



CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-9 : The Proposal

Part – 8

Comprehension

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THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Q.1 What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he later says "And, I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son"? Find reasons for your answer from the play.

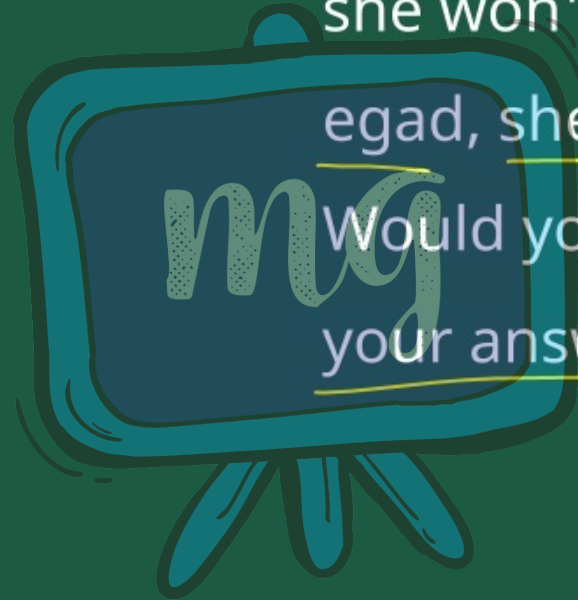
Answer : Chubukov, at first, suspects that Lomov has come to borrow money

He is not sincere in saying "And, I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son" because after some moments, Chubukov starts fighting with Lomov over petty matters.

In fact, he sides with his daughter in fighting with Lomov.

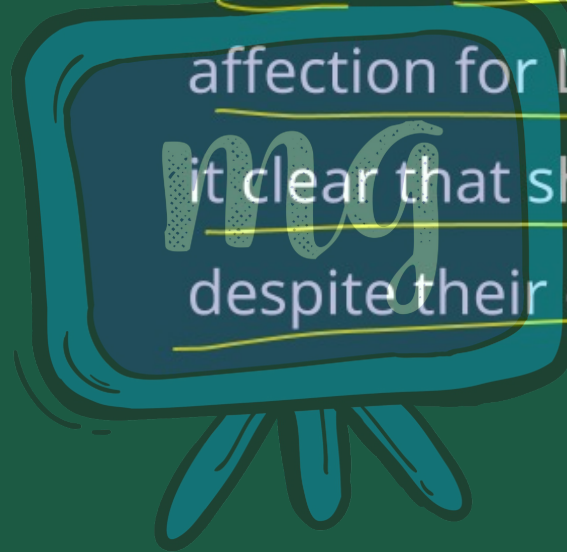
He even abuses Lomov. He calls him with bad names such as 'pettifogger', 'old rat' etc. This shows his insincerity in saying this flattering sentence.

Q.2 Chubukov says of Natalya : "...as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a lovesick cat..."
Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.



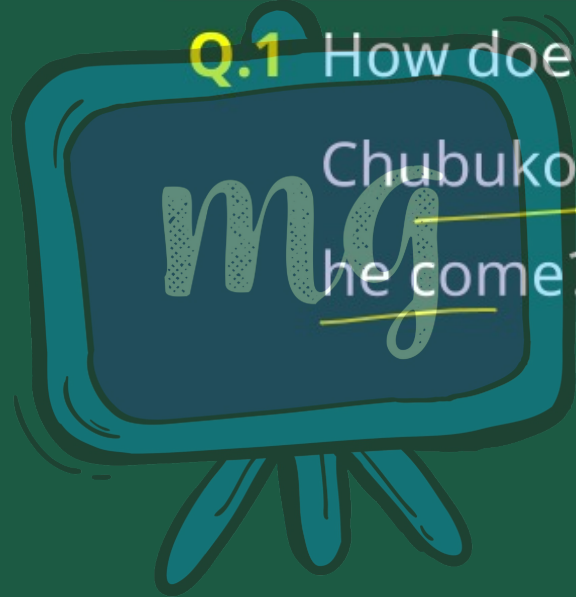
Answer : Chubukov thinks Natalya is in love with Lomov and supports the marriage. Despite their arguments, Natalya's true feelings are revealed when she hears about Lomov's proposal. She becomes emotional and insists her father bring him back immediately.

Her words, "Bring him back! Quick, quick!" show her desperation and affection for Lomov. This reaction makes it clear that she does care for him, despite their earlier disagreements.



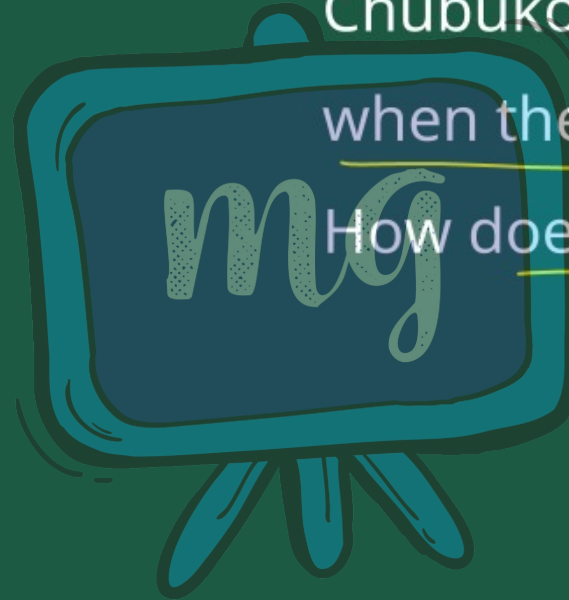
EXTRA QUESTIONS

Q.1 How does Lomov come to Chubukov's house? What for does he come? How is he received?



Answer : Lomov comes to Chubukov's house in evening dress, wearing gloves. He comes to propose to Chubukov's daughter, Natalya. He is received with great respect by Chubukov, as indicated by his words. Chubukov refers to Lomov as "my angel," "my dear fellow," and "my treasure," believing that Lomov is the most suitable husband for his daughter.

Q.2 Why does Natalya ask her father Chubukov to fetch Lomov in at once when they have fought verbally? How does she accuse her father?



Answer : In the scene, Natalya requests her father Chubukov to fetch Lomov immediately after their argument. This shift in her mood occurs when she learns that Lomov has come to propose to her. She accuses Chubukov of having driven Lomov away, expressing her frustration that her father hindered her chance at marriage.

Q.3 What do you learn about Natalya
from the play "The Proposal"?



Answer : Natalya is a young girl and is waiting desperately for marriage. She is very talkative and dominating. She fights verbally with Lomov. It proves that she is adamant on her points. But she springs with joy when she learns that Lomov has come to propose to her.

impudent

mg

Q.4 How is "the proposal" a great

★ comedy?

element of
humour



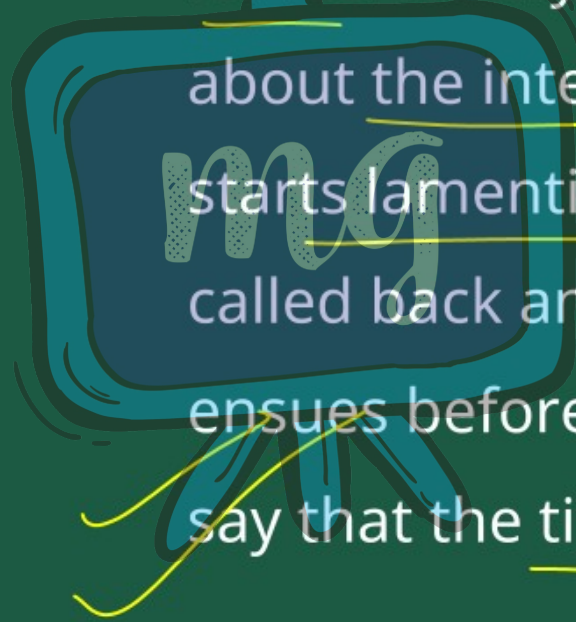
Answer : "The Proposal" is a great comedy because of the characters and the subject matter and how they behave. Natalya, Lomov and Chubukov fight over foolish things. All these create a lot of laughter. The verbal fights over Oxen Meadows and dogs are really full of humour.

Q.5 How far is the title 'The Proposal'
appropriate?



Answer : The title of the play is 'The proposal' and it is a very apt one because the whole play is about Lomov proposing Natalya. Right from the beginning to the end of the play, the story revolves round a marriage proposal. Lomov comes to Natalya's house to propose to her but even before he does it, they both start fighting.

As a result, Lomov becomes sick and leaves. Natalya's father informs her about the intention of Lomov and she starts lamenting over the loss. Lomov is called back and once again an argument ensues before proposing. Hence, we can say that the title is perfect for the play.



Q.6 Write a brief character sketch of

Lomov.



Answer :

1. Desire for Companionship

↳ Lomov visited Chubukov to propose marriage.

↳ This indicated his desire for love and companionship.

2. Indecisiveness

*beating
around
the
bush*

- ▣ He struggled to express his feelings.
- ▣ His constant digressions and avoidance of the main topic revealed a deep-seated fear of rejection or failure.

3. Argumentative

- ▮ His focus on trivial matters like land ownership and his dog's pedigree demonstrated a lack of depth and a preoccupation with material possessions.
- ▮ His inability to prioritize important matters further highlighted his superficial nature.

4. Stubbornness

- ▣ His insistence on being right, even when clearly wrong, revealed a deep-seated insecurity and a need for validation.
- ▣ His stubbornness could also be seen as a defense mechanism, allowing him to avoid confronting his own inadequacies and insecurities.

Q.7 Write a brief character sketch of

Natalya.



Answer :

1. Unmarried Daughter

- Natalya is the daughter of Chubukov, a landowner.
- She is unmarried, causing concern for her father.

2. Attractive Appearance

- Natalya is described as attractive.

3. Moody

She has a moody and unpredictable
temperament.

She is prone to sudden changes of
mood.

mg
mood.

4. Argumentative Nature

- Natalya readily quarrels with Lomov, both over the meadows and their dogs.
- She is easily angered and does not hesitate to express her displeasure.

5. Submissive to Father

- ▮ Despite her quarrelsome nature,
Natalya is ultimately submissive to
her father.
- ▮ She is willing to accept Lomov's
proposal at her father's insistence.

6. Conflicting Desires

- Natalya desires marriage but also enjoys arguing and asserting her independence.
- Her conflicting desires contribute to her temperamental nature.

7. Positive Assessment by Lomov

- ▮ Lomov views Natalya positively, describing her as an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, and well-educated. *25 years old*
- ▮ This suggests that despite her flaws, Natalya has redeeming qualities.

Q.8 Write a brief character sketch of
Chubukov.



Answer :

1. Overprotective Father

- Chubukov is a deeply concerned father.

- He is overly protective of his daughter, Natalya.

- His constant worry about her remaining unmarried is a central theme of the play.

2. Exaggerated Reactions

- Chubukov tends to overreact to situations.

- He is easily excitable and prone to dramatic outbursts.

- His emotional responses often overshadow the seriousness of the situation.

3. Love for His Daughter

- Despite his flaws, Chubukov deeply loves his daughter.
- He is willing to do anything to ensure her happiness.
- His concern for her well-being is genuine.

4. Submissive to His Daughter

Chubukov is ultimately submissive to

Natalya's wishes.

He is willing to sacrifice his own desires for her happiness.

His love for her often overrides his own judgment.

5. Gullible Nature

- Chubukov is easily deceived and manipulated.

manipulates

- He is quick to believe others without question.

- His gullibility can lead to humorous situations.

Q.9

Write a paragraph on Element of
humor present in the chapter, 'The
Proposal'.



Answer : In The Proposal by Anton

Chekhov, humour arises from

exaggerated characters, absurd

situations, and witty dialogue. The play

mocks the petty concerns of the Russian

landowning class, as serious matters like

marriage are overshadowed by ridiculous

arguments over land and dogs.

Lomov's constant complaints about his health, Natalya's stubbornness, and Chubukov's sarcastic outbursts add to the farcical tone. The rapid mood swings—from affection to fierce quarrelling—create comic tension, while the physical reactions like fainting and shouting bring elements of slapstick.

Chekhov uses irony and dialogue-driven comedy to highlight the foolishness of the characters, turning a marriage proposal into a hilarious display of vanity and triviality.

