

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-9 : The Proposal

Part – 2

Lomov Arrives at Chubukov's House

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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

CHARACTERS

- Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov: a landowner (*father of Natalaya*)
- Natalya Stepanovna : His daughter, twenty-five years old (*Bride*)
- Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov : a neighbour of Chubukov, a large and hearty, but very suspicious, landowner.

Setting

A drawing-room in Chubukov's house. Lomov enters, wearing a dress-jacket and white gloves.

Chubukov rises to meet him.

CHUBUKOV : My dear fellow, whom do I see! Ivan Vassilevitch! I am extremely glad!
[Squeezes his hand] Now this is a surprise, my darling.. How are you?

extremely : exceedingly

LOMOV : Thank you. And how may you be getting on?

CHUBUKOV : We just get along somehow, my angel, thanks to your prayers, and so on. Sit down, please do... Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling.

LOMOV : No. I've come only to see you,
honoured Stepan Stepanovitch.

CHUBUKOV : Then why are you in evening dress, my
precious? As if you're paying a New
Year's Eve visit!

honoured : great respect

LOMOV

: Well, you see, it's like this. [Takes his arm] I've come to you honoured

Stepan Stepanovitch, to trouble you

with a request. Not once or twice have

I already had the privilege of applying

to you for help, and you have always?

so to speak...I must ask your pardon, I

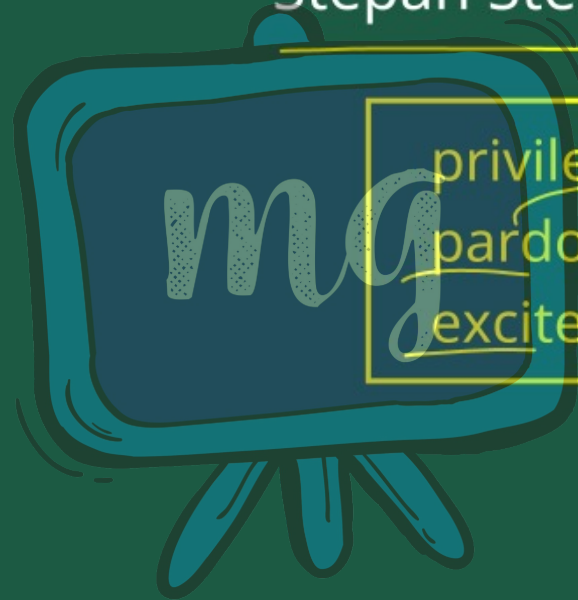
am getting excited.

propose

*(nervous
anxious)*

*palpitations **

I shall drink some water, honoured
Stepan Stepanovitch. [Drinks.]



privilege : special rights
pardon : forgive
excited : thrilled

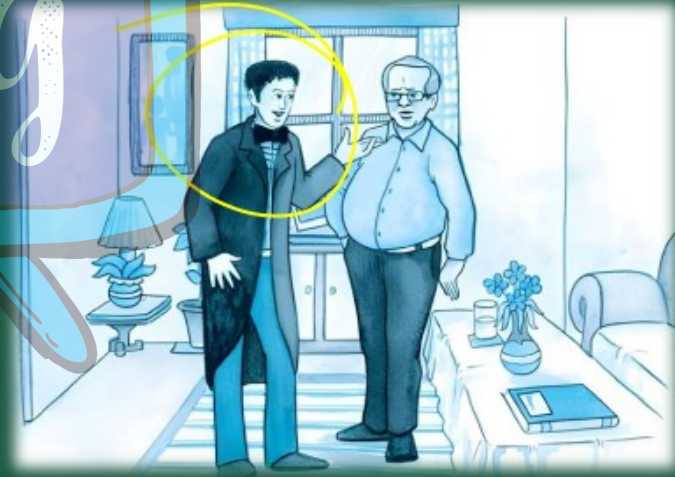
CHUBUKOV : [aside] He's come to borrow
money. Shan't give him any!

[aloud] What is it, my beauty?

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Contradicting



to borrow : take loan

LOMOV : You see, Honoured Stepanitch... I beg
pardon Stepan Honouritch... I mean,
I'm awfully excited, as you will
please notice... In short, you alone can
help me, though I don't deserve it, of
course... and haven't any right to
count on your assistance...

count on : depend
assistance : help

CHUBUKOV : Oh, don't go round and round it

economic tie darling! Spit it out! Well?

LOMOV : One moment... this very minute. The

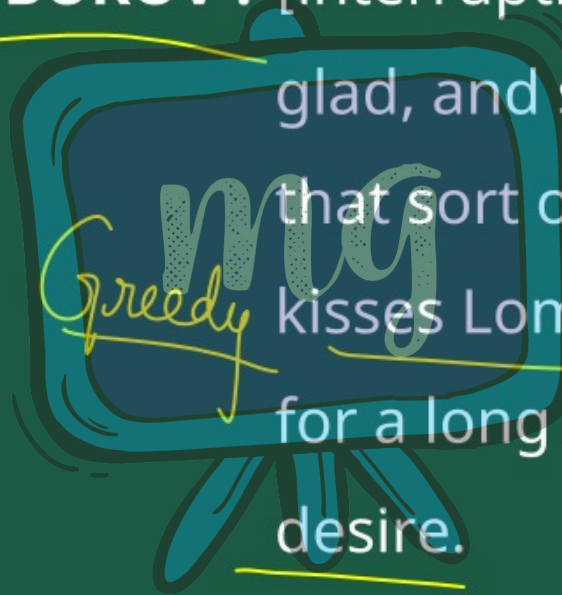
fact is I've come to ask the hand of
your daughter, Natalya Stepanovna,
in marriage.

CHUBUKOV : [joyfully] By Jove! Ivan Vassilevitch!

Say it again - I didn't hear it all!

LOMOV : I have the honour to ask...

CHUBUKOV : [interrupting] My dear fellow..I'm so glad, and so on... Yes, indeed, and all that sort of thing. [Embraces and kisses Lomov] I've been hoping for it for a long time. It's been my continual desire.



continual : frequent

[Sheds a tear] And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son. May God give you both - His help and His love and so on, and so much hope..... What am I behaving in this idiotic way for? I'm off my balance with joy, absolutely off my balance! Oh, with all my soul... I'll go and call Natasha, and all that.

blabbering

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LOMOV : [greatly moved] Honoured Stepan
Stepanovitch, do you think I may
count on her consent? *yes/no*

CHUBUKOV : Why, of course, my darling, and... as if
she won't consent! She's in love;
egad, she's like a lovesick cat, and so
on. Shan't be long! [Exit.]

consent : approval
egad : surprised

LOMOV : It's cold... I'm **trembling** all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is, I must have my mind made up. If I give myself to think, to **hesitate**, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married.

Natasha

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trembling : shaking
hesitate : dither

Brr... It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well- educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. [Drinks] And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35 - a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet

critical : serious

and regular life. I suffer from

palpitations, I'm excitable and always

getting awfully upset; at this very

moment my lips are trembling, and

there's a **twitch** in my right eyebrow.

But the very worst of all is the way I

sleep. I no sooner get into bed

palpitations : increased heartbeat

twitch : convulse

and begin to go off, when suddenly something in my left side gives a pull, and I can feel it in my shoulder and head... I jump up like a **lunatic**, walk about a bit and lie down again, but as soon as I begin to get off to sleep there's another pull! And this may happen twenty times...

[Natalya Stepanovna comes in.]

lunatic : mad

NATLYA : Well, there! It's you, and papa said,
"Go; there's a **merchant** come for his
goods." How do you do, Ivan
Vassilevitch?

LOMOV : How do you do, honoured Natalya
Stepanovna?

merchant : trader
goods : items

NATALYA : You must excuse my apron and neglige. We're shelling peas for drying. Why haven't you been here for such a long time? Sit down... [They seat themselves.] Won't you have some lunch?



neglige : unofficial attire/dress
shelling : peeling

LOMOV : No, thank you, I've had some already.

NATALYA : Then smoke. Here are the matches.

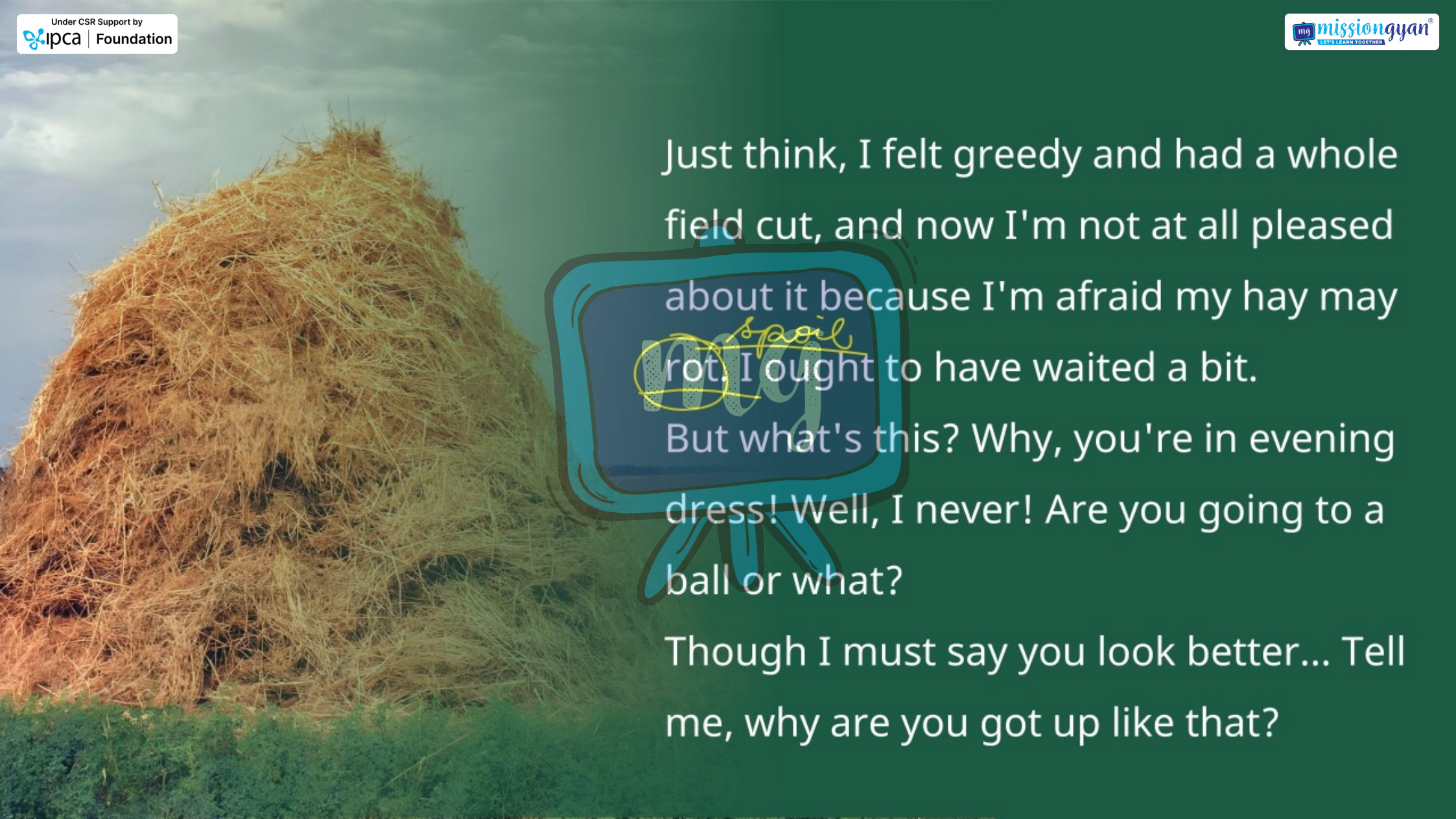
The weather is splendid now, but yesterday it was so wet that the workmen didn't do anything all day.

How much hay have you stacked?

splendid : amazing

hay : dry fodder

stacked : piling up



Just think, I felt greedy and had a whole field cut, and now I'm not at all pleased about it because I'm afraid my hay may rot. I ought to have waited a bit.

But what's this? Why, you're in evening dress! Well, I never! Are you going to a ball or what?

Though I must say you look better... Tell me, why are you got up like that?

LOMOV : [excited] You see, honoured Natalya

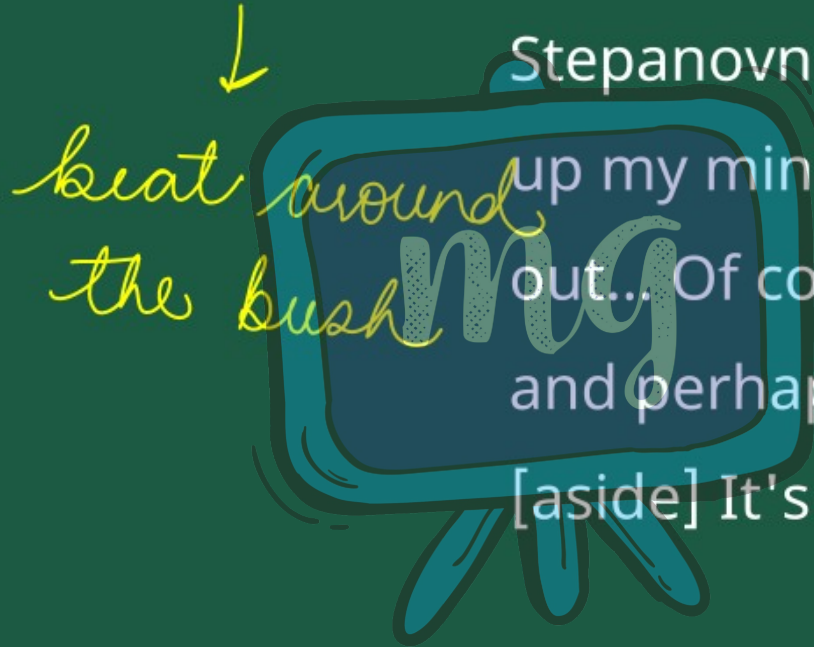
Stepanovna... the fact is, I've made

up my mind to ask you to hear me

out... Of course you'll be surprised

and perhaps even angry, but a...

[aside] It's awfully cold!



NATALYA : What's the matter? [pause] Well?

LOMOV : I shall try to be **brief**. You must know, honoured Natalya Stepanovna, that I have long, since my childhood, in fact, had the privilege of knowing your family. My late aunt and her husband, from whom, as you know,

brief : short

I **inherited** my land, always had the greatest respect for your father and your late mother. The Lomovs and the Chubukovs have always had the most friendly, and I might almost say the most affectionate, regard for each other. And, as you know, my land is a near neighbour of yours.

inherited : taken over from ancestors

You will remember that my Oxen
Meadows touch your Birchwoods.



oxen meadows : grazing ground of ox
birchwoods : field of a type of tree

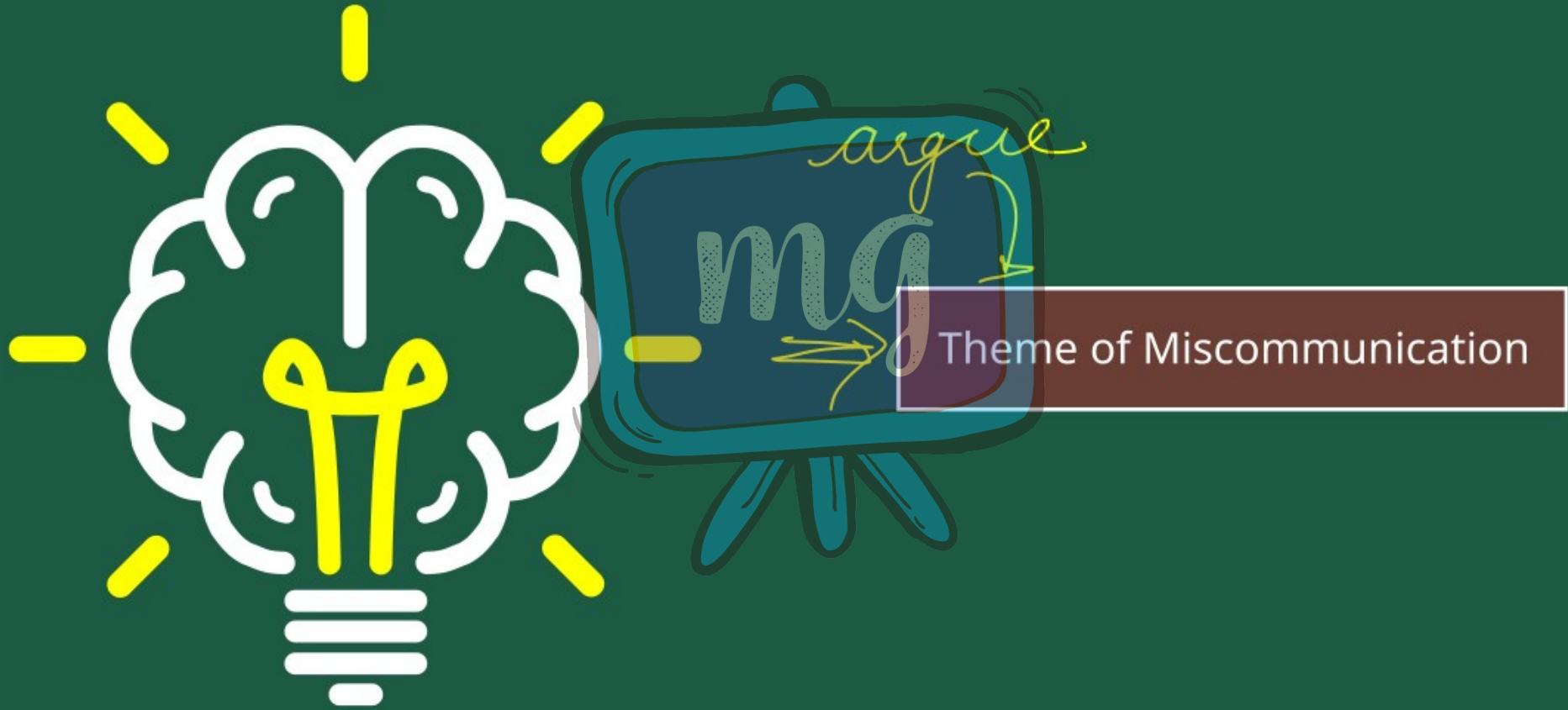
NATALYA : Excuse my interrupting you. You say,
"my Oxen Meadows". But are they
yours?

LOMOV : Yes, mine.

NATALYA : What are you talking about? Oxen
Meadows are ours, not yours!

LOMOV : No, mine, honoured Natalya
Stepanovna.

LEARNING OUTCOME



1 Who is Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov?

- A A wealthy merchant.
- B A landowner and Natalya's father.
- C Ivan Lomov's brother.
- D A distant relative.

2 | What is Lomov's initial purpose for visiting Chubukov?

- A To borrow money.
- B To ask for Natalya's hand in marriage.
- C To complain about a neighbour.
- D To discuss business matters.



3 | What disagreement arises between Lomov and Natalya?

- A The ownership of Oxen Meadows.
- B The time of the wedding.
- C The cost of the wedding reception.
- D The location of the marriage.