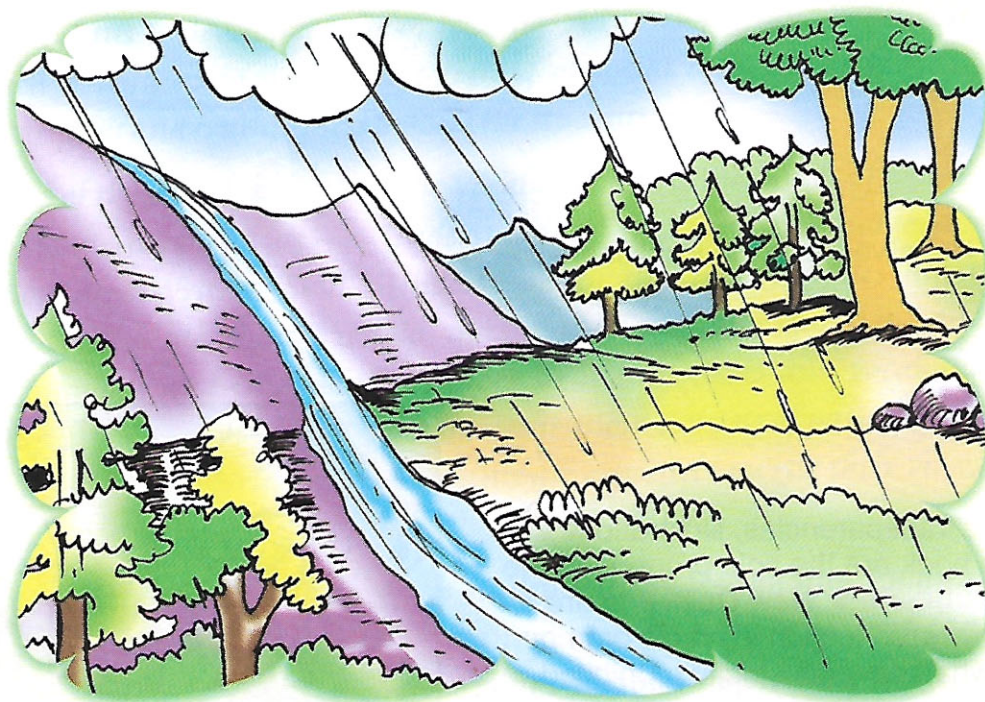


EVERSHINE

ENGLISH READER

(Based on the Latest Guidelines of the New Education Policy)

PART – VII



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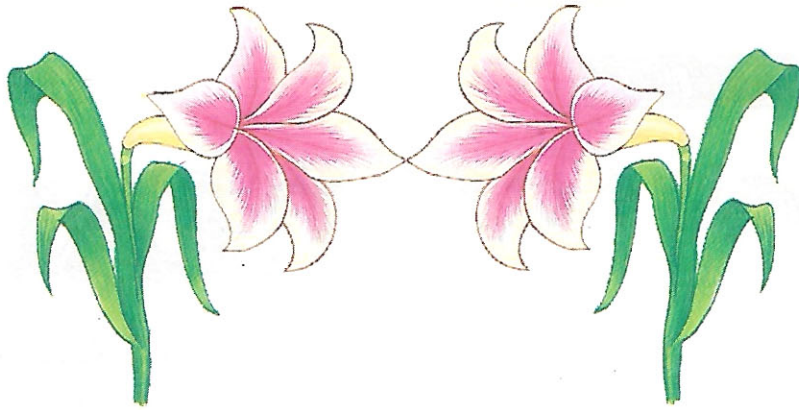


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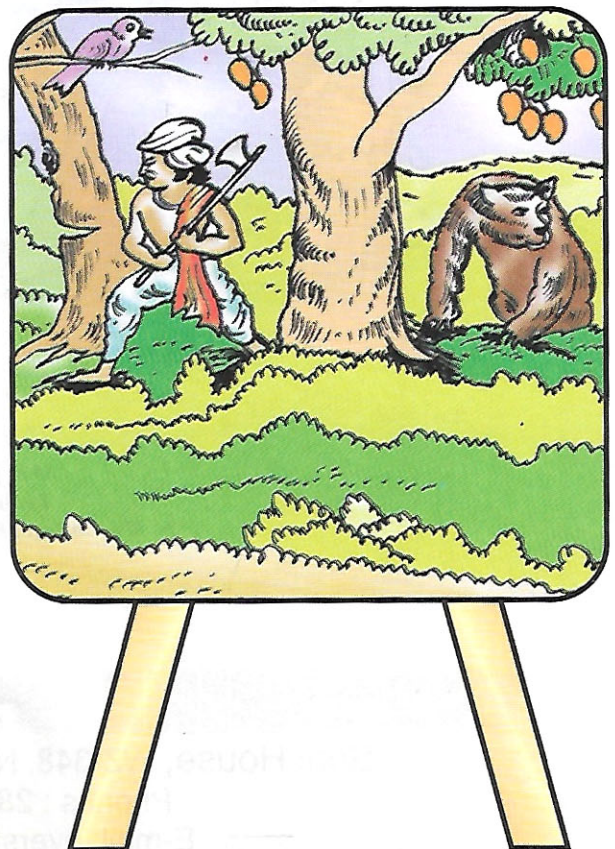
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PREFACE

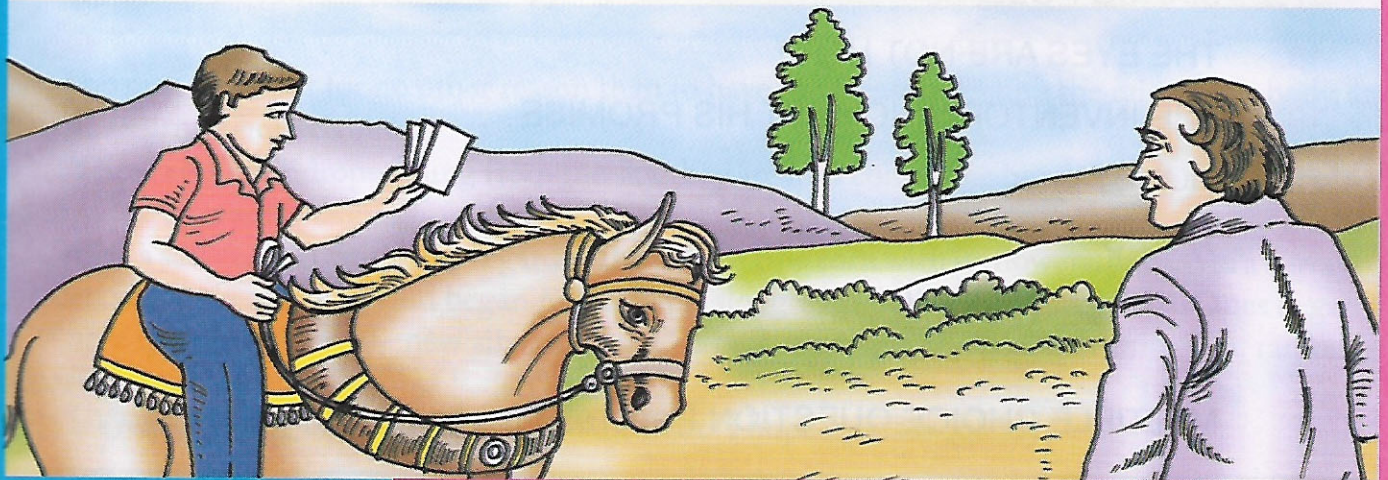
This book has been prepared primarily to meet the specific language requirements of the students. The entire material has been designed in such a way as to develop linguistic abilities of the students and make them able to acquire sufficient command over the language. The material included in this book deals with a variety of topics which have their educational value. The pieces selected for this purpose and included in this book are short, simple and suited to the age of the learners.

The content of each lesson is interesting and exciting. It is hoped that the lessons will motivate the students to develop a taste of reading. A conscious effort has been made to select lessons in such a way as to develop the feeling of social consciousness, scientific outlook, national integration and truthfulness among the students.

At the end of the text of each lesson the Vocabulary gives meanings of words. Exercises are divided into four categories as — Understanding the Text, Language and Grammar, Comprehension and Writing Skill. 'Understanding the Text' includes different types of questions like 'Wh' – questions, 'Yes/No' questions, 'True/False' questions and 'Who Said' questions. 'Language and Grammar' includes structural items and vocabulary items like antonyms, synonyms, use of words, etc. 'Comprehension' consists of passage from the text and questions based on it. In 'Writing skill' students are expected to write their views in their own language.

We hope that the book will help the students in understanding English and using it effectively for various purposes. We do not claim perfection because no work can be absolutely final. So we will always be ready to welcome your valuable suggestions.

Dr S P Singh



CONTENTS

<i>S. No.</i>		<i>Pages</i>
1.	A LETTER TO GOD	5
2.	MY STRUGGLE FOR AN EDUCATION	11
3.	THE KING'S CURE	17
4.	ANDY ROONEY	22
5.	A GIRL WITH A BASKET	28
6.	TORCH BEARERS	34
7.	THE TRUE BEAUTY	41
	MODEL TEST PAPER — 1	44
8.	ON A WINTER'S NIGHT	45
9.	OIL	51
10.	THE ENCHANTED POOL	56
11.	ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF A MAD DOG	62
12.	MY BROTHER	65
13.	THE SWAN AND THE PRINCES	72
14.	BUDDHA AND JESUS	77
	MODEL TEST PAPER – 2	83
15.	MY GREATEST OLYMPIC PRIZE	84
16.	HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THE RAIN	90
17.	MARCO POLO	93
18.	THE EYES ARE NOT HERE	100
19.	THE INVENTOR WHO KEPT HIS PROMISE	106
20.	MONEY	113
21.	TREES	116
22.	OUR INDIAN MUSIC	122
	MODEL TEST PAPER – 3	128
	MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION Papers, Based on C.C.E. Pattern	129

The house – the only one in the entire valley – sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest.

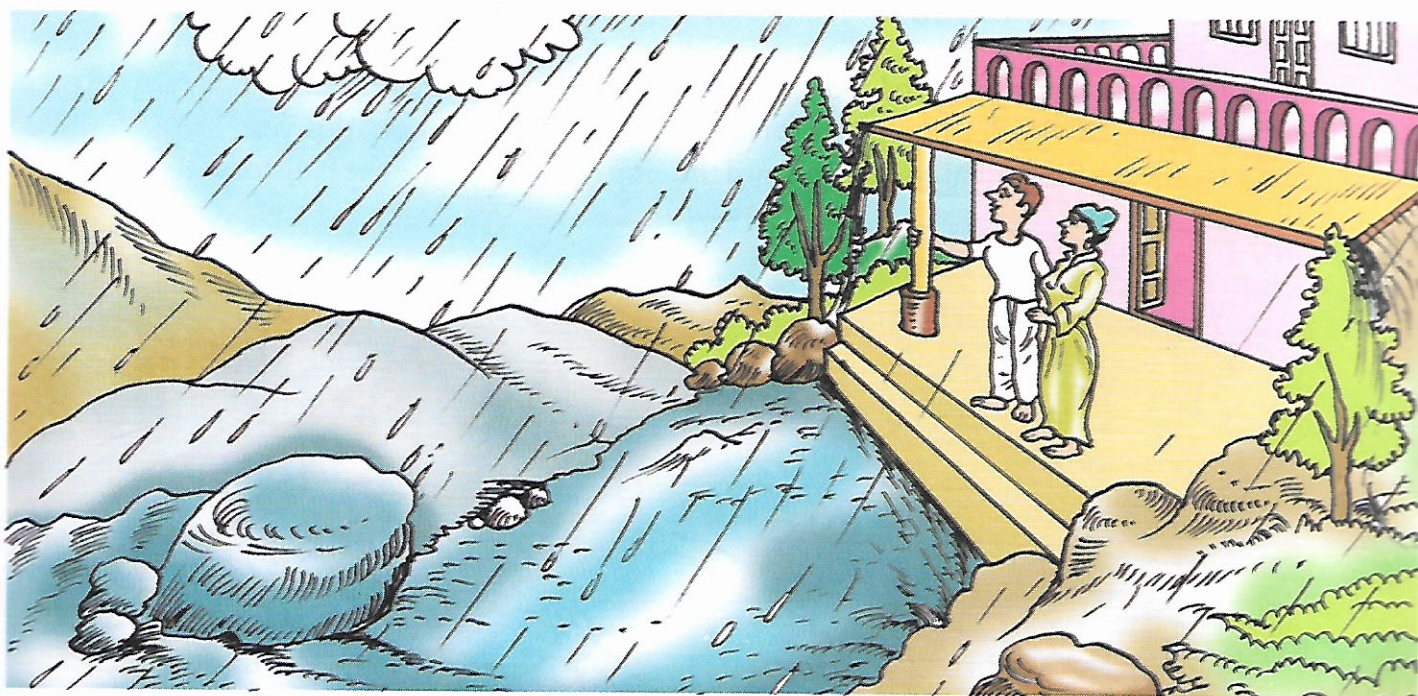
The only thing the earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho who knew his fields intimately, had done nothing else but seen the sky towards the northeast.

“Now we’re really going to get some water, woman.”

The woman, who was preparing supper replied; “Yes, God willing.”

The older boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house, until the woman called to them all; “Come for dinner ...”

It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the northeast huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet.



The man went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure feeling the rain on his body, and when he returned, he exclaimed :

“These aren’t raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins. The big drops are ten-cent pieces and the little ones are fives”

With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.

“It’s really getting bad now”, exclaimed the man. “I hope it passes quickly.”

It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons :

"A plague of locusts would have left more than this ... The hail has left nothing; this year we will have no corn..."

That night was a sorrowful one.

"All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us."

"We'll all go hungry this year..."

But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope : help from God.

"Don't be so upset. Even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger."

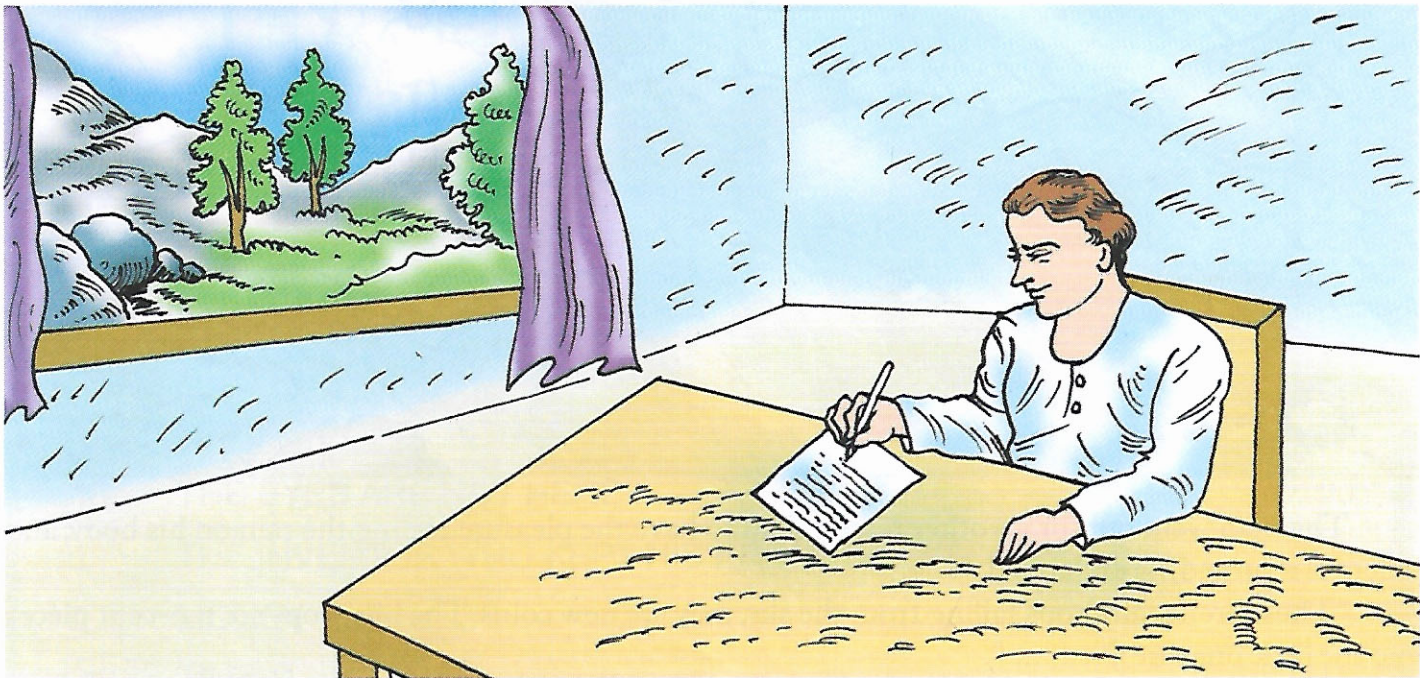
"That's what they say : no one dies of hunger....."

All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope : the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.

Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at daybreak, he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail.

It was nothing less than a letter to God.

"God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm....."



He wrote "To God" on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox.

One of the employees who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that

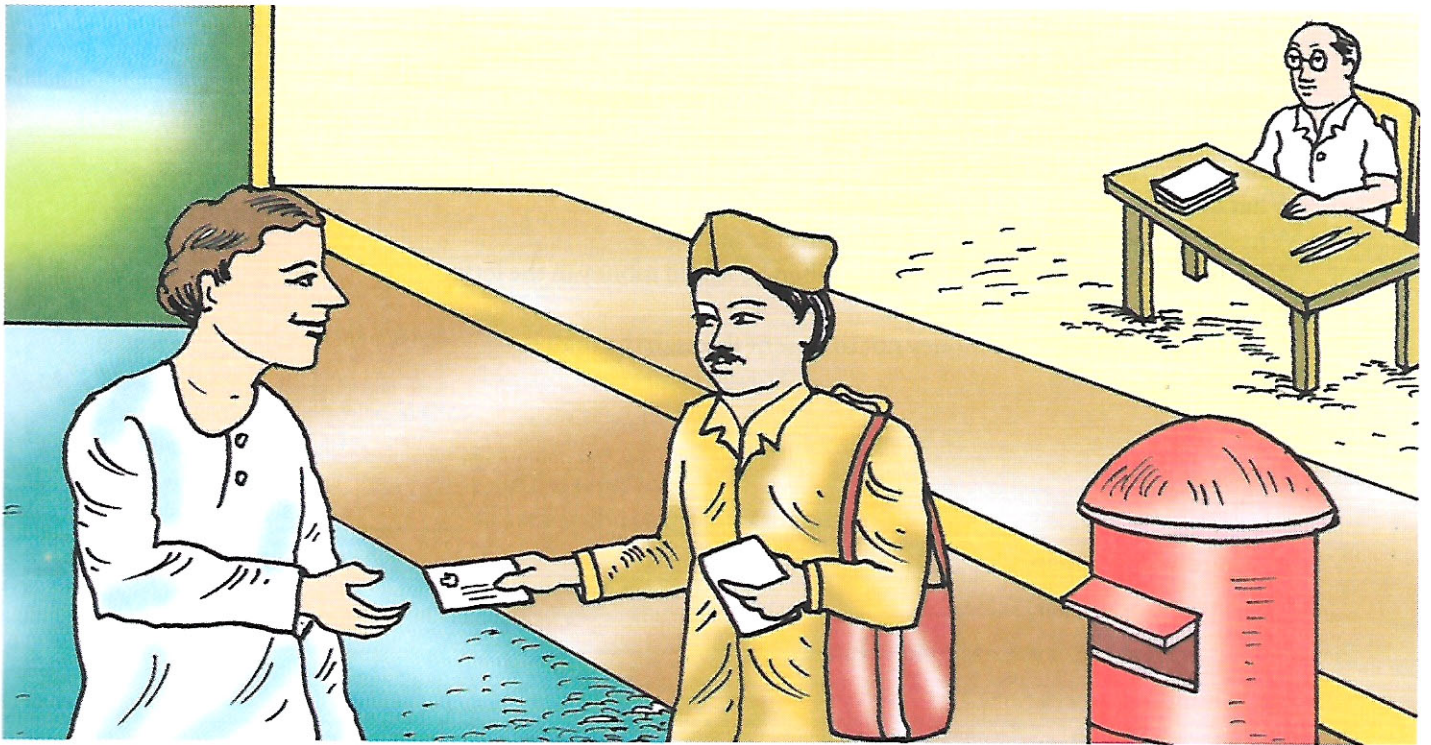
address. The postmaster, a fat amiable fellow, also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented.

“What faith ! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote the letter. Starting up a correspondence with God !”

So, in order to make the writer’s faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea; answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution : he asked for money from his employees; he himself gave a part of his salary, and several friends of his were obliged to give something for an act of charity.

It was impossible for him to gather the hundred pesos, so he was able to send the farmer only a little more than half. He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with them a letter containing only a single word as a signature : God.

The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from the doorway of his office.



Lencho showed not the slight surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence – but he became angry when he counted the money God could not have made a mistake; nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

Immediately, Lencho went to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing-table he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas. When he finished, he went to window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist.

The moment that the letter fell into the mailbox, the postmaster went to open it. It said :

“God : Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail, because the post employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho.”



VOCABULARY

Words

entire
crest
resemble

Meanings

whole
peak
to look like

Words

solitary
amiable
charity

Meanings

lonely
friendly
generosity

Words

contentment
bunch
crooks

Meanings

satisfaction
group
dishonest people

EXERCISE



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

A. Answer the following questions :

- Where was the house situated ?
- What did Lencho predict ?
- What were the big and little rain drops like according to Lencho ?
- What made the boys run out into the rain ?
- How did the hailstones affect the field ?
- What did Lencho write to God in his letter ?
- Why did the postmaster become serious after laughing ?
- Why did Lencho not show any surprise when he found money in the letter ?
- Why did Lencho become angry ?
- Why did Lencho want the money not to be sent through the mail ?

B. Read the following statements and the four choices given under each. Put a tick (✓) mark against the choice you think is right :

- Lencho was a
 - lazy man.
 - hardworking man.
 - quarrelsome man.
- Lencho wrote a letter to God to send him
 - a hundred rupees.
 - a hundred dollars.
 - a hundred pesos.
- Lencho became angry when he found
 - twenty pesos.
 - seventy pesos.
 - seventy dollars.

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C. Write true or false against the following statements :

- In the beginning Lencho was happy to see the rain falling.
- When the storm had passed, the corn was totally destroyed.
- Lencho needed a hundred pesos in order to buy some clothes for his family.
- Lencho had a great faith in God.
- Lencho was surprised on seeing the money.



LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR

A. Look at the sentences given below:

- (a) How did they win the match?
- (b) Mohit told me this.

We can combine these sentences into one sentence changing the first sentence into a noun clause – Mohit told me how they had won the match.

Now combine each pair of the sentences given below into one sentence as shown above:

1. Where are you living nowadays?
Tell me.
2. How did they perform this difficult task?
She did not tell me this.
3. It is not correct.
Mr Gupta is living in this house.
4. What can I do for you?
Please tell me.
5. Who helped him in doing this work?
I do not know.

B. Fill in the blanks with the words given below:

shower, intimately, predicted, sow, entire.

1. As Lencho had _____, big drops of rain began to fall.
2. There was only one house in the _____ valley.
3. Lencho knew his fields _____.
4. There was a slight _____ in the morning.
5. The farmer will _____ the seeds and then water the fields.

C. Make your own sentences by using the words given below:

entire
solitary
resemble
charity
faith



COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully:

One of the employees who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The postmaster – a fat amiable fellow – also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented.

“What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote the letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!”

So, in order to make the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea; answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution: he asked for money from his employees; he himself gave a part of his salary, and several friends of his were obliged to give something for an act of charity.

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The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from the doorway of his office.

Now answer the following questions :

1. Who went to his boss laughing?
2. What did he show to the postman?
3. What did the postmaster wish for?
4. Why did the postmaster ask for money from his employees?
5. How did the postmaster send money to Lencho?



WRITING SKILL

You are staying in the beautiful hills of Manali, a hill station in Himachal Pradesh. Write a letter to your friend describing the beauty of the place in your words.