

A Letter to God by G.L. Fuentes (1897–2002)



G.L. Fuentes (1897-2002)

1.1 BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR-

G. L. Fuentes is a Mexican writer. His full name is Gregorio Lopez Fuentes. He was one of the most important chroniclers of the Mexican Revolution and its effects. He was also a fisherman and worked with the famous American writer Ernest Hemingway. His works have been translated into other languages and have deeply influenced Latin American literature.

1.2 INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAPTER-IN ENGLISH

The story, **“A Letter to God”** written by G.L Fuentes revolves around the idea of having unquestionable belief in something. The story is set in a Latin American country. Lencho, the farmer, who is the protagonist of the story. He is an innocent and childlike character, who decides to write a letter to God in order to ask for money to tide him over, since a severe hailstorm had devastated his crops. The other character in the story is the postmaster, who is moved by the deep and simple faith of Lencho. The postmaster arranges some money for him by way of donations from the employees, though it is less than what Lencho had asked for. Although his wishes get fulfilled partially, if not completely, he is ungrateful in the end and questions the honesty and modesty of the postmasters who actually helped him with money (anonymously) in the name of God.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAPTER IN HINDI

जी. एल. फ्यूएंटस द्वारा लिखित कहानी, “ए लेटर टू गॉड” किसी चीज में निर्विवाद विश्वास रखने के विचार के इर्द-गिर्द घूमती है। कहानी एक लैटिन अमेरिकी देश पर आधारित है। लेंचो, किसान, जो कहानी का नायक है। वह एक मासूम और बचकाना चरित्र है, जो भगवान को एक पत्र लिखने का फैसला करता है ताकि वह उससे निपटने के लिए पैसे मांगे, क्योंकि एक गंभीर ओलावृष्टि ने उसकी फसलों को तबाह कर दिया था। कहानी का दूसरा पात्र पोस्टमास्टर है, जो लेंचो के गहरे और सरल विश्वास से प्रभावित होता है। पोस्टमास्टर उसके लिए कर्मचारियों से दान के रूप में कुछ पैसे की व्यवस्था करता है, हालांकि यह लेंचो द्वारा मांगी गई राशि से कम है। यद्यपि उसकी इच्छाएँ आंशिक रूप से पूरी होती हैं, यदि पूरी तरह से नहीं, तो वह अंत में कृतघ्न है और पोस्ट-मास्टर्स की ईमानदारी और शील पर सवाल उठाता है, जिन्होंने वास्तव में भगवान के नाम पर (गुमनाम रूप से) उनकी मदद की।

1.3 SUMMARY OF A LETTER TO GOD' IN ENGLISH -

The story, **“A Letter to God”** by G.L. Fuentes depicts the unwavering faith of a farmer in God. ‘A Letter to God’ is a story about the great faith of a simple farmer in God. The story begins with Lencho who is hoping for rain, so that his crops would give a better yield. The rain does come with a devastating hail storm which destroys the standing corn crop and leaves Lencho staring into a bleak future. The damage posed a threat to the family’s survival as their

entire livelihood was dependent on the corn. Lencho is a strong believer in God so he decides to write a letter to God, asking for some money of 100 pesos. He went to town to post his letter addressed "To God". On seeing Lencho's letter, the postmaster is amused and later, deeply moved by Lencho's deep faith in God. So, he decided to do something for the farmer. The postmaster contributes from his salary and collects money from his colleagues and sends some money to Lencho. But the money sent by the postmaster falls short. Nevertheless, the postmaster sends 70 pesos to Lencho. On having found the letter, Lencho is not at all shocked, but instead, he gets angry on finding the amount less than what he had expected. He once again writes a letter to God in which he expresses his doubts about the honesty of the post office employees.

1.4 SUMMARY OF A LETTER TO GOD IN HINDI-

जी. एल. फ्यूएंट्स की कहानी, "ए लेटर टू गॉड" एक किसान के भगवान में अटूट विश्वास को दर्शाती है। 'ए लेटर टू गॉड' भगवान में एक साधारण किसान के महान विश्वास की कहानी है। कहानी की शुरुआत लेंचो से होती है जो बारिश की उम्मीद कर रहा है, ताकि उसकी फसल को बेहतर पैदावार मिले। बारिश एक विनाशकारी ओलावृष्टि के साथ आती है जो खड़ी मकई की फसल को नष्ट कर देती है और लेंचो को एक अंधकारमय भविष्य की ओर देखती है। क्षति ने परिवार के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा पैदा कर दिया क्योंकि उनकी पूरी आजीविका मकई पर निर्भर थी।

लेंचो भगवान में एक मजबूत आस्तिक है इसलिए उसने भगवान को एक पत्र लिखने का फैसला किया, जिसमें उसने 100 पैसे के पैसे मांगे। वह "भगवान के लिए" संबोधित अपना पत्र पोस्ट करने के लिए शहर गया था। लेंचो के पत्र को देखकर, पोस्टमास्टर खुश हो जाता है और बाद में, लेंचो की ईश्वर में गहरी आस्था से बहुत प्रभावित होता है। इसलिए, उन्होंने किसान के लिए कुछ करने का फैसला किया। पोस्टमास्टर अपने वेतन से योगदान देता है और अपने सहयोगियों से पैसे इकट्ठा करता है और कुछ पैसे लेंचो को भेजता है। लेकिन पोस्टमास्टर द्वारा भेजा गया पैसा कम पड़ जाता है। फिर भी, पोस्टमास्टर लेंचो को 70 पैसे भेजता है। पत्र मिलने पर, लेंचो बिल्कुल भी चौंक गया नहीं है, बल्कि वह अपनी अपेक्षा से कम राशि पाकर क्रोधित हो जाता है। वह एक बार फिर भगवान को एक पत्र लिखता है जिसमें वह डाकघर के कर्मचारियों की ईमानदारी के बारे में अपना संदेह व्यक्त करता है।

1.5 IMPORTANT WORD MEANINGS -

Words	Meanings
1. Entire-	complete (पूर्ण)
2. Crest-	top of a hill (शिखर चोटी)
3. Harvest-	season's yield of crop (फसल)
4. Downpour-	heavy rain (मूसलाधार वर्षा)
5. Throughout-	all through (लगातार)
6. Intimately-	thoroughly (पूरी तरह से)।
7. Predict-	say in advance (भविष्यवाणी करना)

8. Expression-	aspect of face (भाव)		(थपथपाना)
9. Regarded-	looked closely (ध्यान से देखा)	27. Continent-	remark (टिप्पणी करना)
10. Draped-	dressed/ covered (ढका हुआ)	28. Correspondence-	stuck exchange of letter (पत्र व्यवहार)
11. Curtain-	cover (आवरण)	29. Shake-	weaken (हिलाना /कमजोर करना)
12. Hailstones-	frozen rain (ओले)	30. Goodwill-	friendly feeling (सदभावना)
13. Resemble-	be similar (शक्ल का मिलना)	31. Stuck-	remained determined (दृढ़- निश्चय)
14. Exposing-	leaving uncovered (खुला / उघाड़ा छोड़ देना)	32. Resolution-	determination (पक्का इरादा)
15. Frozen-	frozen (जमे हुए)	33. Salary-	pay, emoluments (वेतन)
16. Pearls-	pearls (मोती)	34. Obligated-	compelled (मजबूर होना)
17. Remain-	be still present (शेष रहना)	35. Charity-	benefaction (दया/उदारता)
18. Plague-	cause of disaster (एक बीमारी / विपत्ति) (टिड्डी)	36. Contain-	have within itself (में होना/ रखना)
19. Locust-		37. Signature-	signature (हस्ताक्षर)
20. Solitary-	a lonely (अकेला)	38. Experiencing-	felling (महसूस करना)
21. Upset-	worried / troubled (परेशान)	39. Contentment-	satisfaction (संतुष्टि)
22. Instruct-	teach/ inform (सिखाना/बताना)	40. Deed-	act (कार्य)
23. Conscience-	moral sense of right/wrong (अंतरात्मा)	41. Slightest-	very little (बहुत कम)
24. Career-	a profession (व्यवसाय)	42. Confidence	faith (विश्वास)
25. Amiable-	kind-hearted (दयालु -हृदय)	43. Deny	say no/refuse (इंकार करना)
26. Tap-	give light, quick blows		

Important terminologies in the story:
'A Letter to God'

1. Pesos: the basic monetary unit of several Latin American countries and of the Philippines, equal to 100 centésimos in Uruguay and 100 centavos elsewhere.



2. Latin America: Latin America encompasses the southern portion of North America and nearly all of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, for a total of 20 countries and 14 territories, most of which are Spanish-speaking (the exception being Brazil, the population of which speaks Brazilian Portuguese).

3. Hailstones: Hailstones are small lumps of ice that form in the clouds and fall to the ground when their size reaches 5 mm in diameter, or larger. They begin as water droplets that freeze in the clouds.

4. Post-office: A post office is a public facility and a retailer that provides mail services, such as accepting letters and parcels, providing post office boxes, and selling postage stamps, packaging, and stationery.

(i) Postmaster: A postmaster is the head of an individual post office, responsible for all postal activities in a specific post office.

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5. Locusts: a large, mainly tropical grasshopper with strong powers of flight. It is usually solitary, but from time to time there is a population explosion and it migrates in vast swarms which cause extensive damage to vegetation.

6. Plague: An infectious disease caused by the bacterium yersinia pestis, transmitted by fleas. This causes fever, headache and fatigue.

7. Mailbox (A post office box): A post office box (commonly abbreviated as P.O. box, or also known as a postal box) is a uniquely addressable lockable box located on the premises of a post office.



44. Wrinkling

have wrinkles
(झुर्रियाँ होना)

45. Effort

attempt (प्रयत्न)

46. Express

show by words
(व्यक्त करना)

47. Affix

fix / fasten
(लगाना)

48. Blow

hard stroke with
fist, etc. (प्रहार)

49. Mail

Post (डाक)

50. Bunch

gang / group
(समूह)

51. Crook

rogue / swindler
(ठग/धोखेबाज)



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MCQ: OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What did Lencho hope for?
 - (a) A good shower of rain for his crop.
 - (b) A new motorcycle
 - (c) A tractor
 - (d) None of the Above

Ans. (a)

2. Why was Lencho satisfied?
 - (a) On seeing a new tractor in

his field.

- (b) On seeing a new buffalo.
- (c) On seeing the field of ripe corn with flowers.
- (d) None of the Above

Ans. (c)

3. Why did Lencho need money?

- (a) To buy a tractor
- (b) To save his family from hunger
- (c) To buy a new phone.
- (d) To buy a buffalo.

Ans. (b)

4. What did the postmaster do then?

- (a) He decided to collect the money and send it to Lencho.
- (b) He throw away the letter
- (c) He decided to beat Lencho to teach him a lesson.
- (d) He gave it to other postmaster

Ans. (a)

5. Who read the letter sent by Lencho?

- (a) His Wife
- (b) The Postmaster
- (c) One of the farmer
- (d) The God

1.7. MINDMAP OF THE CHAPTER 'A

'A LETTER TO GOD'

Lencho - He is a hardworking farmer who lived on the top of a low hill with his family. He knew his field intimately.

Lencho's Wife - She is very supportive of Lencho.

Lencho's Sons - Olders are working in the fields and smaller ones are playing near the house.

2. Plot of the story: Lencho is a farmer who writes a letter to God when his crops are ruined, asking for a hundred pesos.

3. Lencho needed a downpour to make his harvest good. But the rain turned into hailstones which destroyed his whole crop of corn. He had nothing to eat so he decided to seek help from God. He wrote a letter to God demanding 100 pesos. The post office employees made fun of him. But the postmaster decided to help him. He collected 70 pesos from his own effort.

4. But Lencho was angry to receive 70 pesos in place of 100. He wrote another letter to God demanding the rest of the money. He also requested to send the money through another means because he believed that post office employees were a bunch of crooks.

5. Values in the story- HOPE - FAITH - and BENEVOLENCE.

6. Theme: The immense power in man's innocent faith in God. it teaches us that if man has child-like faith in god, he can accomplish anything considered impossible.

7. Moral of the story: Extreme faith in the almighty can give you a ray of hope even in the darkest times.

SUMMARY

1. Lencho was a farmer.
2. His house was the only house in the valley and on the top of a hill.
3. Lencho's fields needed rain for a good harvest.
4. He looked expectantly at the sky and it did rain at last.
5. The drops of rain were like the coins for him.
6. But his happiness was short-lived as very large hailstones began to fall after the rain.
7. The hailstones destroyed all the leaves on the trees, plants and flowers.
8. There would be no crop that year.
9. There was a single hope: help from God.
10. On the following Sunday, he wrote a letter to God.
11. He needed a hundred pesos to sow his fields again and to live until the new crop came.
12. He wrote 'To God' on the envelope and put the letter into the mailbox.
13. The postman laughed heartily and took it to the postmaster.
14. The postmaster laughed too but soon he became serious.
15. He decided to reply to the letter and help Lencho.
16. He collected seventy pesos only from his employees and himself contributed a part of his salary.
17. He put the money in an envelope and posted it to Lencho.
18. Lencho had an unbroken faith in God and he was not surprised when he received the money.
19. His happiness was turned into anger as there were thirty pesos short of the money.
20. Lencho could never believe that God could ever deceive him.
21. So, he wrote another letter to God reminding Him that he received only 70 pesos sent by Him.
22. He asked God not to send the rest of 30 pesos through the mail as the post office employees were a 'bunch of crooks'.

Ans. (b)

6. Who is the author of the lesson 'A Letter to God'?

- (a) G.L. Fuentes
- (b) J.k. Rowling
- (c) William Shakespeare
- (d) Roald Dahl

Ans. (a)

7. What is the irony in this lesson?

- (a) Lencho was sad after the hailstorm even though he was the one waiting for a shower
- (b) Postmaster laughed at Lencho but still helped arrange money for him
- (c) Lencho blamed the post office employees who in fact helped him
- (d) There is no irony

Ans. (c)

8. What did Lencho think of the post-office employees?

- (a) bunch of crooks
- (b) rude
- (c) unhelpful
- (d) proud

Ans. (a)

9. Why was Lencho not surprised on seeing the money in the en-

velope?

- (a) he was too sad to acknowledge it
- (b) he had unwavering faith in God
- (c) he was an ungrateful man
- (d) none of the above

Ans. (b)

10. How much money was the postmaster able to arrange?

- (a) 100 pesos
- (b) Nil
- (c) 1000 pesos
- (d) 70 pesos

Ans. (d)

11. Why did the postmaster decide to reply to Lencho's letter?

- (a) he was a good man
- (b) he felt empathetic
- (c) to preserve Lencho's faith in God
- (d) all of the above

Ans. (c)

12. The postmaster was a fat, amiable man. What is the meaning of amiable?

- (a) rude
- (b) helpful

(c) friendly

(d) enthusiastic

Ans. (c)

13. How much money did Lencho ask for?

(a) 100 pesos

(b) 1000 pesos

(c) 10 pesos

(d) 500 pesos

Ans. (a)

14. What was the only hope left in the hearts of Lencho's family?

(a) compensation from government

(b) help from farmer's association

(c) help from God

(d) there was no hope left

Ans. (c)

15. The field looked as if it were covered in _____.

(a) salt (b) locusts

(c) sugar (d) ice

Ans. (a)

16. Which crop was growing on Lencho's fields?

(a) Corn

(b) Barley

(c) Rice

(d) None of the above

Ans. (a)

17. Where did Lencho expect the downpour to come from?

(a) north

(b) north-east

(c) north-west

(d) south-east

Ans. (b)

18. Where was Lencho's house situated?

(a) bottom of the hill

(b) top of a hill

(c) top of a plateau

(d) in a city

Ans. (b)

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

Question 1. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

Answer: Lencho has complete faith in God as he is instructed that God knows everything and helps us in our problems. There are few sentences which show this

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

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.

"God", he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year".

He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and still troubled, went to town.

God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

Question 2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter God?

Answer: The postmaster sends money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho's faith in God being alive and firm as he was completely moved by it. When the postmaster reads the letter of Lencho to God, he becomes serious and does not want to shake his faith and decides to answer the letter. He gathers money with the help of his post office employees and friends on behalf of God and signs the letter 'God' so that Lencho's faith does not get shaken.

Question 3. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why or why not?

Answer: Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him because he never suspected the presence of God and had complete faith in God. He could not believe that it could be – anybody else other than him who would send him the money.

His faith in God was so strong that he believed that he had sent money to him for his help in his problem.

Question 4. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation? (Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. An ironic situation is strange or amusing because it is the opposite of what is expected).

Answer: Lencho thinks that the post office employees have taken the rest of the money as he had demanded a hundred pesos from God and in the letter there was only seventy pesos and God cannot make such a mistake. So, he assumes that they have stolen the money.

The irony in this situation is that Lencho suspects those people who helped him in his problem and tried to keep his faith alive in God.

Question 5. Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is? You may select appropriate words from the box to answer the question.

Greedy Naive
Stupid Ungrateful

Selfish Comical
Unquestioning

Answer: It is almost impossible to find a person like Lencho as he is an unquestioning and naive kind of person. He is not stupid if he doesn't know who has sent him money or a letter will reach God without any address. It is Lencho's faith in God. In the real world, people are selfish and greedy and Lencho is totally lovable and different.

Question 6. There are two kinds of conflict in the story between humans and nature and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

Answer: Conflict between Humans and Nature: The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crop by the hailstorm as Lencho was expecting a good rain to have good harvest as that was the only hope he had for his earning. He worked so hard to feed his family, but nature turned violent and destroyed everything.

Conflict between Humans and Humans: The story also illustrated another conflict, between humans themselves as the postmaster along with his friends and staff sent Lencho money that Lencho demanded from God although they didn't know Lencho. Lencho blamed them for taking away some amount of money. He called them "a bunch of crooks". This shows that man

does not have faith in another man, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

POEM-1 DUST OF SNOW

By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.
जिस तरह से एक कौवा
मुझ पर झपटा
बर्फ की धूल
हेमलॉक पेड़ से
दिल दिया है
मूड में बदलाव
और कुछ हिस्सा बचा लिया
एक दिन की मैंने रंजिश की थी।

ABOUT THE POET:

Robert Frost, in full Robert Lee Frost, (March 26, 1874-January 29, 1963) was an American poet. He was much admired for his depictions of the rural life of New England, his command of American colloquial speech, and

his realistic verse portraying ordinary people in everyday situations.

SUMMARY:

'Dust of Snow' is a beautiful short poem written by Robert Frost. This poem tells that even a simple moment has a large significance. The poet has mentioned crow and hemlock tree in this poem. Crow signifies his depressive and sorrowful mood and hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. Both these signify that the poet was not in a good mood and so he describes the dark, depressive and bitter side of nature to present his similar mood.

The poet says that once he was in a sad, depressive mood and was sitting under a hemlock tree. A crow, sitting on the same tree, shook off the dust of snow i.e., small particles of snow that remain on the surface after the snowfall, on the poet. This simple action changed the poet's mood. He realized that he had just wasted a part of his day repenting and being lost in sorrow. But the change in his mood made him realize that he should utilize the rest of the day in some useful activity. His sorrow was washed away

by the light shower of snow dust. His spirit was revived and he got ready to utilize the rest of the day.

सारांश:

'डस्ट ऑफ स्नो' रॉबर्ट फ्रॉस्ट द्वारा लिखी गई एक सुंदर लघु कविता है। यह कविता बताती है कि एक साधारण क्षण का भी बड़ा महत्व होता है। कवि ने इस कविता में कौवे और हेमलोक वृक्ष का उल्लेख किया है। कौआ उसके उदास और उदास मूड का प्रतीक है और हेमलॉक पेड़ एक जहरीला पेड़ है। ये दोनों संकेत देते हैं कि कवि अच्छे मूड में नहीं था और इसलिए वह अपनी समान मनोदशा को प्रस्तुत करने के लिए प्रकृति के अंधेरे, अवसादग्रस्त और कड़वे पक्ष का वर्णन करता है।

कवि कहता है कि एक बार वह उदास, अवसादग्रस्त मनोदशा में था और एक हेमलॉक पेड़ के नीचे बैठा था। उसी पेड़ पर बैठे एक कौवे ने बर्फ की धूल यानि बर्फ के छोटे-छोटे कण जो हिमपात के बाद सतह पर रह जाते हैं, कवि पर झकझोर दिया। इस सरल क्रिया ने कवि की मनोदशा को बदल दिया। उसने महसूस किया कि उसने अपने दिन का एक हिस्सा पश्चाताप करने और दुःख में खो जाने में बर्बाद कर दिया था। लेकिन उनके मूड में बदलाव ने उन्हें एहसास कराया कि उन्हें शेष दिन किसी उपयोगी गतिविधि में उपयोग करना चाहिए। बर्फ की धूल की हल्की फुहार से उसका दुख धुल गया। उनकी आत्मा पुनर्जीवित हो गई और वे शेष दिन का उपयोग करने के लिए तैयार हो गए।

Question 1. What is a "dust of snow"? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

Answer: The 'dust of snow' means the fine particles or flakes of snow. The sudden shower in the form of the dust of snow

changed the poet's mood. The poet's mood changed from sad to happy. He felt refreshed and wanted to enjoy the rest of the day.

Question 2. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

1. What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?
2. Again, what is 'a hemlock tree'? Why doesn't the poet write about more 'beautiful' trees such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?
3. What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent-joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Answer: Frost presents nature in a very different manner in the poem.

1. Generally, poets take the birds and trees which are known for their beauty and good qualities like peacock, parrot, cuckoo, mynah and trees full of beautiful flowers and fruits, etc. But here Frost has taken a totally different approach. He chose a crow, which is not often used in poems. Crow is black in colour with a very harsh voice and is believed to be a symbol of bad omen. Thinking of a crow brings very depressing and sorrowful

pictures to our mind.

2. A hemlock tree is a poisonous plant with small white flowers. The poet, Robert Frost, didn't choose to use an oak, maple or pine tree. Instead, he chose the hemlock tree and left all the beautiful trees present in the world. Actually he did so to present his mood and feelings.
3. The crow and hemlock tree represent sorrow and depression felt by the poet in this materialistic world. The dust of snow is the symbol of natural joy and energy. The dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree means passing through the sad and depressing moments the poet is entering into the time full of joy and optimism.

Question 3. Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Answer: There have been innumerable times when I too have felt depressed and hopeless. Sometimes, such moments were aroused by other people's behaviour and attitude and sometimes due to my own conduct. On one occasion when I was very upset. I went out for a walk. While walking in the park, I saw a girl playing with a puppy, embracing and feeding him.

This little joy that they shared changed my mood and I felt very happy for the rest of the day. I also joined the two and played with them.

POEM-2 FIRE AND ICE

By Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great

And would suffice.

कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि दुनिया आग में खत्म हो जाएगी,

कुछ कहते हैं बर्फ में।

मैंने जो चाहा है उससे

मैं उन लोगों के साथ हूँ जो आग के पक्षधर हैं।

लेकिन अगर इसे दो बार नष्ट करना पड़ा,

मुझे लगता है कि मैं नफरत के बारे में काफी जानता हूँ

यह कहना कि विनाश के लिए बर्फ भी बढ़िया है और पर्याप्त होगा।

SUMMARY

Fire and Ice is a short poem written by Robert Frost. The poem expresses the idea that the world will end someday, either by Fire or by Ice. Here, the poet has compared Fire and Ice with the self-destructing emotions of human beings. The fire and ice poem beautifully describes how humans let their emotions rule over them. They have no control over their desires. They work towards achieving their desires, but the more they work, the more they get trapped in them.

Thus, they never feel satisfied and destroy their life. In a similar way, the poet thinks that fire and ice will lead to the destruction of the world.

सारांश:

आग और बर्फ रॉबर्ट फ्रॉस्ट द्वारा लिखित एक छोटी कविता है। कविता इस विचार को व्यक्त करती है कि दुनिया किसी दिन समाप्त हो जाएगी, या तो आग से या बर्फ से। यहाँ कवि ने अग्नि और बर्फ की तुलना मनुष्य की आत्म-विनाशकारी भावनाओं से की है। आग और बर्फ की कविता खूबसूरती से वर्णन करती है कि कैसे मनुष्य अपनी भावनाओं को अपने ऊपर हावी होने देते हैं। उनका अपनी इच्छाओं पर कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। वे अपनी इच्छाओं को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में काम करते हैं, लेकिन जितना अधिक वे काम करते हैं, उतना ही वे उनमें फंस जाते हैं।

इस प्रकार, वे कभी संतुष्ट महसूस नहीं करते हैं और अपने जीवन को नष्ट कर देते हैं। उसी तरह कवि सोचता है कि आग और बर्फ से संसार का विनाश होगा।

Question 1. There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end someday? Have you ever thought what would happen if the Sun gets so hot that it 'bursts' or grows colder and colder?

Answer: There are definitely many ideas about how the world will 'end'. I do believe that the world will end someday as anything that has a beginning will have an end. This stands true for the world also, if the Sun got so

hot that it burst, the whole of the Earth would perish immediately as no part of the Earth can bear the heat of that intensity. But if the Sun grows colder and colder, everything will come to an end as without sunlight, life will end.

Question 2. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas:

Answer: 'Fire' stands for greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury. 'Ice' stands for cruelty, intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.

Question 3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

Answer: The rhyme scheme of the poem is- a b a a b c b c b

This rhyme scheme helps in bringing out the contrasting ideas of 'fire' and 'ice' presented in the poem. The poet mentions that both fire and ice are probable ends of this world. He talks about how fire represents desire and can therefore be a cause of the end of the world. Frost also mentions ice in between to symbolize that the coldness and indifference towards one another will be enough to end the world. In the second stanza, he says that he knows of enough hate in the world to be sure that even destruction through ice would be sufficient to bring about the end of the world.