

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-9 : The Proposal

Part – 1

A Farce

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OVERVIEW



1. A Farce

2. Lomov Arrives at Chubukov's House

3. Argument Over Oxen Meadows

4. Continuation of the Conflict

5. Natalya Learns About the Proposal

6. The New Argument

7. Teasing and Mockery

8. The Sudden Proposal

✓ Anton Chekhov (29 January 860 - 15 July

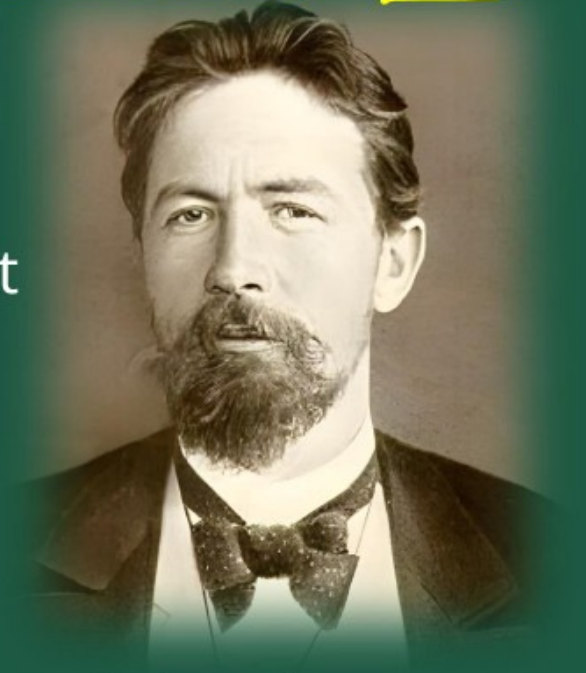
1904) was a Russian

playwright & short-

story writer. His most

famous plays are:

1. The Seagull (1895),
2. Uncle Vanya (1897),
3. Three Sisters (1901), and 4. The Cherry Orchard (1904).



THEME

Anton Chekhov's one-act play The Proposal is a farcical comedy that explores the absurdity of marriage as a social contract rather than a romantic union. Set in rural Russia, the play revolves around Ivan Lomov's attempt to propose to his neighbor Natalya,

Comedy ← Farce
↓
- absurdity
- ridiculous
- horseplay

satire

economic

tie

futile

only for the occasion to be repeatedly derailed by petty arguments over land ownership and hunting dogs. Through exaggerated quarrels and dramatic reactions, Chekhov satirizes the materialistic concerns and ego-driven pride of the landowning class, highlighting how trivial disputes can overshadow meaningful relationships.

The Proposal as Farce

As a farce, The Proposal by Anton

Chekhov uses exaggerated situations,

rapid dialogue, and absurd behavior

to create humor and highlight the

foolishness of human nature. The play

turns a serious event— a marriage

proposal— into a comical fiasco, as

the characters descend into loud,

buffoonery

irrational arguments over trivial petty
matters like property boundaries and

dogs. The exaggerated emotions,

physical outbursts, and constant

palpitation misunderstandings create a fast-

paced, almost chaotic atmosphere

that mocks societal norms and

exposes the vanity and stubbornness

of the characters.

Chekhov masterfully uses farce to entertain while offering sharp social commentary.



TONE - *emotion felt by writer*

The tone of The Proposal by Anton

Chekhov is light-hearted, humorous,

and satirical. Although the subject,

"marriage" is traditionally serious,

Chekhov treats it with irony and

mockery, highlighting the

ridiculousness of how seriously people

take minor issues.

ironical

facial

ego

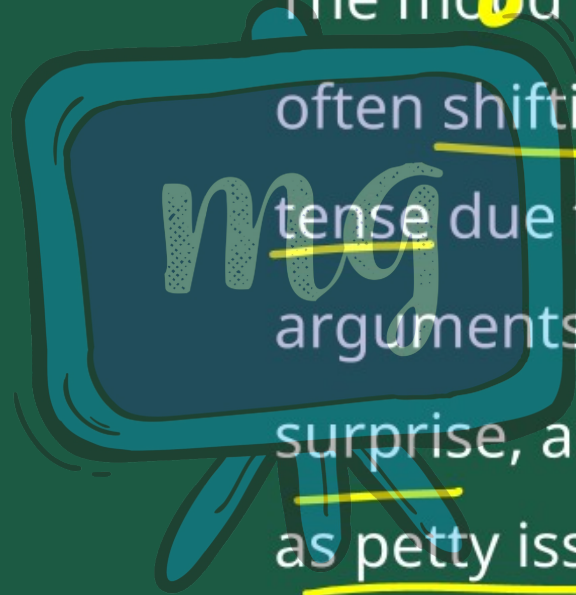
superiority

The characters' exaggerated quarrels, dramatic expressions, and constant misunderstandings create a comical tone throughout the play. At the same time, the tone carries an undercurrent of "critique", subtly pointing out the flaws in social values, such as pride, materialism and superficiality in relationships.

mg

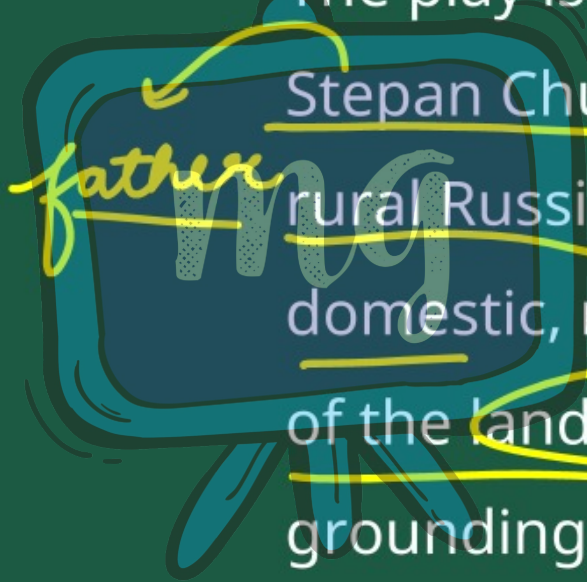
MOOD → *emotion to be felt
by readers.*

The mood is comedic and chaotic,
often shifting from light-hearted to
tense due to the characters' constant
arguments. It evokes amusement,
surprise, and sometimes frustration
as petty issues spiral out of control
during what should be a romantic
proposal.



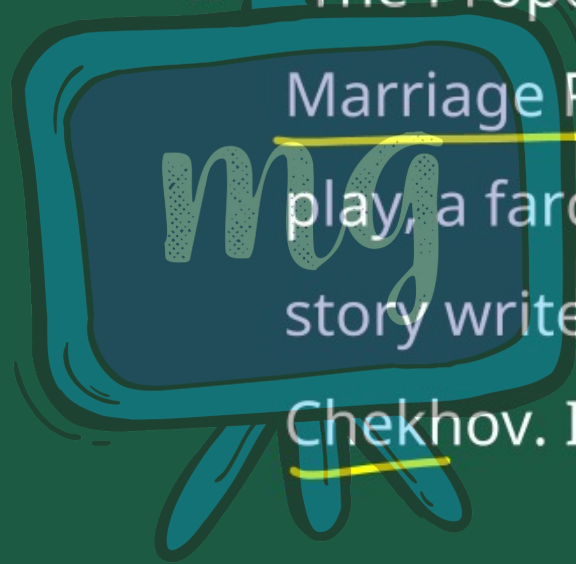
SETTING : *Rural Russia*

The play is set in the drawing room of Stepan Chubukov's country house in rural Russia. The setting is simple and domestic, reflecting the everyday lives of the landowning class and grounding the farcical events in a familiar, realistic environment.

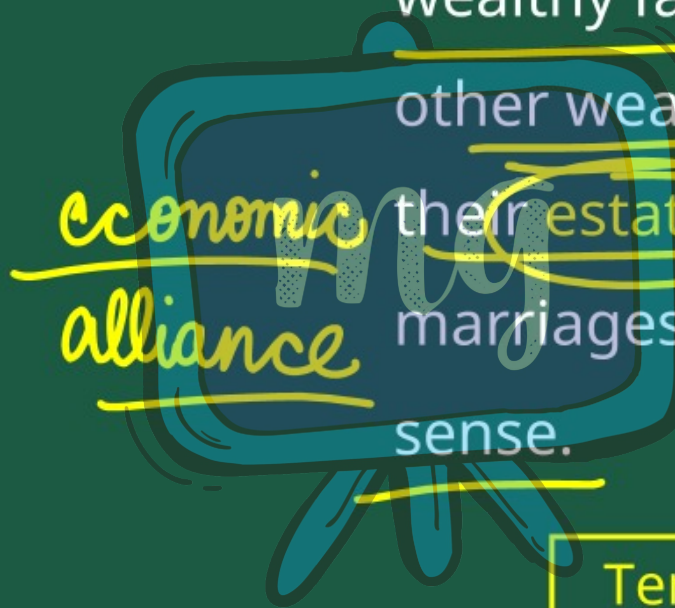


BEFORE YOU READ

- 'The Proposal' (originally titled 'A Marriage Proposal') is a one-act play, a farce, by the Russian short story writer and dramatist Anton Chekhov. It was written in 1888-89!



The play is about the tendency of wealthy families to seek ties with other wealthy families, to increase their estates by encouraging marriages that make good economic sense.



economic
alliance

behavior

Tendency	: proclivity
Estates	: ✓ property

Ivan Lomov, a long time wealthy father-in-law neighbour of Stepan Chubukov, also wealthy, comes to seek the hand of Chubukov's twenty-five-year-old daughter, Natalya.

Groom

35

Bride

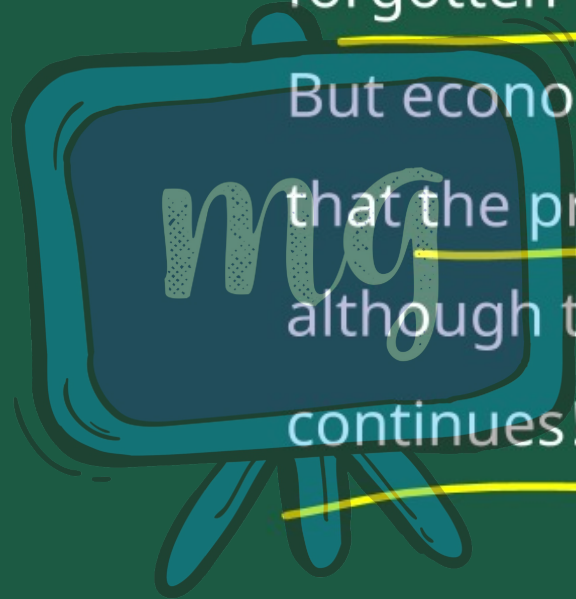
All three are quarrelsome people, and they quarrel over petty issues.

Quarrelsome : fighting behavior

Petty issues : small issues

▮ The proposal is in danger of being forgotten amidst all this quarrelling.

But economic good sense ensures that the proposal is made, after all although the quarrelling perhaps continues!



LEARNING OUTCOME



1 | In the play 'The Proposal,' who seeks the hand of Natalya?

लेना

- A Stepan Chubukov
- B Ivan Lomov
- C A wealthy merchant
- D A distant relative



2

What is the underlying theme of 'The Proposal'?

- A. The importance of love.
- B. Marriages for economic reasons.
- C. Friendship among neighbours.
- D. The joy of celebration.

Message

We should