood. (weep-blood).

FUN FACTS

USING 'NOTICE'

Thank you for noticing this notice.

Your noticing has been noted.

VOCABULARY

1. In this story you have come across a word "light-fingered" which means inclined to steal things. Some such words are given below. Use appropriate words and fill in the blanks.

light-headed, light year, light-hearted, light sleeper, light-duty

- (a) The light year is a unit of distance used to measure distance in space.
- (b) The farmer bought a light-duty truck to transport their produce, as it uses less diesel.
- (c) We had a fairly light-hearted discussion with our colleagues.
- (d) Rita felt dizzy and light-headed after skydiving.
- (e) He is a light sleeper a slightest noise wakes him.



GRAMMAR

1. You have come across Relative Clauses in the lesson 'A Letter to God'. Read about the relative clauses again. Complete the sentences given below in the table by adding the most suitable clause from the box and make it a relative clause. The first one has been done for you.

contains meaning of words	need to fill in the application
stitches clothes	is a crook
tell lies	help themselves
won the best actor award this year	won the nobel prize
hit a century	believe in hard work
is faithful	

- (a) A tailor is a person *who stitches clothes*.
- (b) A dictionary is a book which contains meaning of words
- (c) The book is about a scientist who won the nobel prize
- (d) What is the name of the player who hit a century
- (e) I don't like people who tell lies
- (f) What is the name of the actor who won the best actor award this year
- (g) Students who need to fill in the application should meet the principal in her office.
- (h) Friends of the trader thought the tailor who is a crook and can cheat anyone.
- (i) Lencho who is faithful thought God would help him.
- (j) Those who believe in hard work will succeed.
- (k) God helps those who help themselves

FUN FACTS

WOUND AS VERB AND NOUN

The bandage was wound around the wound.

FUN FACTS

PROOFREADING MARKS

Editors have special symbols called proofreading marks to correct language.

Some are given below.

give space

· put a full stop

△ insert comma

∧ insert new word

See page nos

167-168 for more such symbols.

Words

Sentences



EDITING

- Suppose Lencho gets a hundred pesos in his envelope. He writes a letter to God expressing his gratitude. However, he has missed a word in each line. Help him with those words so that his letter is complete.

Dear God!

Thank for

- sending a hundred pesos help.
- I am very for this kind gesture.
- You were my only and your
- help has my faith in you.
- This money will help me until the crop
- and I promise to hard in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Lencho

Thank you for
as help
very thankful
only hope
has increased
the next crop
work hard

LISTENING

- Here is an interesting story. The story has been told in two ways. Story A has all the odd sentences (1,3,5,...) and story B has the even sentences (2,4,6,...). Working in pairs, one of you take up Story A and the other take up Story B. The person with Story A will read out the first sentence and the partner (person with story B) will write in the space provided. Then the person with Story B will read sentence two and the partner will write in the space for sentence two. Likewise complete the whole story. Once the story is completed, both of you will read out to each other to check whether you have listened carefully to your partner and written the complete story.



Story A The Race

- Every evening the animals of the Machlipatti used to sit under the banyan tree.

Story B The Race

- _____
- _____
- _____



SPEAKING

1. Lencho, the main character in the story, is a farmer. He supports his family through farming. The conflict in the story happens when a hailstorm strikes the field and destroys his farm. All the hard work, for nothing! The entire land is wrecked by catastrophe. There is no one who can help. Lencho's complete faith in God is amazing during the calamity.

So, one type of conflict dominating in the story is man versus nature. Discuss with your partner the natural calamities that play havoc in the lives of people. Collect photographs and make a visual presentation to share in the class.

2. Try writing a small poem on the topic man versus nature. Read aloud the poem with the required stress and intonation. Given below is a poem written by Norman Littleford, which may help you think and compose.



WRITING

1. The tailor here is a cheat, but Lencho in the story, 'A Letter to God', is naïve and simple. He has immense faith in God. How do you distinguish between Lencho and the tailor? What makes them different? Working in pairs, list the actions and qualities of Lencho and the tailor and draw their character sketches.



UNIT 1 – A LETTER TO GOD 11

Rationalised 2023-24

EXTRAPOLATION

Writing

Editing



Action: What does the person do?	What quality it reveals?
Lencho lost all his crops.	He is helpless. Prays to God.
How does he manage the situation? _____	Dependency
Does he harm anyone by his action? _____	Yes, he insult postal staff
How do others think of him? _____	innocent
What is your judgement of him? _____	Stupidity
He received 70 pesos and he thought 30 pesos had been stolen.	Suspicious

Now, write the character sketch of Lencho and the tailor.

Lencho	The tailor
1. small former with large family	1. adroit and adept
2. un corrupted, virtuous, and honest	2. master in the art of thievery
3. Industrious as ox	3. petty larceny
4. innocent and ignorant	4. talkative
5. optimistic	5. funny
6. spiritual and theistic	6. sence of humor
7. Suspicious	7. live in reality
8. Stupid	8. intelligent
9. Immagination	9. make fools others

below gives you ideas on how the Process Approach is helpful for improving your writing.

Writing: The Process Approach	
The processes	What do you do?
Brainstorming	Note down as many ideas as you can about a given topic. Then arrange the ideas in a sequence.
Outlining	Create an outline of your writing—which ideas will go first, how will they be supported by evidence, will there be a picture, etc.
Drafting	Write the first draft; here the focus is on the content and not the form.
Revising	Revise the first draft, improve it. Add or delete ideas and improve the language.
Proofreading	Proofread the draft with the help of the teacher; here the focus is on the form and not the content.
Final draft	Write the final draft now.

Raavi / Mohini

Ravi is a handsome young man in full sleeves shirt. He is an engineer in a manufacturing firm. He likes to make, fix, and repair things. He loves to watch television and goes to the movies thrice a month. He is congenial and supportive. He does not like to play, but goes for a morning walk every day.

Answer: Mohini is a middle aged lady who is a singer. She studied music and became a playback singer. She likes to be with people and participates in social functions. She loves music and reading books. She is firm and a lady with a purpose. She does not get time to exercise.

