



Brain International School

Vikas Puri, New Delhi

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-X

APRIL, 2025

First Flight

CH-1 A Letter to God

Theme

In “A Letter to God,” Lencho’s unwavering faith in divine intervention remains intact even after a devastating hailstorm destroyed his crops. Believing in God’s mercy, he writes a letter seeking help from God. The postmaster and his colleagues, moved by his faith, secretly collect money for him, becoming instruments of divine will. However, Lencho ironically doubts their honesty, convinced that part of God’s money was stolen. This contrast deepens the story’s themes of faith, irony, and human misunderstanding.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Lencho referred to the post office employees as 'a bunch of crooks.' What does this reveal about his perspective on people in the society? Does his reaction suggest a lack of humility, appreciation, or gratitude? Discuss.
2. How would you describe the character of the post office employees? What specific aspect of the postmaster's gesture stands out to you, and why?
3. While Lencho eagerly awaited a response to his letter to God, do you think the postmaster was equally curious to witness Lencho's reaction upon receiving the reply? Explain your perspective.
4. The story presents two types of conflicts: one between humans and nature, and the other between humans themselves. How are these conflicts represented in the narrative? Provide examples.
5. Lencho chose to rely solely on God for help, without considering alternative solutions. Do you believe his approach was justified? Why or why not? Support your answer with reasoning.

POEM-1: Dust of Snow

Theme

The poem “Dust of Snow” highlights the profound influence of nature as a vital force in life. Frost conveys nature’s remarkable ability to heal and uplift the human spirit. Through a simple moment in nature, the poem emphasizes how it can bring relief from emotional distress, showcasing its restorative power.

Poetic Devices:

Imagery: Frost uses simple imagery like a crow scattering snow from a hemlock tree, and ‘dust of snow’ falling on the poet to depict the positive effect of nature on the poet.

Alliteration: Alliteration is the occurrence of the same sound that is used in the beginning of the closely placed words.

- Has given my heart
- And saved some part

Symbolism: Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas by giving them symbolic meaning that is different from their literal meaning.

The '*crow*' and '*hemlock tree*'. The poet has used these as a symbol to show the emotions like dejection, gloom and depression. Also, he has used these as symbols to show that these 'inauspicious' things of nature can also change a person's mood and mind. '*Snow*' also is symbolic of the harsh climate or hardships of extreme temperature.

Enjambment: In enjambment, the same sentence continues to the next line without the use of any punctuation marks.

This poem is a very good example of this poetic device. It has been used throughout the poem. The lines of stanzas flow to the next line without any punctuation. The full stop comes in the end only.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. How has the poet 'rued' his day? How does the falling of the 'dust of snow' save his day?
2. How does the poet illustrate the fact that 'seemingly small incidents have a larger impact in life' through the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
3. The crow and hemlock are usually used as negative references in literature. How is this different in this poem?
4. Nature has the power to lift our mood even when we are highly despondent. Comment on the basis of your understanding of the poem 'Dust of Snow'.

POEM-2: Fire and Ice

THEME

Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" is based on the idea that the world is likely to encounter two different destructive forces - 'fire' and 'ice', either of which will spell its end because of its intensity. Symbolically, 'fire' and 'ice' represent contrasting emotions - 'fire' symbolizing violent passions like anger, cruelty, brutality etc. and 'ice' signifying hatred, jealousy, insensitivity, indifference etc. Both the fiery and the cold emotions, in their intensity, can prove to be a cause of the destruction of the world since they suppress human values and alienate people from one another.

Poetic Devices:

- **Symbolism** – Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify some ideas by giving them symbolic meaning different from their literal meaning. Fire – symbolizes desire with human emotions like lust, fury, cruelty, greed etc. Ice – symbolizes hatred with cold feelings of humans such as rigidity, jealousy, indifference, intolerance etc.
- **Imagery** —Imagery is the visualization of the poetic description through our sensory organs. Here, the reader would visualize the destruction through fire or ice. The imagery formed would depend on how we perceive and imagine the context being portrayed in the poem. It makes a poem picturesque as images are formed in the minds of the reader.

- **Personification** —Personification is to assign human qualities to non-living things. In this poem, ‘fire’ and ‘ice’ are capable of destroying the earth.
- **Anaphora** — Anaphora is the repetition of a word or expression at the start of two or more consecutive lines. For example: ‘some say’ is repeated at the start of the lines 1 and 2.
- **Alliteration** —Alliteration is repetition of the same sound used at the beginning of the nearly placed words. Example: The sound of ‘s’ in some say, ‘f’ in “Favour fire”, and ‘w’ in “world will”.
- **Enjambment**—it is a line or clause that does not come to an end at a line break, rather it moves over to the next line. This device has been used prominently in the poem. For Example: “From what I’ve tasted of desire I hold with those who favour fire”.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. How does the poet relate ice with the emotion of hatred and fire with desire and passion? How, according to him, would they be responsible for the fate of the world?
2. Why does the poet use the contradictory images of fire and ice?
3. What does the poet mean by - ice ‘*would suffice*’?
4. The poem 'Fire and Ice', carries with it very deep thematic ideas. Elaborate on these darkest traits of humanity.
5. Write the message that the poem 'Fire and Ice' conveys.

POEM-3: A Tiger in the Zoo

THEME

The poem brings forth the idea that it is unfair and unjustifiable on the part of man to enslave and entrap wild animals and to impose on them a life of bondage and confinement. The animals put into the cramped spaces of the zoo are deprived of their natural habitats and it causes suppression of their natural, essential behaviour.

Poetic Devices:

- **Metaphor**– (*Indirect comparison*) Velvet quite – it was as quiet as walking on velvet
- **Personification** – (*Giving characteristics of humans to animals or inanimate objects*) -Tiger has been personified as he moves in quiet rage and ignores visitors.
- **Oxymoron** – (*use of opposites for emphasis*)- Quiet rage – Anger is usually loud.
- **Consonance** – (*repetition of consonant sound*)
 - Plump deer pass – ‘p’ sound has been repeated
 - Concrete cell – ‘c’ sound is repeated
 - Behind bars – ‘b’ sound is repeated

- **Repetition**– (*repeating words for emphasis*)Velvet quiet/ quiet rage ,‘brilliant eyes and brilliant stars’
- **Enjambment** – (*a sentence continuing in the next line without punctuation*) -Stanzas 2, 3 and 5

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. How does the poem point to the cruelty towards animals in captivity?
2. Do you think the tiger in the poem had lost its natural instinct due to captivity? Support your response with evidence from the poem.
3. What is the central idea of the poem ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’?
4. What do you understand by ‘*His strength behind bars*’? What kind of a cage is he locked in?
5. The tiger in the poem is feeling miserable in a concrete cell. Does it not amount to cruelty? Express your opinion about keeping wild animals in zoos. Are there any lessons for humans?

Chapter-2: Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

THEME

The chapter explores struggle, setbacks, renewed hope, and the triumph of truth, epitomized by the line, “The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.” Nelson Mandela stresses that freedom is a birth right and condemns both inflicting and tolerating oppression. Respect for all, regardless of differences, is essential, as love, not hate, is the natural inclination. Breaking the chains of hatred and oppression is imperative to uphold these principles.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. How did Nelson Mandela's hunger for freedom change the course of his life?
2. What were the various types of freedoms Nelson Mandela talks about? How were they different from one another?
3. ‘Oppressor and the Oppressed are alike - They are not free.’ Do you agree?
4. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions “*an extraordinary human disaster*”. What does he mean by this? What is the “*glorious human achievement*” he speaks of at the end?
5. What made Nelson Mandela exclaim, "... it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character”?

Chapter- 3 Two Stories About Flying

I- His First Flight

Theme

“His First Flight” explores how self-assurance and confidence emerge through strategic encouragement. The seagull’s parents tried various methods to teach him to fly, but only the mother’s clever tactic helped him overcome his fear and take the leap. The story emphasizes the necessity of conquering fears before they dominate us.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. The young seagull “failed to muster up the courage to take that plunge”. In what way can the reference to the ‘plunge’ here be both literal and metaphorical? Explain.
2. “The young seagull was alone on his ledge.” How far do you think this condition was by his choice?
3. What did the young seagull do when he was maddened by hunger? Did hunger motivate him to dive at the fish in the air?
4. How did the young seagull overcome his fear and soared gradually towards the sea during his first flight?
5. What is the message that Liam O’ Flaherty wants to give to the readers through the lesson ‘His First Flight’?

II- The Black Aeroplane

Theme

The story suggests that a divine power controls human efforts. The Dakota pilot’s easy flight from Paris becomes perilous due to the sudden bad weather. At this critical juncture, a mysterious guide plane appears, leading him to safety before vanishing just as mysteriously. This implies that the pilot’s bravery is influenced by supernatural forces. The lesson concludes enigmatically, with the pilot uncertain of his saviour’s identity.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. What is the message that Frederick wants to give to the readers through the lesson ‘The Black Aeroplane’?
2. Which two options did the pilot of the Dakota plane have when he encountered the storm clouds on his way? What did he decide to do? Why?
3. The narrator had two options before risking himself entering the storm clouds. Why didn’t he choose them?
4. James Lane Allen says, “Adversity reveals character”. What do you learn about the narrator from the experience? Mention any two traits supported by the textual evidence.
5. Why did the narrator want to meet the woman in the control tower? Did he get any information about the mysterious disappearance of the black aeroplane and its pilot?
- 6.

Footprints without Feet

CH-1: A Triumph of Surgery

THEME

The story revolves around the theme of unconditional love and excessive indulgence. Mrs. Pumphrey’s deep affection for Tricki led her to overlook the negative impact of her excessive pampering on his health. This resulted in a dangerous situation, and it was Mr. Herriot’s timely intervention and practical approach that ultimately saved Tricki’s life.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Mrs Pumphrey make a frantic call to Mr Herriot? What immediate step did he take to save Tricki?
2. ‘*Privilege often confuses actual needs for perceived ones.*’ Evaluate this statement with reference to Mrs. Pumphrey.
3. Describe Tricki’s stay at Dr. James Herriot’s surgery, highlighting his behaviour and his rapid recovery.
4. Dr James Herriot was a competent veterinary surgeon. His practical approach and common sense helped in the rapid recovery of Tricki. Give a character sketch of Dr James Herriot.

5. Why did Dr. James Herriot say that he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest? Give a reasoned answer.

CH-2: The Thief's Story

THEME

The chapter explores 'Trust versus Betrayal' through Anil's trust in Hari, who eventually robs him, highlighting contrasting perceptions. It also emphasizes the Importance of Values and Relationships as Anil's influence transforms Hari from a thief to a better person, illustrating the power of human connections in personal growth.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. *'It's not easy to be mean to someone who is very nice and kind to you'*. What made Hari Singh rob Anil and later come back to him?
2. Hari Singh says, "Anil knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything". In the light of the above statement bring out the character sketch of Anil.
3. How did Hari Singh realise that Anil knew that the money had been stolen? Why didn't Anil hand over Hari Singh to the police?
4. 'Everyone must get a chance to reform'. How did Anil work upon these values and succeeded?
5. What was the thought behind using appealing smiles frequently on Anil? How was the appealing smile at the end different?