



# Chapter 1: A Letter to God by G.L. Fuentes

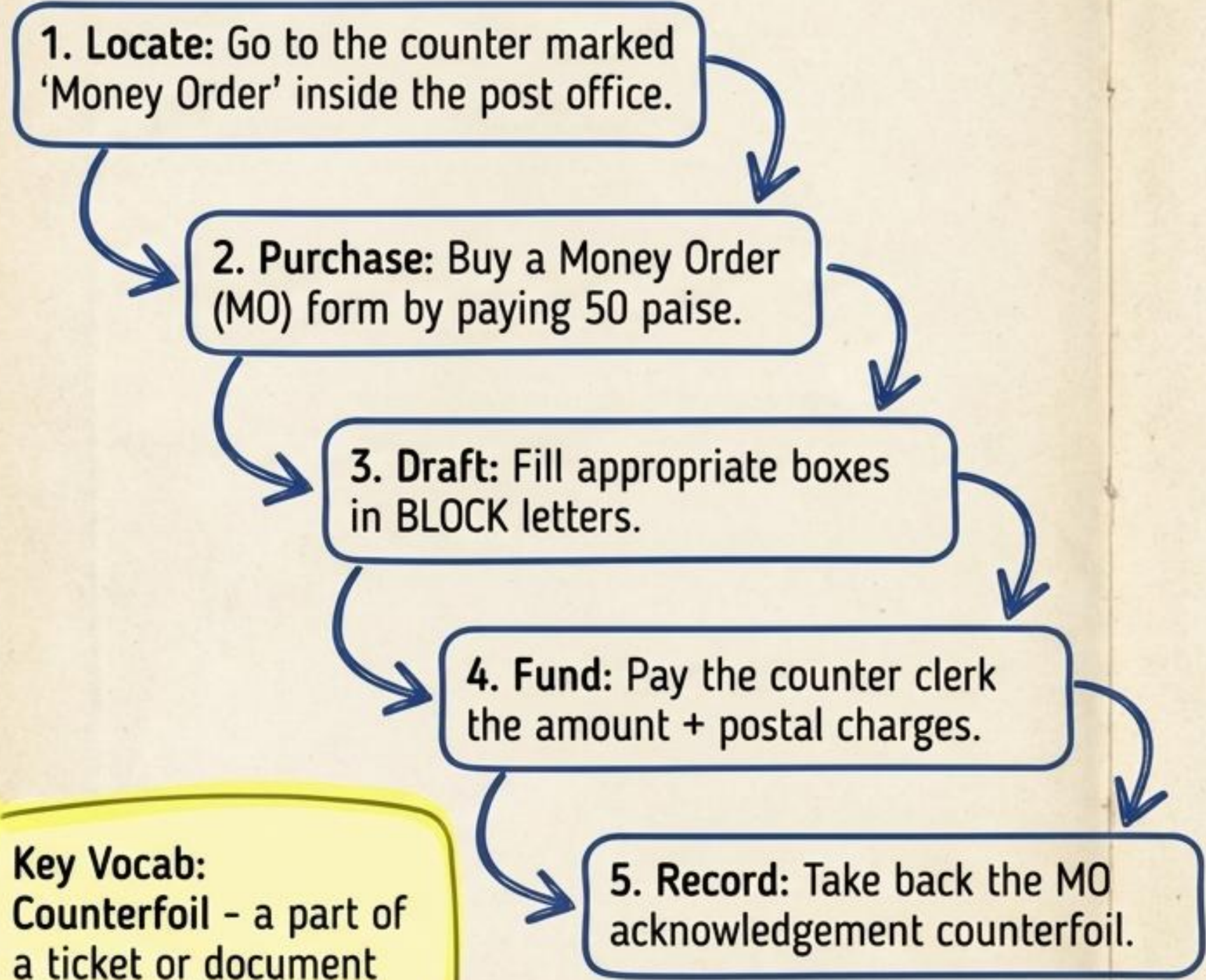
Complete CBSE Class 10  
Study Guide & Interactive  
Assessment

Teacher's Note: They say faith can move mountains. But what should we put our faith in? This story delicately poses this question. Read carefully!



Manoj Bhardwaj

# Essential Context: How to Send a Physical Money Order



**Key Vocab:**  
**Counterfoil** - a part of a ticket or document kept as a record.

M.O. - 6. DEPARTMENT OF POSTS, INDIA 50 Paise  
 भारतीय डाक INDIA POST MONEY ORDER

PAY RUPEES.....  
 To..... Rs.   
 ..... PIN   
 Date..... Sender's Signature.....  
 M.O. No..... Date.....  
 Rupees.....  
 .....  
 Rs.....  
 Combined Oblong Stamp Assistant Postmaster  
 (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Received Rupees.....  
 Round M. O. Stamp Signature of Payee  
 Signature of witness / identifier  
 Oblong Stamp Signature of paying official

M. O. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
 M. O. No..... Date.....  
 Sender's Name & Address.....423  
 .....  
 .....  
 ..... PIN   
 Received Rupees.....  
 .....on.....  
 Date Stamp Signature of Payee  
 (Space for Communication)

Handwritten notes on the right margin of the page, including numbers like '4', '10', and '12-12', and some illegible scribbles.

# The Anticipation: Waiting for the Downpour



- House sits alone on the crest of a low hill.
- Overlooks river and ripe corn dotted with promising flowers.
- Earth needed: A downpour or a shower.



Big Drops = 10 CENT 10 cent pieces

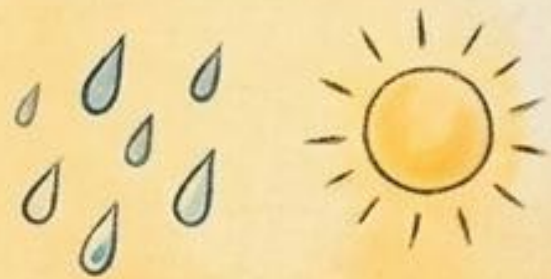
Little Drops = 5 CENT 5 cent pieces

“These aren’t raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins.”

# The Ruin: From Rain to a Plague of Locusts

## Before (The Hope)

- Gentle rain begins
- Anticipation of a good harvest
- Fresh, sweet air



“A plague of locusts (insects that fly in swarms and destroy crops) would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing.”

swarm

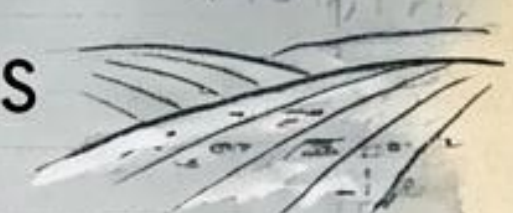
locusts

1 large irregular hailstone



## After (The Devastation)

- Strong wind begins to blow
- Hailstones fall like new silver coins
- Rains for an hour on the cornfield
- Field turns white, as if covered with salt
- Not a single leaf remains



## Knowledge Check I: Recall & Comprehension

Q1: What did Lencho hope for?

Q2: Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?

A 'plefnroc edir isih rta t'asiz t o houumwop'

Because the rain world  
'æuom uı buiɫuser 'tsevrak poof a buirq  
bring good hursnɫıŋd in money,

Q3: How did the rain change?  
What happened to the fields?

Q4: What were Lencho's feelings  
when the hail stopped?

Strong winds brought heavy hail,  
The corn was totally destroyed.

His soul was filled with sadness:  
the feared they world go hungry'

**Teacher's Note:** Self-Grade! Do not move forward until you can answer all four out loud.

# The Resolution: An Ox of a Man Writes to God

**Belief System:** Believes God's eyes see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.

**Physicality:** Works like an animal in the fields (an ox of a man).



**Capability:** Despite hard labor, he knows how to write.

## The Action Plan:

1. **Timing:** Sunday morning, at daybreak.
2. **The Request:** Exactly 100 pesos (Latin American currency).
3. **The Purpose:** To sow his field again and feed his family.
4. **The Delivery:** Addresses To God, stamps it, drops it in town mailbox.

# The Post Office: A Crisis of Faith and Charity

## Initial Reaction

- Postman laughs heartily; has never seen that address.



- Postmaster (a fat, **amiable** / friendly fellow) breaks out laughing.



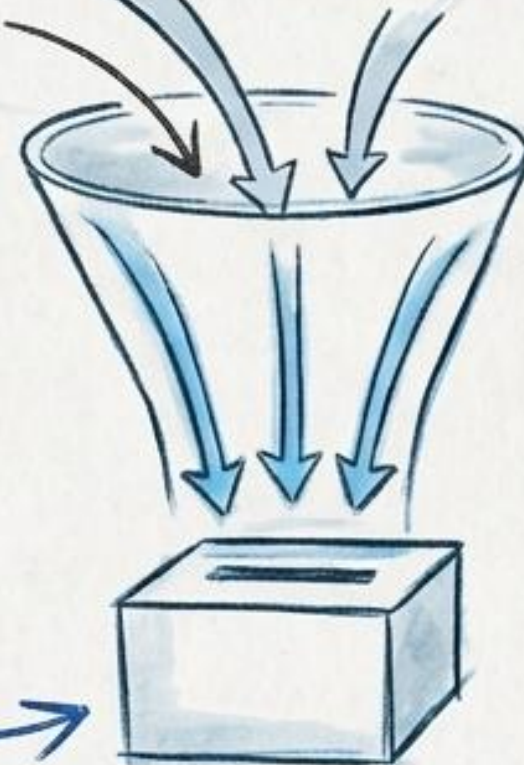
## The Turning Point

Postmaster turns serious, tapping the letter:  
"What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter."



## The Fundraising Funnel

- **Goal:** 100 pesos (impossible for one man)
- **Sources:** Postmaster's salary + Employee contributions + Friends' charity
- **Result:** A little more than half (70 pesos)
- **Signature on the reply:** God



# Knowledge Check II: Character & Motivation

**Q:** Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

↑  
Absolute faith in God. He wrote a letter asking for 100 pesos to save his family.

**Q:** Who read the letter?

↑  
First the postman, who laughed, and then the Postmaster, who was moved by it.

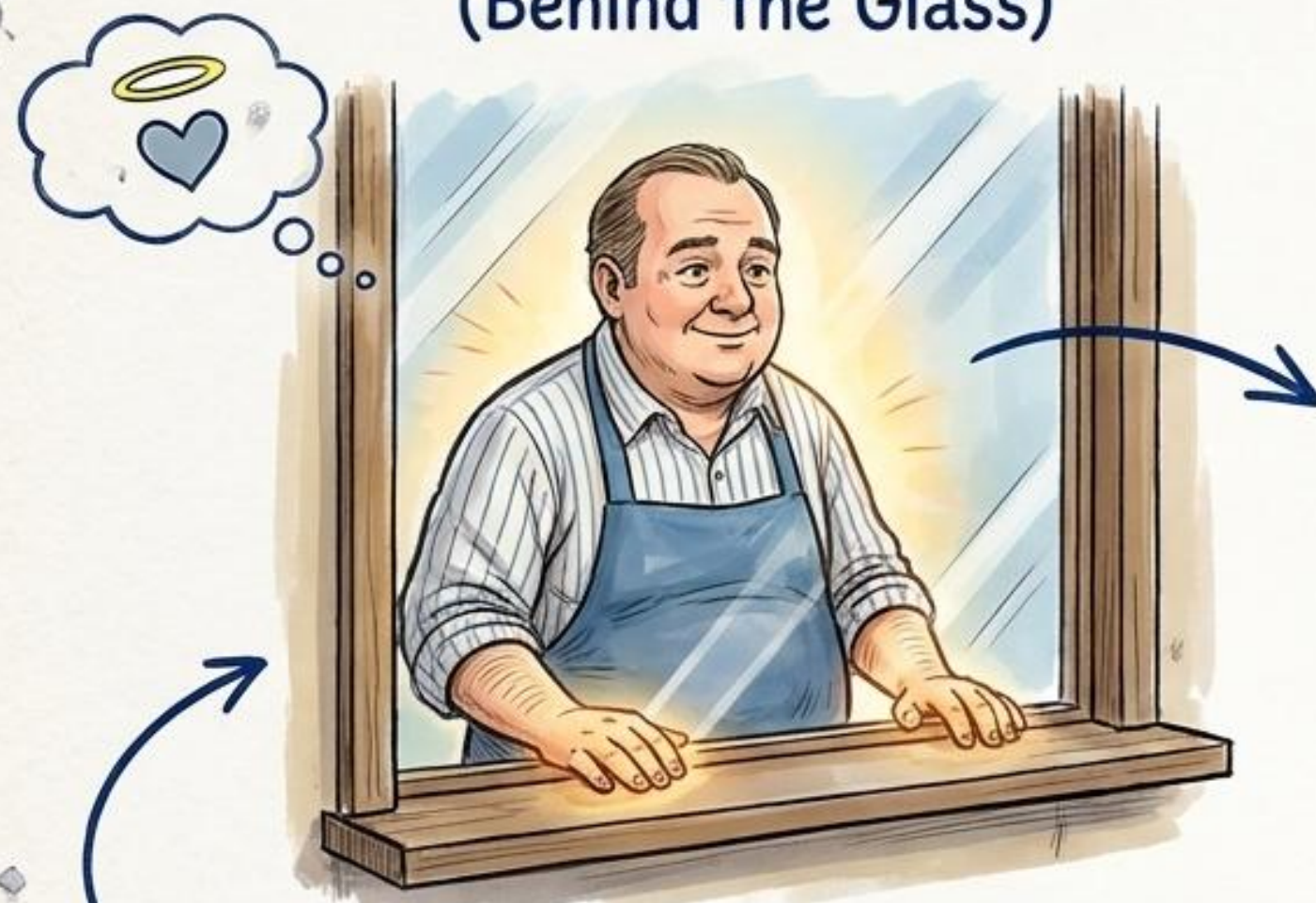
**Q:** What did the postmaster do then?

↑  
He collected money from his employees to answer the letter and to give it to Lencho's friends.

**Teacher's Note:** Think critically: Why did the Postmaster feel compelled to answer the letter? Hint: It wasn't just to be nice.

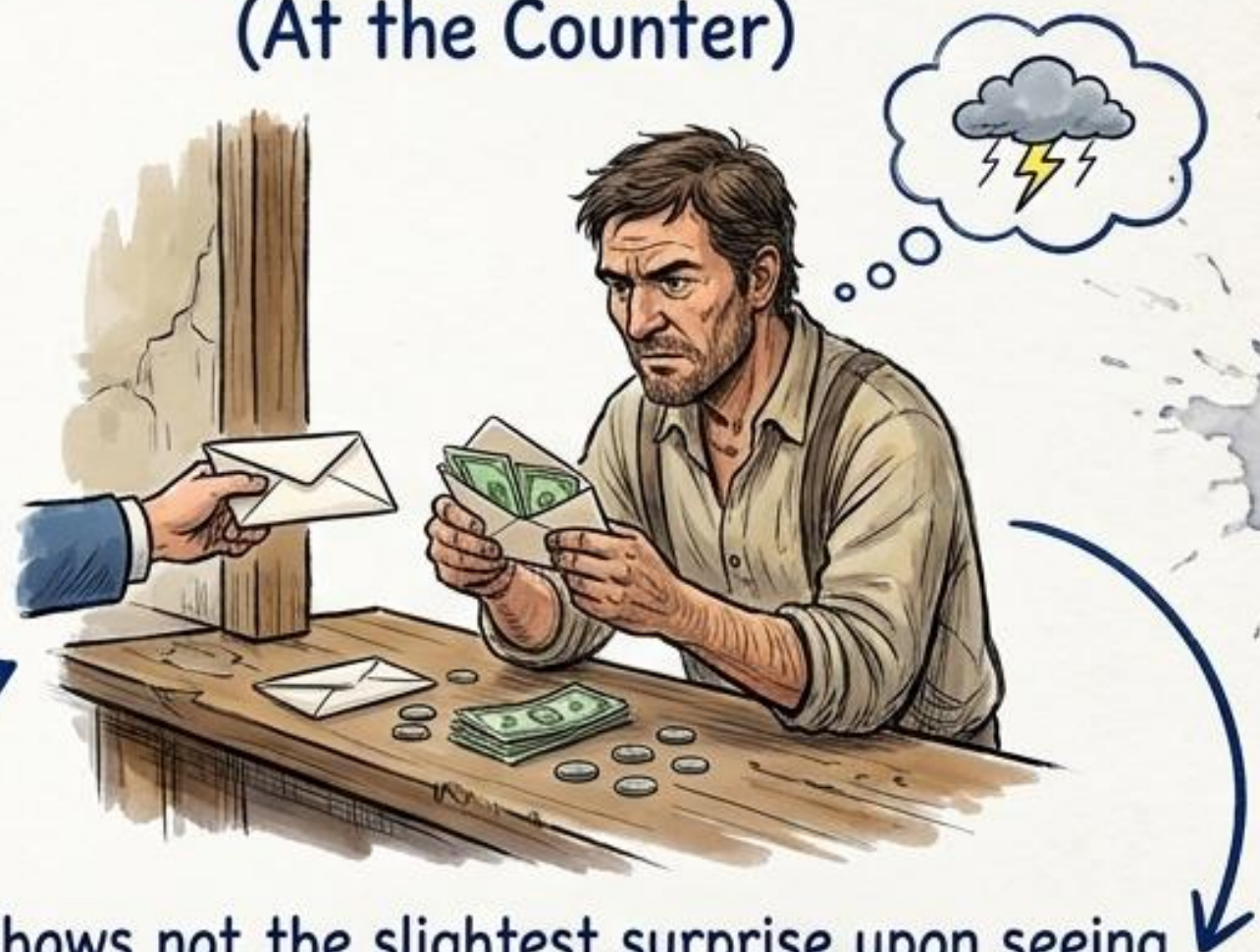
# The Delivery: Contentment Meets Anger

The Postmaster's Perspective  
(Behind the Glass)

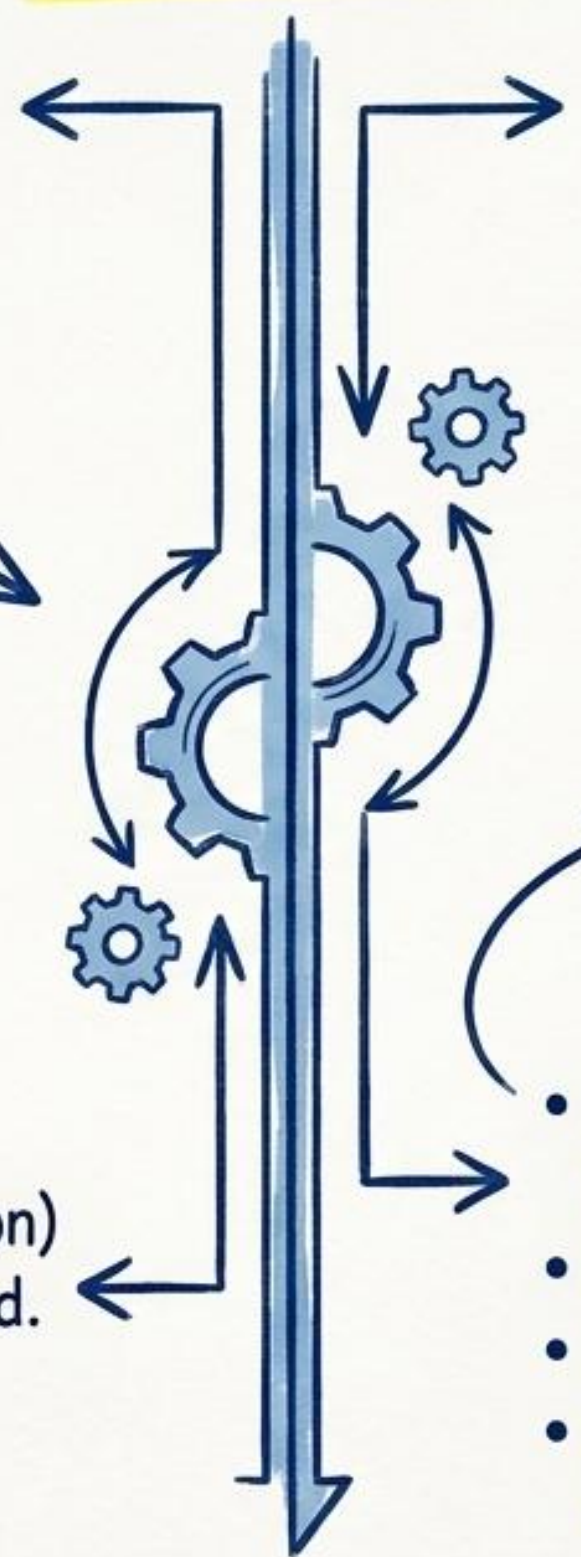


- Experiences the **contentment** (satisfaction) of a man who has performed a good deed.
- Watches proudly as the postman hands over the letter.

Lencho's Perspective  
(At the Counter)



- Shows not the slightest surprise upon seeing the money—his confidence in God is absolute.
- Counts the money (finds only 70 pesos).
- Becomes instantly **angry**.
- His Logic: God could not make a mistake, nor could He deny the request.



- Lencho immediately asks for paper and ink.
- Writes with a wrinkled brow.
- Licks and affixes the stamp with a blow of his fist.

## The Irony: A Bunch of Crooks

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 office employees are a bunch of crooks.

He doesn't suspect the postmaster sent it!

Irony: The very people who sacrificed their own money to help him are the ones he accuses of stealing!

Lencho.

# Knowledge Check III: Irony & Conclusion

? • **Recall:** Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

*No, his faith was so strong he expected it.*

? • **Recall:** What made him angry?

*Counting the money and finding fiftyays 70 pesos instead of 100.*

? • **Analysis:** Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money?

*The post office employees.*

## THE BIG QUESTION:

### What is the irony in this situation?

**Teacher's prompt:** Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. It is strange or amusing because it is the exact opposite of what is expected.

# Thematic Synthesis: Lencho vs. The Postmaster

	Lencho	The Postmaster
<b>Key Trait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unshakable, literal faith.</li> <li>● Hardworking (ox of a man).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amiable, compassionate, practical.</li> </ul>
<b>View of God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A direct provider who reads mail and sends cash.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An ideal of faith to be protected and preserved in others.</li> </ul>
<b>Action Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wrote a letter demanding exactly 100 pesos.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Raised 70 pesos from his own salary and friends.</li> </ul>
<b>Blindspot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cannot recognize human kindness; suspects the post office staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expected gratitude, but received a written accusation of theft.</li> </ul>

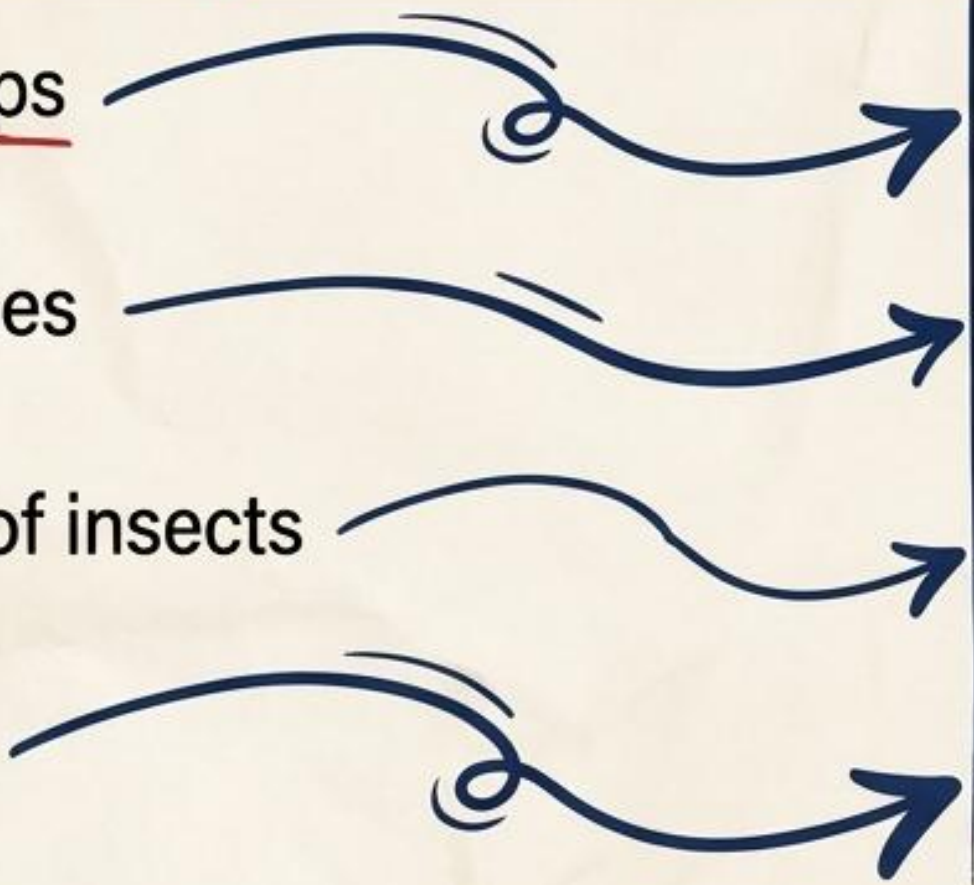


# Language Focus: Decoding Metaphors

**Definition Note:** A metaphor compares two things by saying one IS the other, highlighting a shared quality.

## Literal Objects

- Raindrops
- Hailstones
- Swarm of insects
- Lencho



## Metaphors & Qualities

- New coins (Quality: Brings wealth/prosperity through a good harvest)
- New silver coins / frozen pearls (Quality: Bright, shiny, round, but destructive)
- A plague of locusts (Quality: An epidemic of total destruction)
- An ox of a man (Quality: Immense physical strength and tireless hard work)

# CBSE Grammar Focus: Clauses & Emphasis

## Relative Clauses (Non-defining):

Give extra information about an identity we already know. Uses *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*.

### Example 1:

All morning Lencho — **who** knew his fields intimately — looked at the sky.

### Example 2:

The woman, **who** was preparing supper, replied...

## Negative Words for Emphasis:

Used not just to state absence, but to strongly emphasize an idea.

### Example 1:

The hail has left **nothing**. (Emphasizes total absence of crop).

### Example 2:

Lencho had done **nothing else** but see the sky. (Emphasizes he did ONLY this).

### Example 3:

Lencho showed **not the slightest** surprise. (Emphasizes absolute zero surprise).

**EMPHASIS  
ZONE**

# Teacher's Final Assessment

**Writing Prompt:** Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is?

**Discussion Points to Include:**

- Contrast his unquestioning faith in God with his deep mistrust of human beings.
- Consider the irony of the Postmaster's charity resulting in him being called a crook.
- Is Lencho naive, ungrateful, or simply operating on a different level of faith?

**Final Note:** Draft a 150-word response using at least two metaphors and one relative clause from our lesson!

