



# CLASS – 10

## ENGLISH

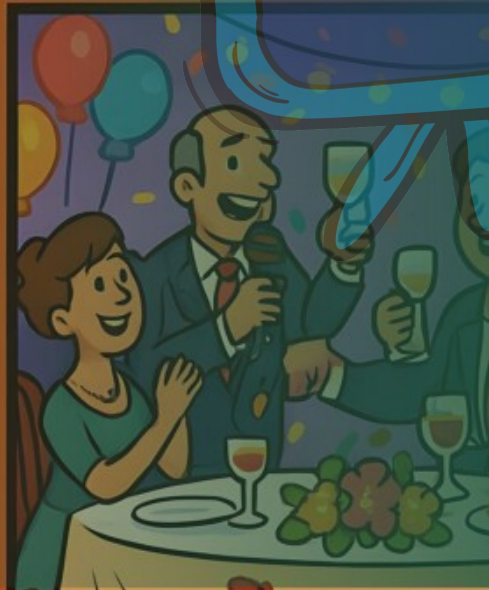
### First Flight

#### CH-9 : The Proposal

#### Part – 4

### Natalya Learns About the Proposal

Komal Jetwani



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

→ [Enter Chubukov]

**CHUBUKOV** : What's the matter? What are you shouting for?

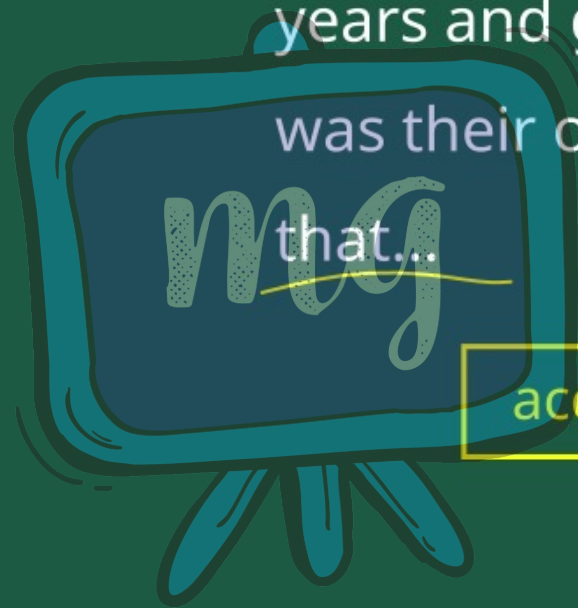
**NATALYA** : Papa, please tell this gentleman who owns Oxen Meadows, we or he?

**CHUBUKOV** : [to Lomov] Darling, the Meadows are  
ours!

**LOMOV** : But, please, Stepan Stepanovitch, how  
can they be yours? Do be a **reasonable**  
man! My aunt's grandmother gave the  
Meadows for the temporary and free  
use of your grandfather's peasants.

**reasonable** : logical

The peasants used the land for forty years and got **accustomed** to it as if it was their own, when it happened that...



accustomed : habitual

**CHUBUKOV** : Excuse me, my precious. You forget

just this, that the peasants didn't pay

your grandmother and all that,

because the Meadows were in **dispute**,

and so on. And now everybody knows

that they're ours. It means that you

haven't seen the plan.

**dispute** : conflict

**LOMOV** : I'll prove to you that they're mine!

**CHUBUKOV** : You won't prove it, my darling-

**LOMOV** : I shall

**CHUBUKOV** : Dear one, why yell like that? You won't  
prove anything just by yelling. I don't  
want anything of yours, and don't

**yelling** : to shout

**intend** to give up what I have. Why should I? And you know, my beloved, that if you propose to go on arguing about it, I'd much sooner give up the Meadows to the peasants than to you. There!

**intend** : mean to do something

**LOMOV** : I don't understand! How have you the  
right to give away somebody else's  
property?

**CHUBUKOV** : You may take it that I know whether I  
have the right or not. Because, young  
man, I'm not used to being spoken to  
in that tone of voice, and so on.

I, young man, am twice your age, and  
ask you to speak to me without  
agitating yourself, and all that.



**agitating** : to make other people  
feel very strongly  
about something so  
that they want to help  
you achieve it

**LOMOV** : No, you just think I'm a fool and want

to have me on! You call my land yours,

and then you want me to talk to you

calmly and politely!

Good neighbours don't behave like

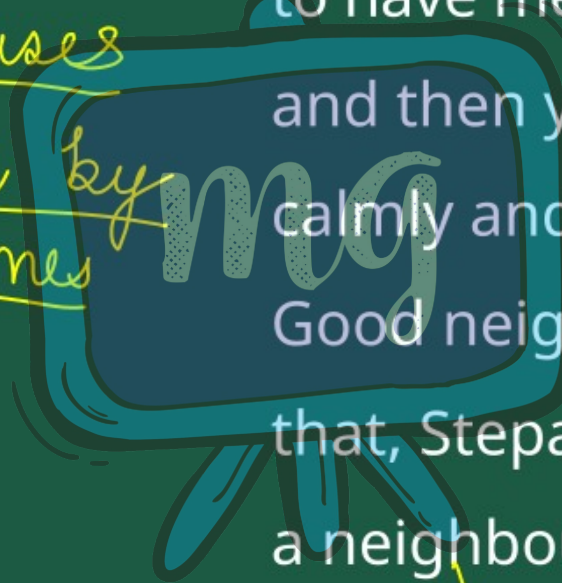
that, Stepan Stepanovitch! You're not

a neighbour, you're a grabber!

abuses

Call by  
names

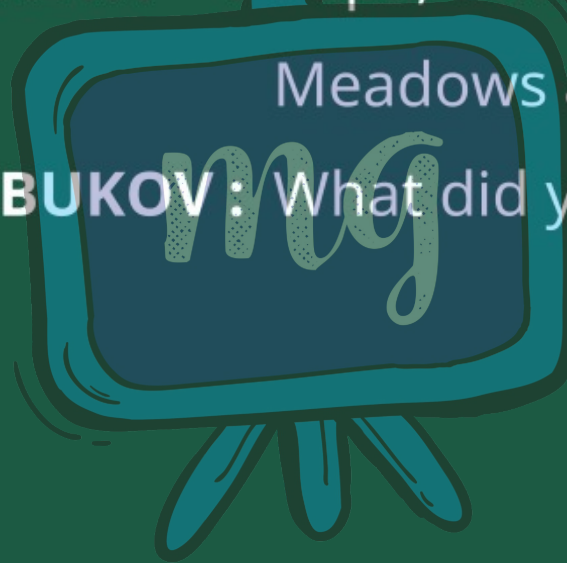
mg



**CHUBUKOV** : What's that? What did you say?

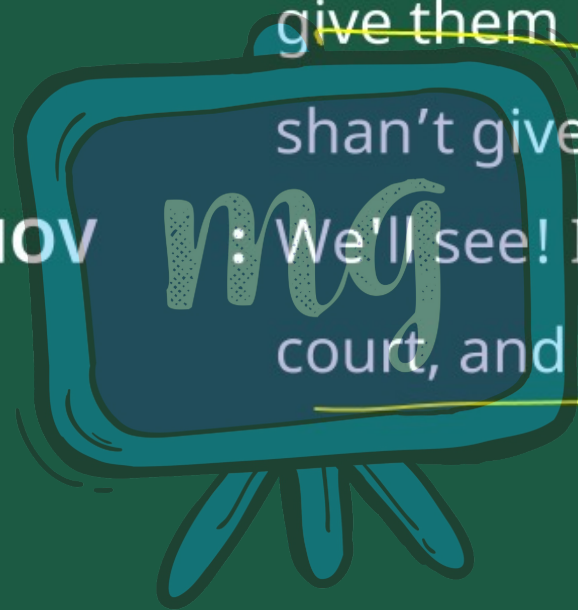
**NATALYA** : Papa, send the mowers out to the  
Meadows at once!

**CHUBUKOV** : What did you say, Sir?



**NATALYA** : Oxen Meadows are ours, and I shan't  
give them up, shan't give them up,  
shan't give them up!

**LOMOV** : We'll see! I'll have the matter taken to  
court, and then I'll show you!



**CHUBUKOV** : To court? You can take it to court, and  
all that! You can! I know you; you're  
just on the look-out for a chance to go  
to court, and all that. You pettifogger!  
All your people were like that! All of  
them!

pettifogger : petty advocate

**LOMOV** : Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for **embezzlement**, like your grandfather!

**CHUBUKOV** : You Lomovs have had **lunacy** in your family, all of you!

**embezzlement** : money fraud  
**lunacy** : madness

**NATALYA** : All, all, all!

**CHUBUKOV** : Your grandfather was a drunkard,  
and your younger aunt, Nastasya  
Mihailovna, ran away with an  
architect, and so on...

→ eloped

**LOMOV** : And your mother was hump-backed.

[Clutches at his heart] Something  
pulling in my side... My head.... Help!

Water!

*drunkard*

**CHUBUKOV** : Your father was a guzzling gambler!

guzzling : drunkard

gambler : person who gambles

**NATALYA** : And there haven't been many  
backbiters to equal your aunt!

**LOMOV** : My left foot has gone to sleep... You're  
an **intriguer**... Oh, my heart! And it's  
an open secret that before the last  
elections you bri... I can see stars...  
Where's my hat?

**intriguer** : one who conspires

**NATALYA** : It's low! It's dishonest! It's mean!

**CHUBUKOV** : And you're just a **malicious**, double  
faced intriguer! Yes!

**LOMOV** : Here's my hat. My heart! Which way?  
Where's the door? Oh I think I'm  
dying! My foot's quite numb... [Goes  
to the door.]

**malicious** : one with bad intentions

**CHUBUKOV** : [following him] And don't set foot in my house again!

**NATALYA** : Take it to court! We'll see!  
[Lomov **staggers** out.]

**CHUBUKOV** : Devil take him! [Walks about in excitement.]

**NATALYA** : What a **rascal**! What trust can one have in one's neighbours after that!

**staggers** : difficulty in walking

**rascal** : abusive term

**CHUBUKOV** : The **villain**! The scarecrow!

**NATALYA** : The monster! First he takes our land and then he has the **impudence** to abuse us.

**CHUBUKOV** : And that blind hen, yes, that turnip-ghost has the **confounded** cheek to **make a proposal**, and so on! What? A proposal!

**villain** : antagonist

**impudence** : disregard

**NATALYA** : What proposal?

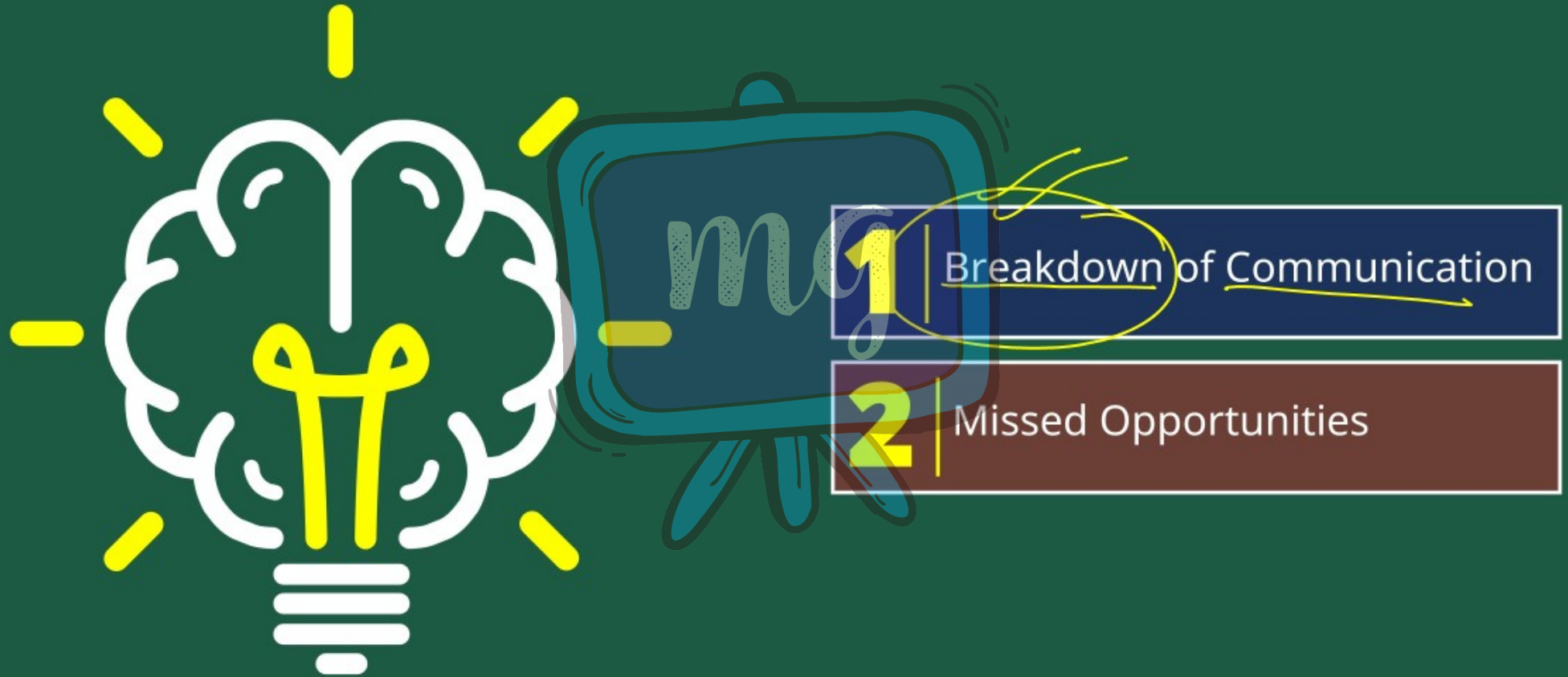
**CHUBUKOV** : Why, he came here to propose to you.

**NATALYA** : To propose? To me?

Why didn't you tell me so before?

*Shift in Natalya's behaviour*

# LEARNING OUTCOMES





1

How does Chubukov respond to Lomov's claims?

A

He agrees with Lomov.

B

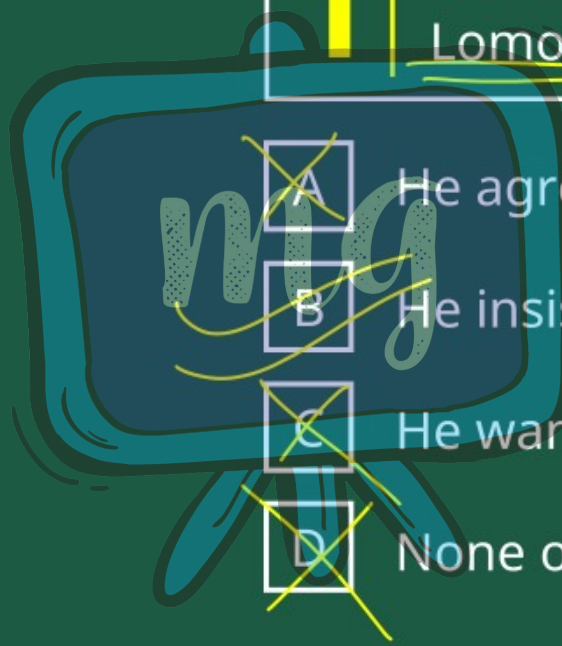
He insists that the Meadows are theirs.

C

He wants to sell the Meadows.

D

None of these





2

What does Natalya demand her father to do regarding the Meadows?



A Sell them.



B Send the mowers out to the Meadows.



C Give them to Lomov.



D Ignore the dispute.



**3**

What does Lomov threaten to do if the argument continues?

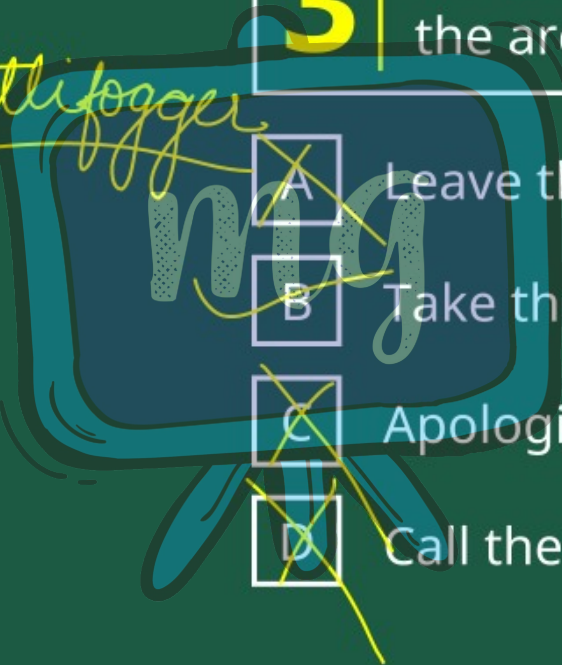
*pettifogger*

A Leave the house.

B Take the matter to court.

C Apologize.

D Call the police.





4

What shocking realization does Natalya have at the end of the passage?

A

That she dislikes Lomov.

B

That Lomov was there to propose to her.

C

That the Meadows are truly hers.

D

That her father is lying.