

ENGLISH · CHAPTER 1

A Letter to God (First Flight)

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

A well-prepared student should score 7-8 out of 8 on this lesson's questions. Below 4 usually means the student has read the story but never practised writing structured answers (point + evidence + explanation).

TIME TO MASTER

5-6 hrs

HELPLINE

70330 05444

WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Your child is studying the first literature lesson of the English board syllabus — a short story by the Mexican writer G. L. Fuentes. A poor farmer named Lencho loses his entire corn crop to a sudden hailstorm and, in his deep faith, writes a letter addressed simply 'To God', asking for 100 pesos to feed his family. The kind postmaster is so moved that he and his colleagues quietly collect money themselves — but they manage only 70 pesos. Instead of being grateful, Lencho is angry, convinced God sent the full amount and that the post-office staff stole the rest. Alongside this story your child also learns two short Robert Frost poems — 'Dust of Snow' (a tiny moment in nature lifts a sad mood) and 'Fire and Ice' (desire and hatred are both powerful enough to destroy the world). This lesson carries 6-8 marks in the Literature section.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- How much money did Lencho ask for, how much did he get, and who really sent it?
- What is 'situational irony', and where does it appear in this story?
- Why did the postmaster decide to help Lencho instead of laughing at his letter?
- In 'Fire and Ice', what do fire and ice actually stand for?
- What is the message of 'Dust of Snow' — why does a crow and a poisonous tree make the poet feel better?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Gets the numbers wrong (says he asked for 70 or that God sent the money directly).
- Cannot explain the irony — thinks the irony is just 'God didn't help'.
- Reads 'Fire and Ice' literally as weather instead of desire and hatred.
- Writes a character sketch with no examples from the text (just 'he was good and faithful').

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If your child cannot, in five minutes, write a 100-word character sketch of Lencho WITH two textual examples and explain the irony of the ending, they will lose 4-5 marks here. Literature

marks are easy to secure with structured practice. The fix is writing model answers by hand, not just re-reading the story.

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