

They say faith can move mountains. But what should we put our faith in?

Lencho is a farmer who writes a letter to God when his crops are ruined, asking for a hundred pesos.

Chapter Sketch –

This story is about hard life and extreme faith in God of a poor farmer (Lencho) who had lost his crops due to heavy rain and hailstones. It was the only source of income to fulfil his family's desires.



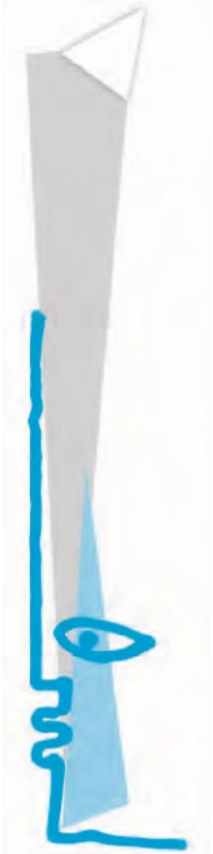
He firmly believed that God would help him in such a difficult situation and would not let him and his family die of hunger. He wrote a letter to God to seek help. Some kind employees of the post office helped him. So, the story tells us to have faith in God and never lose hope in adverse situations.



Thinking about the Text

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First Flight



- Who does Lencho have complete faith in?
Ans. *Lencho had complete faith in God as he is instructed that God knows everything and helps us in our problems.*
- Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?
Ans. *The Postmaster sends money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho's faith in God alive and firm as he was completely moved by it. When the postmaster reads the letter of Lencho to God, he becomes serious and doesn't want to shake his faith and decides to answer the letter. He gathers money with the help of his post office employees and friends on behalf of God and signs the letter 'God' so that Lencho's faith does not get shaken.*
- Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?
Ans. *Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him because he never suspected the presence of God and had complete faith in Him. He could not believe that it could be anybody else other than God who would send him the money. His faith in God was so strong that he believed that He had sent money to him for his help in his problem.*
- 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 thinks that the post office employees have taken the rest of the money as he had demanded a hundred pesos from God and in the letter there were only seventy pesos and God can not make such a mistake. So, he assumes that they have stolen the money.*

The irony in this situation is that Lencho suspects those people who helped him in his problem and tried to keep his faith alive in God.

- Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is? There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

Ans. Conflict between Humans and Nature

The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crop by the hailstorm as Lencho was expecting a good rain to have good harvest as that was the only hope he had for his earning. He worked so hard to feed his family, but nature turned violent and destroyed everything.

Conflict between Humans

The story also illustrated another conflict, between humans themselves as the postmaster along with his friends and staff sent Lencho money that he had demanded from God although they didn't know Lencho. Lencho blamed them for taking away some amount of money. He called them 'a bunch of crooks'. This shows that man doesn't have faith in another man, thereby giving rise to this conflict.