

Chapter 2

SHORT STORIES

A LETTER TO GOD

Q.1 Give the summary of the story “A LETTER TO GOD”?

A LETTER TO GOD is written by *G. Lopez* depicts unshakable faith of farmer in God.

1. Lencho was a simple innocent farmer and had a field of ripe corn.
2. He needed rain to make his harvest good.
3. But the rain turned into severe hailstones which destroyed his whole crop of corn.
4. He had nothing to eat, so he decided to get help from God.
He did not know what to do or who to blame or where to get help?
‘God’, he wrote, “if you don’t help me , my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to resow the field and to live until the crop comes, because of the hailstorm
5. He wrote a letter to God demanding hundred pesos because he believed that only God could help him in such a miserable condition. It was a letter of total faith and surrender to the Almighty.
6. When the post office employees received his letter, they made fun of him. But later the post master decided to help him.
7. They collected seventy pesos by their joint effort.
8. But Lencho was angry to receive seventy pesos in place of hundred pesos.

9. He wrote another letter to God demanding rest of the money.
10. He also requested God to send the money through another means because, he believed that post office employees were "Bunch of Crooks" (they have stolen his money)

THE SELFISH GIANT

Q. 1 Give the summary of the story "The Selfish Giant"
THE SELFISH GIANT is written by Oscar Wilde *depicts* that love for children and surrender to one's self-interest is the safest road to heaven.

1. A Giant had a large beautiful garden full of green grass and flowers, but he was selfish.
2. While he was away to visit a friend, children used to play in his garden.
3. When the Giant returned, he was angry to see the children playing in the Garden.
4. He built a high wall around the garden and put notice that "TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED"
5. As a result, the children could not play and enjoy in the garden. The processes of nature stopped to function. The trees refused to bear flowers and fruits. Spring refused to visit his garden, because he was selfish.
6. Only the Frost, the Hail, the North wind and Snow danced there the whole year.
7. The Selfish Giant could not understand the reason, as why spring did not come to his garden.
8. Only when Selfish Giant helped a little boy to sit on a tree branch, he noticed the miracle in the surrounding.
9. Suddenly, the trees were laden with flowers and spring came to his garden. The boy was Christ himself. It was this little boy who made his heart melt with love and pity. The Giant broke the wall and allowed everyone to play in his garden.
10. When Giant grew old, the small child came once again to his garden, he bore nail marks on his palms and

feet. The boy was Christ himself. And he told that giant has allowed him once to play in the garden and therefore took the Giant to his own garden, the Paradise as a reward.

11. Thus, the story teaches you "The best feeling of happiness is when you make somebody else happy". **Happiness through selflessness."**
12. It teaches us that, Love for children and surrender to one's self-interest is the safest road to the heaven.

AN ASTROLOGER'S DAY

Q.1 Give the summary of the story "An Astrologer's Day".

1. The story revolves around an astrologer, who foretells the fate of the people just by using his practical knowledge.
2. He had a working knowledge of man's trouble, marriage, money and tangles of human life.
3. He did not speak until others, (the customers) had spoken for at least ten minutes.
4. This (silence) gave him enough stuff or material to answer all questions of the customer.
5. It was just a matter of practice, guess work that pleased and astonished everyone.
6. Previously, he was a silly youngster. He used to drink, gamble, and quarrel with other villagers.
7. Once he thrust a knife through a friend (Guru Nayak) and pushed him into the well and left the village to escape from arrest and settled in a town to practice astrology.
8. Fortunately, his friend (Guru Nayak) had not died and appeared before the astrologer, but the friend was not able to recognize him.
9. However, the astrologer recognized him, but did not disclose his identity.
10. He told him that the man who killed him is dead and crushed under a truck.
11. He cleverly tackled Guru Nayak by advising him not to travel southward again and go back home, thus he got rid of him.
12. Thus, we learn from the story that we should keep ourselves cool during the period of crisis and thus overcome our worst difficulties.

13. As the people in India are highly superstitious and credulous, it is very easy to misguide and exploit such people by someone who is cunning.

What motivated the hero of the story to become an