

# CLASS – 10

## ENGLISH

### First Flight

#### CH-9 : The Proposal

#### Part – 5

#### The New Argument

#### Komal Jetwani

# 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

**CHUBUKOV** : So he dresses up in evening clothes.

The stuffed sausage!

The wizen-faced frump!

**NATALYA** : To propose to me? Ah! [Falls into an  
easy-chair and wails] Bring him back!  
Back! Ah! Bring him here.

stuffed sausage	:	a fat man
wizen-faced	:	face filled with wrinkles
frump	:	old woman
wails	:	crying out of pain

**CHUBUKOV** : Bring whom here?

**NATALYA** : Quick, quick! I'm ill! Fetch him!

[Hysterics]

**CHUBUKOV** : What's that? What's the matter with you? [Clutches at his head] Oh, unhappy man that I am! I'll shoot myself!

**hysterics** : emotional and exaggerated feeling

*desperate*  
I'll hang myself!  
We've done for her!

**NATALYA** : I'm dying! Fetch him!

**CHUBUKOV** : Tfoo! At once. Don't yell!  
[Runs out. A pause.]

**NATALYA** : [Natalya Stepanovna wails.] What  
have they done to me?  
Fetch him back! Fetch him! [A pause.  
Chubukov runs in.]

**CHUBUKOV** : He's coming, and so on, devil take him! Ouf! Talk to him yourself; I don't want to...

**NATALYA** : [wails] Fetch him!

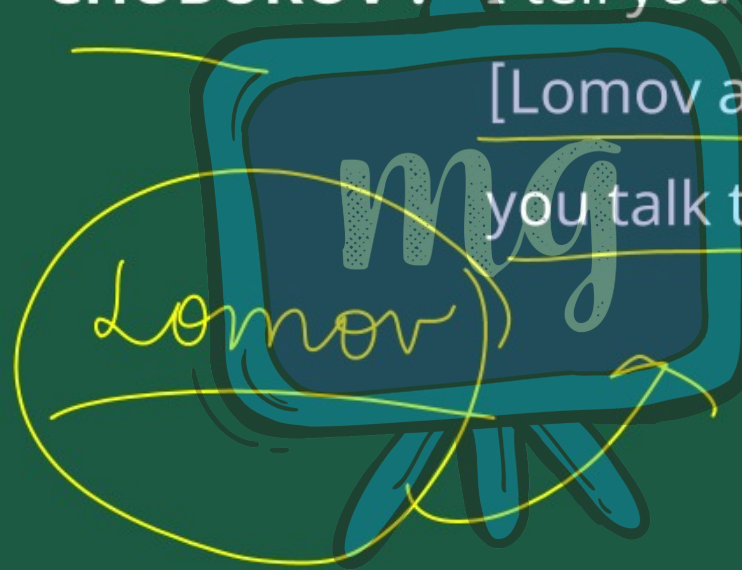
**CHUBUKOV** : [yells] He's coming, I tell you. Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown- up daughter! I'll cut my throat I will, indeed! We cursed him, abused him, drove him out; and it's all you....you!

NATALYA : No, it was you!

CHUBUKOV : I tell you it's not my fault.

[Lomov appears at the door] Now  
you talk to him yourself.

[Exit.]



**LOMOV** : [Lomov enters, exhausted.] My heart's **palpitating** awfully. My foot's gone to sleep. There's something that keeps pulling in my side....

**palpitating** : to beat really fast

**NATALYA** : Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch, we were all a little heated. I remember now : Oxen Meadows... really are yours.

**LOMOV** : My heart's beating awfully. Meadows....My eyebrows are both twitching....

**twitching** : to flutter

**NATALYA** : The Meadows are yours, yes, yours. Do sit down. [They sit] We were wrong.

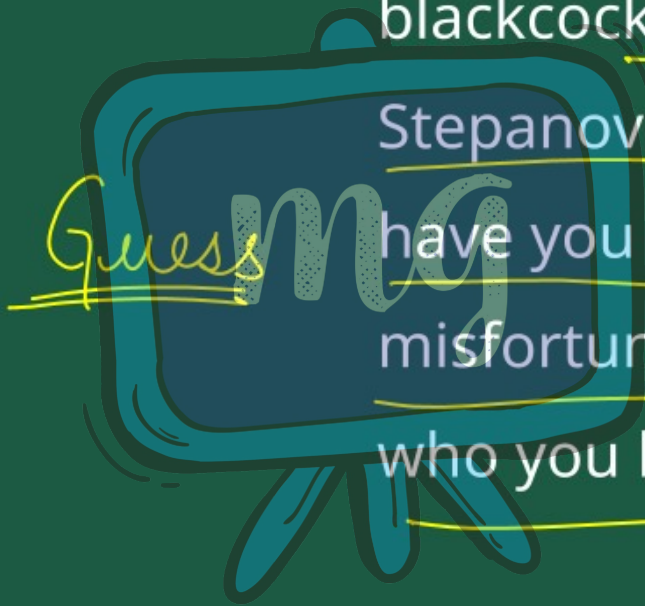
**LOMOV** : I did it on principle. My land is worth little to me, but the principle...

**NATALYA** : Yes, the principle, just so. Now let's talk of something else.

**LOMOV** : The more so as I have evidence. My aunt's grandmother gave the land to your father's grandfather's peasants...

**NATALYA** : Yes, yes, let that pass. [aside] I wish I knew how to get him started. [aloud] Are you going to start shooting soon?

**LOMOV** : I'm thinking of having a go at the  
blackcock, honoured Natalya  
Stepanovna, after the harvest. Oh,  
have you heard? Just think, what a  
misfortune I've had! My dog Guess,  
who you know, has gone lame.



**NATALYA** : What a pity! Why?

**LOMOV** : I don't know. Must have got his leg  
twisted or bitten by some other dog.  
[sighs] My very best dog, to say  
nothing of the expense. I gave  
Mironov 125 roubles for him.

**NATALYA** : It was too much, Ivan Vassilevitch.

**LOMOV** : I think it was very cheap. He's a first-

*Guess*

rate dog.

**NATALYA** : Papa gave 85 roubles for his

*Squeezer*

Squeezer, and Squeezer is **heaps**

better than Guess!

heaps : alot

**LOMOV** : Squeezer better than  
Guess? What an idea! [laughs]

Squeezer better than Guess!

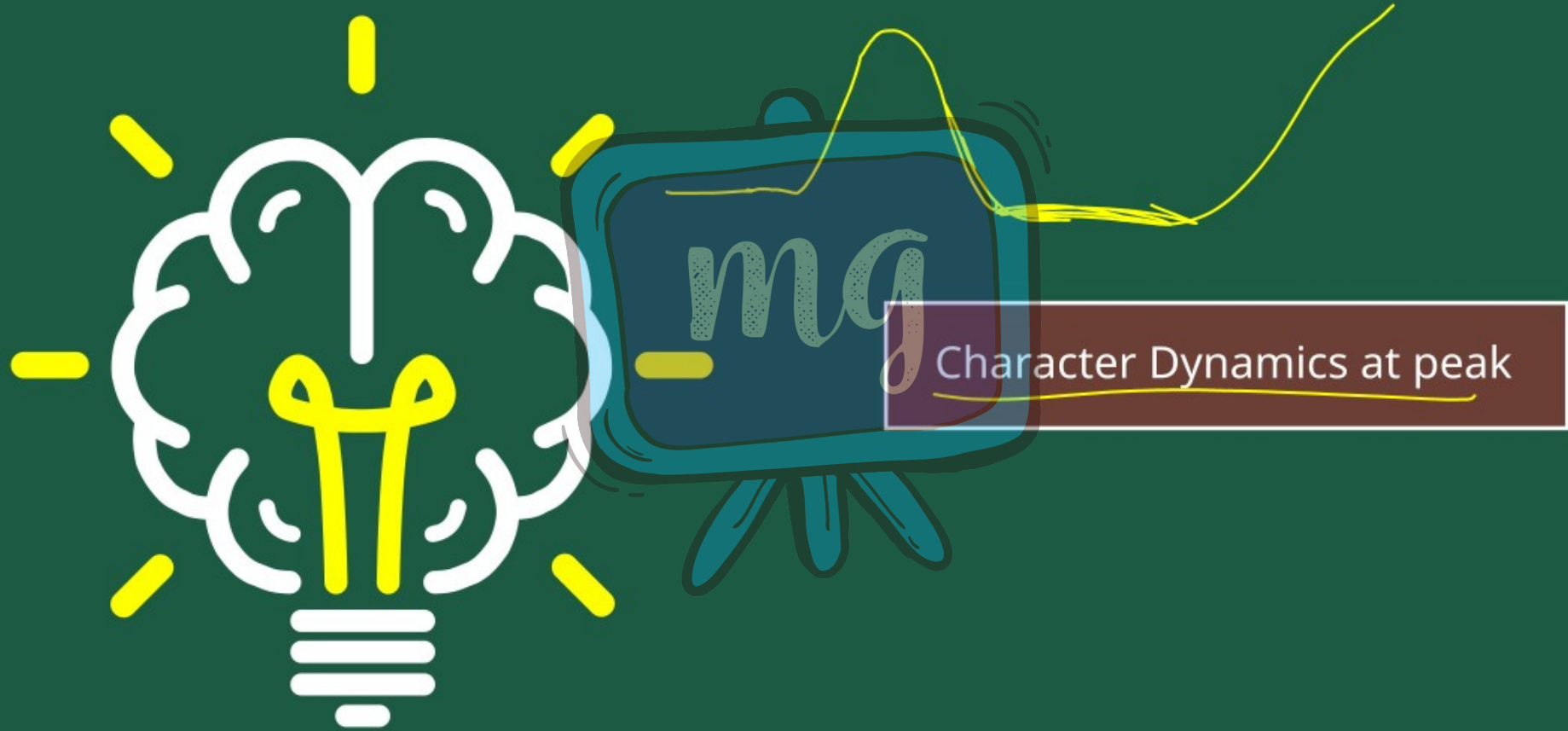
**NATALYA** : Of course he's better! Of course,  
Squeezer is young, he may develop  
a bit, but on points and pedigree  
he's better than anything that even  
Volchanetsky has got.

**pedigree** : the record of descent  
of an animal

**LOMOV** : Excuse me, Natalya Stepanovna, but you forget that he is overshoot, and an overshoot always means the dog is a bad hunter!

**NATALYA** : Overshoot, is he? The first time I hear it!

**overshoot** : an upper which projects beyond the lower jaw.



**1** | How does Natalya react when she learns Lomov came to propose to her?

- A She is indifferent.
- B She falls into an easy chair and wails.
- C She laughs.
- D She gets angry.

**2** | What physical condition does Lomov mention upon entering?

- A He feels perfectly fine.
- B His heart is palpitating and his foot has gone to sleep.
- C He has a headache.
- D He is tired but happy.

**3** | The topic of the second argument is –

- A Dogs.
- B Another Oxen Meadows.
- C Proposal.
- D Birchwoods.

**4** | What detail does Lomov point out about Squeezer?

- A Squeezer is very friendly.
- B Squeezer is younger.
- C Squeezer is overshot, which makes him a bad hunter.
- D Squeezer has won many competitions.