



**Learn English Through Stories**

**A Series**

**A54**

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# 1. A Letter to God

Adapted from Gregorio Lopez Fuentes

Lencho lived in a small house. It was the only house in a big valley. The house was on a small hill. From the hill, Lencho could see a river. Near the house, there was a field. The field had corn and kidney bean plants. The corn was almost ready to pick. The kidney bean plants had flowers. These flowers showed the harvest would be good. But the field needed rain. It needed water to grow well.

Every morning, Lencho looked at the sky. He knew his field very well. He wanted rain. He looked to the northeast. That was where the rain clouds came from. One morning, Lencho said to his wife, "Today, we will get rain."

His wife was cooking dinner. She said, "Yes, I hope so. God will help."

Their older sons worked in the field. The younger children played near the house. The wife called, "Come eat dinner!" They all sat to eat. During dinner, rain started. Big drops fell from the sky. Lencho was happy. He saw big clouds in the northeast. The air was cool and nice.

Lencho went outside. He stood in the yard. He felt the rain on his skin. He smiled and said, "This rain is like money! The big drops are like ten-centavo coins. The small drops are like five-centavo coins!"

Lencho looked at his field. The corn and kidney bean flowers looked beautiful in the rain. He was happy. But then, the wind got strong. The rain turned to hail. Hail is like small, hard balls of ice. The boys ran outside. They picked up the hail. They called it "frozen pearls."

Lencho was worried. He said, "This is bad. I hope the storm stops soon." But the storm did not stop. For one hour, hail fell. It fell on the house, the garden, the hill, and the field. The field looked white, like it was covered with salt. The trees had no leaves. The corn was broken. The kidney bean flowers were gone.

Lencho was very sad. He stood in the field with his sons. He said, "This is worse than insects. The hail took everything. We will have no corn or beans this year."

That night, everyone was sad. Lencho said, "All our work is gone. It was for nothing."

His wife said, "No one can help us. We will be hungry this year."

But Lencho had hope. He believed in God. He thought, "God will help us." His wife said, "Don't be sad. No one dies from hunger."

Lencho said, "Yes, people say that."

All night, Lencho thought about God. He believed God sees everything. God knows what people need. Lencho worked hard, like a strong ox, in the fields. But he also knew how to write. On Sunday morning, he decided to write a letter. He wanted to ask God for help.

Lencho sat at the table. He wrote, "Dear God, please help my family. The hail took our corn and beans. We need money to plant new crops. We need money to live until the next harvest. Please send me one hundred pesos. Thank you."

Lencho put the letter in an envelope. He wrote "To God" on it. He was still sad, but he felt hope. He walked to town. He went to the post office. He bought a stamp. He put the stamp on the envelope. Then he dropped the letter in the mailbox.

At the post office, a worker saw the letter. His name was Banta. He laughed and showed it to his boss, the postmaster. Banta said, "Look! A letter to God!"

The postmaster was a kind man. He was big and friendly. He laughed, too. He said, "Who writes a letter to God? This is new!" But then he stopped laughing. He looked serious. He held the letter and said, "This man has strong faith. He believes in God. He hopes God will help. I wish I had faith like that."

The postmaster did not want Lencho to lose hope. He said, "We cannot send this letter to God. But we can help Lencho." He had an idea. He would answer the letter. He opened it and read it. Lencho asked for one hundred pesos. The postmaster wanted to help, but he needed more than paper and ink.

The postmaster asked his workers for money. He gave some of his own money, too. He asked his friends to give a little. He said, "This is for charity. We are helping a good man." But they could not get one hundred pesos. They got seventy pesos. The postmaster put the money in an envelope. He wrote a letter with only one word: "GOD." He sent the letter to Lencho.

The next Sunday, Lencho went to the post office. He asked, "Is there a letter for me?" Banta, the postman, gave him the envelope. The postmaster watched from his office. He was happy to help Lencho.

Lencho opened the envelope. He saw the money. He was not surprised. He believed God would send help. But then he counted the money. There were only seventy pesos. Lencho was angry. He thought, "God cannot make a mistake. God would not send less money."

Lencho went to the post office window. He asked for paper and a pen. He sat at a table. He wrote another letter. His face showed he was thinking hard. He wrote, "Dear God, thank you for the money. But you sent only seventy pesos. I asked for one hundred pesos. I need the rest. Please send it. But do not use the post office. The people there are bad. They took some of my money. Lencho."

Lencho finished the letter. He bought another stamp. He licked it and put it on the envelope. He hit the envelope with his fist to stick the stamp. He dropped the letter in the mailbox. The postmaster saw him. He opened the letter and read it. He was surprised. He smiled, but he was also sad. Lencho thought the post office workers were bad. But they had tried to help him.

The postmaster kept the letter. He did not know what to do. He wanted to help Lencho more, but he had no more money. He thought about Lencho's faith. Lencho believed in God so much. The postmaster wished he could tell Lencho the truth. The money came from kind people, not God. But he did not want to break Lencho's faith.

Lencho went home. He still believed in God. He waited for the rest of the money. He did not know the postmaster and his friends helped him. He thought God sent the money. He thought the post office workers took some of it. But he did not lose hope. He believed God would send the rest.

The valley was quiet again. The field was empty. The corn and beans were gone. But Lencho was not afraid. He trusted God. He started to plan. He would plant new crops. He would work hard again. His family would not go hungry. He believed help would come.

The postmaster thought about Lencho. He admired Lencho's strong faith. He hoped Lencho would be okay. He kept Lencho's letters in his desk. They reminded him of something important: faith can give people hope, even in hard times.

## **2. Comprehension Questions and Answers**

### **Questions**

1. Where did Lencho live?
2. What did Lencho grow in his field?
3. What did Lencho need for his field?
4. What happened to the field during the storm?
5. Why was Lencho sad after the storm?
6. Who did Lencho ask for help?
7. What did Lencho write in his letter to God?
8. What did the postmaster do when he saw the letter?
9. How much money did Lencho get from the postmaster?
10. Why was Lencho angry when he got the money?

## **Answers**

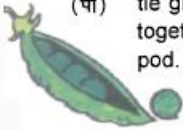
1. Lencho lived in a small house on a hill in a big valley.
2. Lencho grew corn and kidney bean plants.
3. Lencho needed rain for his field.
4. Hail fell and destroyed the corn and kidney bean flowers.
5. Lencho was sad because the hail took all his crops, and he thought his family would be hungry.
6. Lencho asked God for help.
7. Lencho asked God for one hundred pesos to plant new crops and live until the next harvest.
8. The postmaster decided to help Lencho by sending him money.
9. Lencho got seventy pesos.
10. Lencho was angry because he got only seventy pesos, not one hundred, and he thought the post office workers took some money.

### 3. Picture Dictionary

**paw** (पॉ) The soft foot of an animal. पशु का नाखूनदार पंजा.



**pea** (पी) A vegetable which looks like a little green ball. Lots of peas grow together in a green case called a pod. मटर.



**peach** (पीच) A sweet juicy fruit with a big seed in the middle. आड़ू.



**pear** (पेअर) The juicy fruit of the pear tree. नाशपाती.



**pebble** (पेबल) Small round stones. You can find lots of pebbles on a beach.

छोटे पत्थर; जल प्रवाह से घिस घिस कर गोल हुए छोटे पत्थर.

**peg** (पेग) A piece of wood or plastic with a metal spring. You hang the washing

up with pegs. धुले हुए वस्त्रों को एक रस्सी पर लटका कर बाँधने के

लिये लकड़ा, धातु या प्लास्टिक को चिमटी.

**pekingese** (पेकिंगीज़)

A small dog with very short legs. लम्बे, मुलायम बालों वाला छोटे कद का कुत्ता.



**pelican** (पेलिकन) A large water bird. A pelican has a big pouch underneath its beak. मछलियाँ खाने वाला बड़ा समुद्री पक्षी.



**pen** (पेन) Something which writes in ink. लेखनी; कलम.

**pencil** (पेंसिल) A thin piece of wood with lead down the middle. You write and draw with a pencil. You can rub it out if you wish. पेंसिल.



**pendulum** (पेंडुलम) A heavy weight found in some big clocks. A pendulum swings backwards and forwards and makes the clock keep time. बड़ी घड़ी का लंघर.