

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-9 : The Proposal

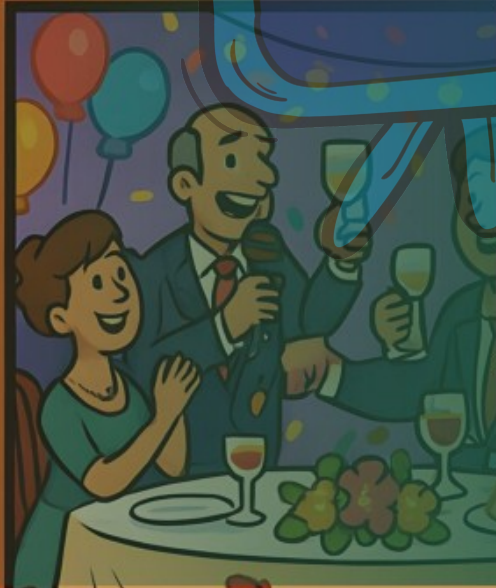
Part – 3

Argument Over Oxen Meadows

Komal Jetwani



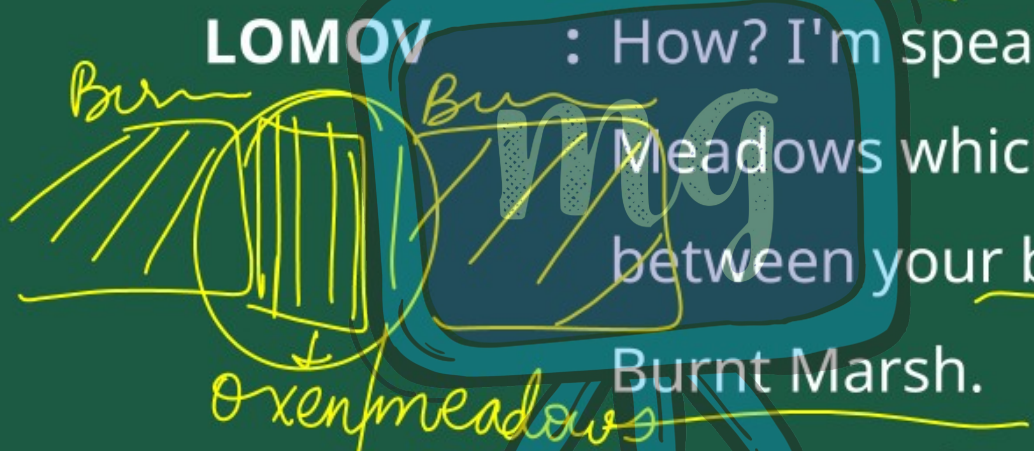
OVERVIEW



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

NATALYA : Well, I never knew that before. How do you make that out?

LOMOV : How? I'm speaking of those Oxen Meadows which are **wedged** in between your birch woods and the Burnt Marsh.



NATALYA : Yes, yes... they're ours.

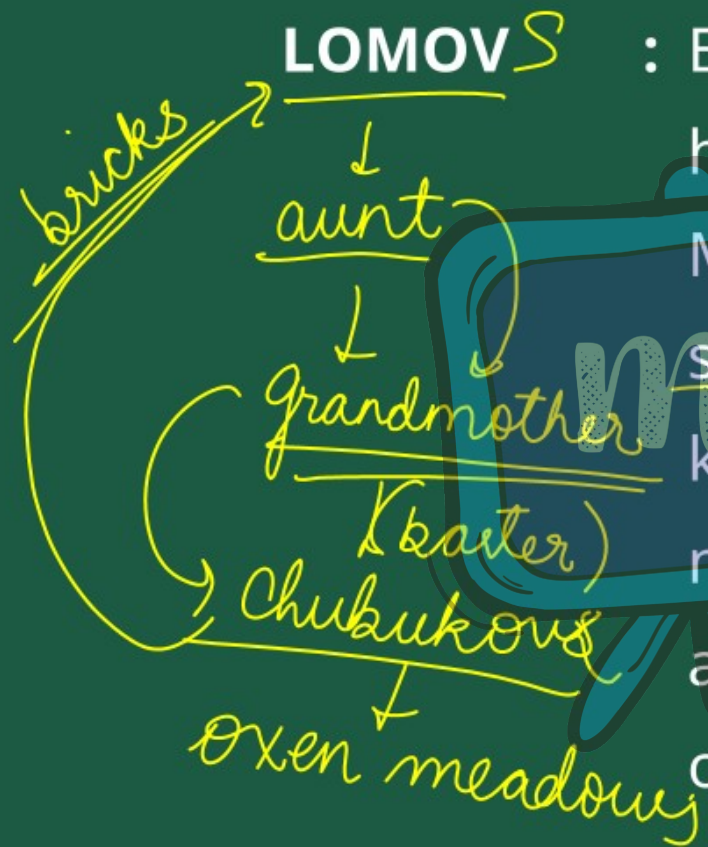
wedged : in between

LOMOV : No, you're mistaken, honoured
Natalya Stepanovna, they're mine.

NATALYA : Just think, Ivan Vassilevitch! How
long have they been yours?

LOMOV : How long? As long as I can
remember.

NATALYA : Really, you won't get me to believe
that!

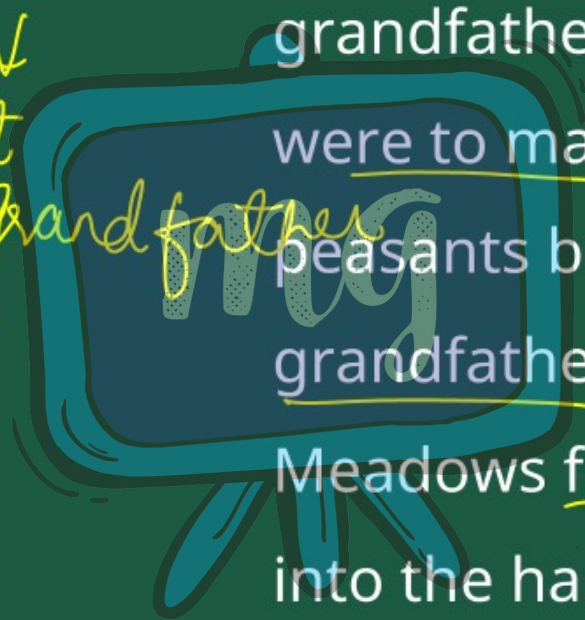


: But you can see from the documents, honoured Natalya Stepanovna. Oxen Meadows, it's true, were once the subject of dispute, but now everybody knows that they are mine. There's nothing to argue about. You see my aunt's grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity

dispute	:	conflict
perpetuity	:	continuity

Chubukov to the peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her. The peasants belonging to your father's grandfather had the free use of the Meadows for forty years, and had got into the habit of regarding them as their own, when it happened that...

Chubukov
↓
great grandfather

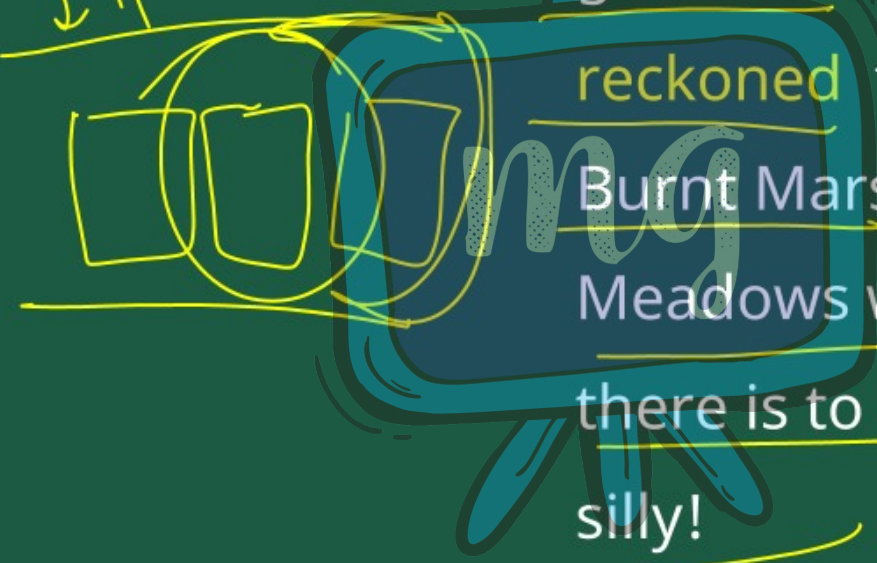


peasants : landless farmers

Chubukor
↑

NATALYA

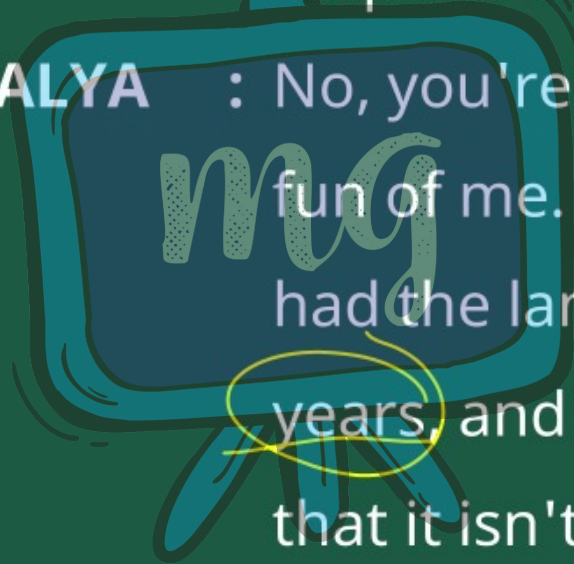
: No, it isn't at all like that! Both
grandfather and great grandfather
reckoned that their land extended to
Burnt Marsh - which means that Oxen
Meadows were ours. I don't see what
there is to argue about. It's simply
silly!



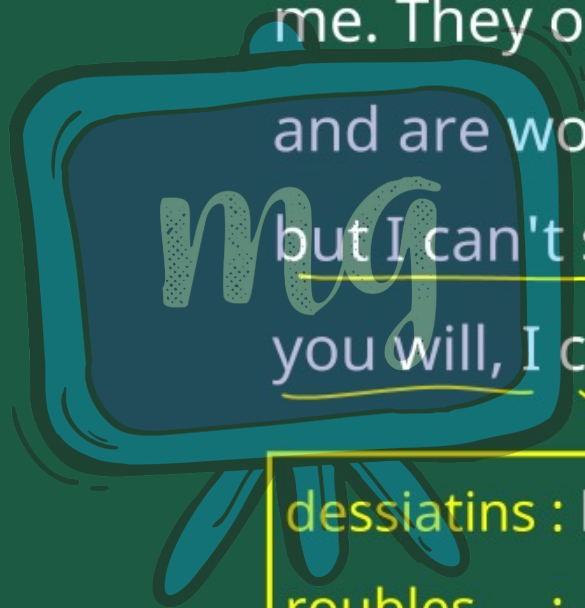
reckoned : agreed

LOMOV : I'll show you the documents, Natalya Stepanovna!

NATALYA : No, you're simply joking, or making fun of me. What a surprise! We've had the land for nearly three hundred years, and then we're suddenly told that it isn't ours! Ivan Vassilevitch, I can hardly believe my own ears.

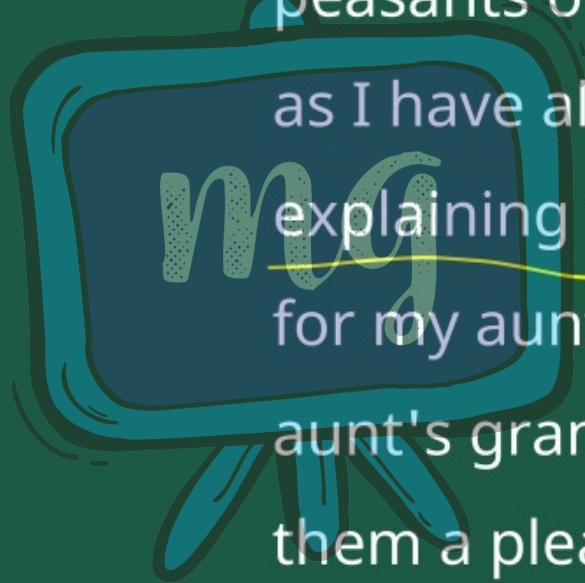


These Meadows aren't worth much to me. They only come to five dessiatins, and are worth perhaps 300 roubles, but I can't stand unfairness. Say what you will, I can't stand unfairness.



dessiatins : land measuring unit in Russia
roubles : Russian currency

LOMOV : Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother. Now my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a pleasant...

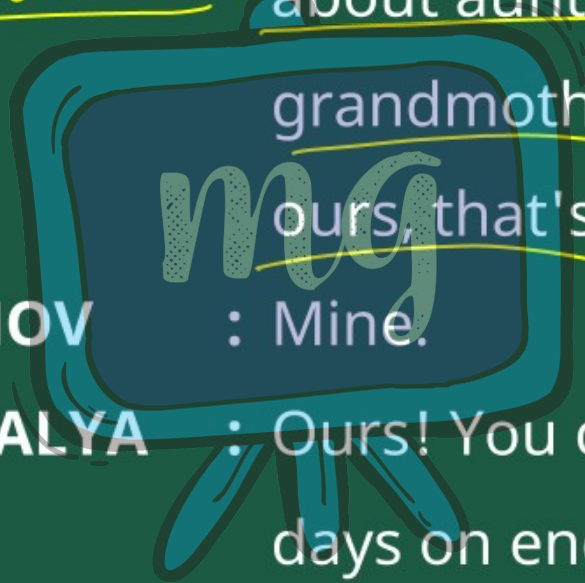


implore : to beg

NATALYA : I can't make head or tail of all this impudent about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers. The Meadows are ours, that's all.

LOMOV : Mine.

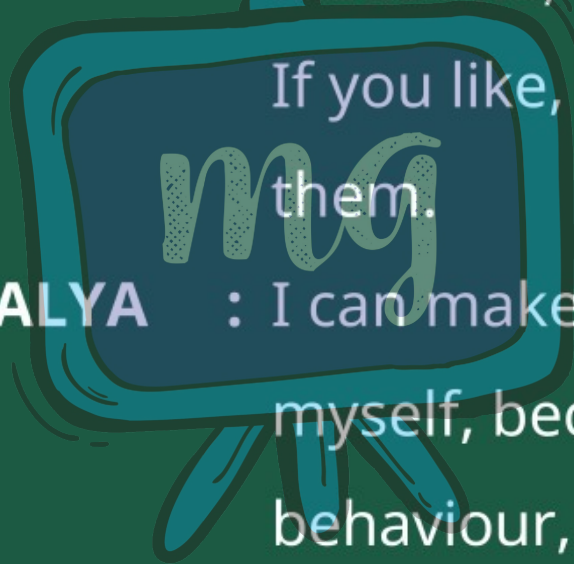
NATALYA : Ours! You can go on proving it for two days on end, you can go and put on fifteen dress jackets, but I tell you they're ours, ours, ours!



I don't want anything of yours and I
don't want to give anything of mine.



LOMOV : Natalya Stepanovna, I don't want the Meadows, but I am acting on principle.

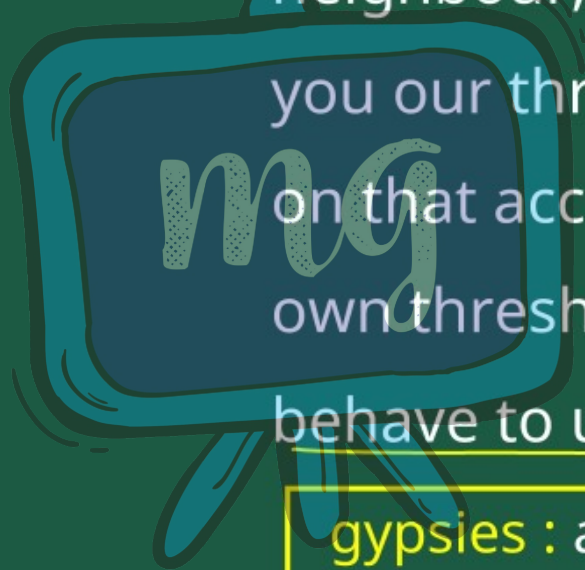


If you like, I'll make you a present of them.

NATALYA : I can make you a present of them myself, because they're mine! Your behaviour, Ivan Vassilevitch, is strange, to say the least! Up to this we have

principle : values

always thought of you as a good neighbour, a friend; last year we lent you our threshing- machine, although on that account we had to put off our own threshing till November, but you behave to us as if we were **gypsies**.



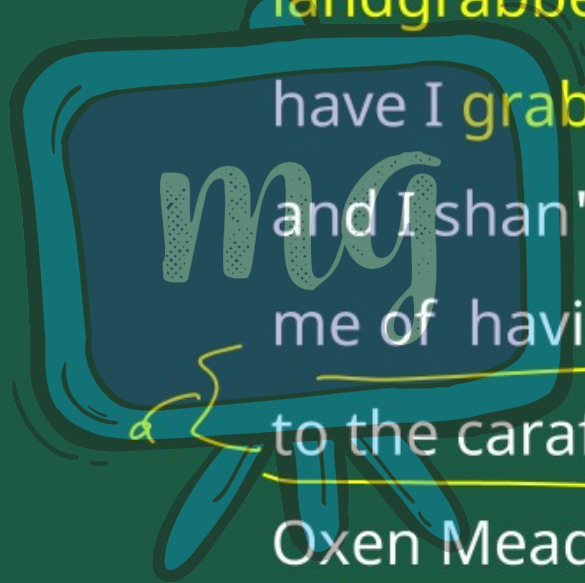
gypsies : a member of a race of people who traditionally spend their lives travelling around from place to place, living in caravans

Giving me my own land, indeed! No, really, that's not at all neighbourly! In my opinion, it's even **impudent**, if you want to know.



impudent : disrespectful

LOMOV : Then you make out that I'm a **landgrabber**? Madam, never in my life have I **grabbed** anybody else's land and I shan't allow anybody to **accuse** me of having done so. [Quickly steps to the carafe and drinks more water]
Oxen Meadows are mine!



- landgrabber** : to encroach land
- grab** : to snatch
- accuse** : to blame

NATALYA : It's not true, they're ours!

LOMOV : Mine!

NATALYA : It's not true! I'll prove it! I'll send my
mowers out to the Meadows this very
day!

LOMOV : What?

NATALYA : My mowers will be there this very day!

mowers : the one who cuts grass

LOMOV : I'll give it to them in the neck!

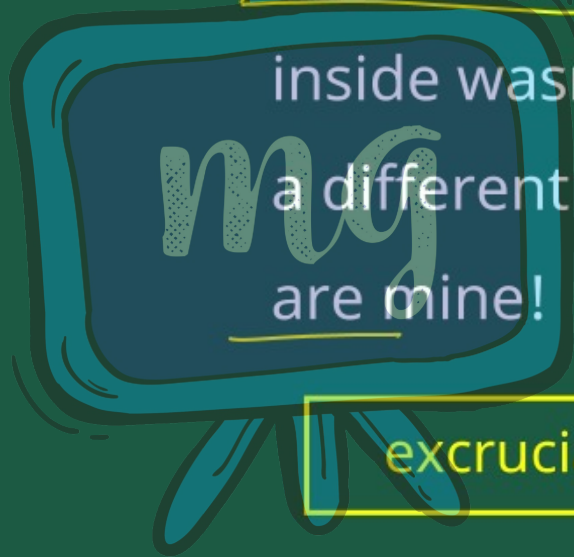
NATALYA : You dare!

LOMOV : [Clutches at his heart] Oxen Meadows
are mine! You understand? Mine!

NATALYA : Please don't shout! You can shout
yourself **hoarse** in your own house but
here I must ask you to **restrain** yourself!

hoarse	:	<u>rough sound</u>
restrain	:	to stop

LOMOV : If it wasn't, madam, for this awful, excruciating palpitation, if my whole inside wasn't upset, I'd talk to you in a different way! [Yells] Oxen Meadows are mine!



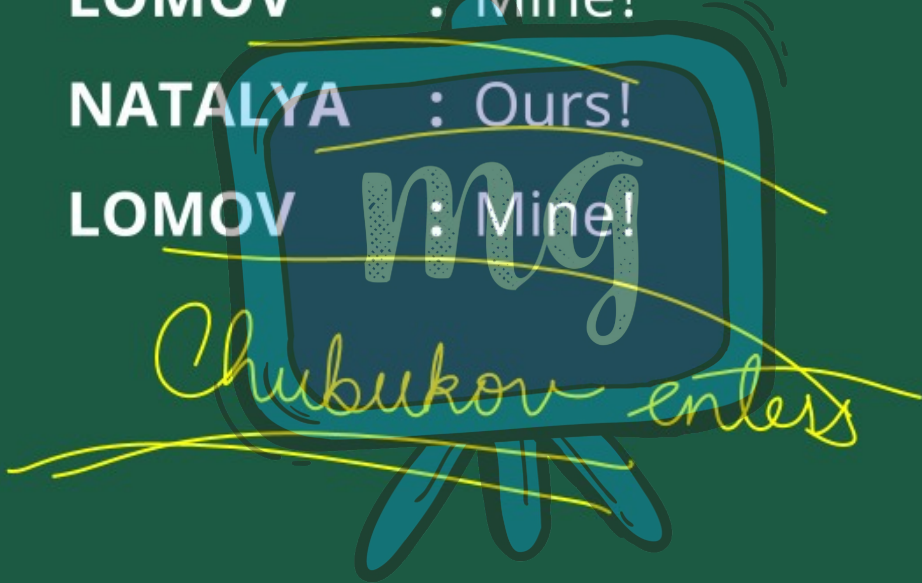
excruciating : extremely painful

NATALYA : Ours!

LOMOV : Mine!

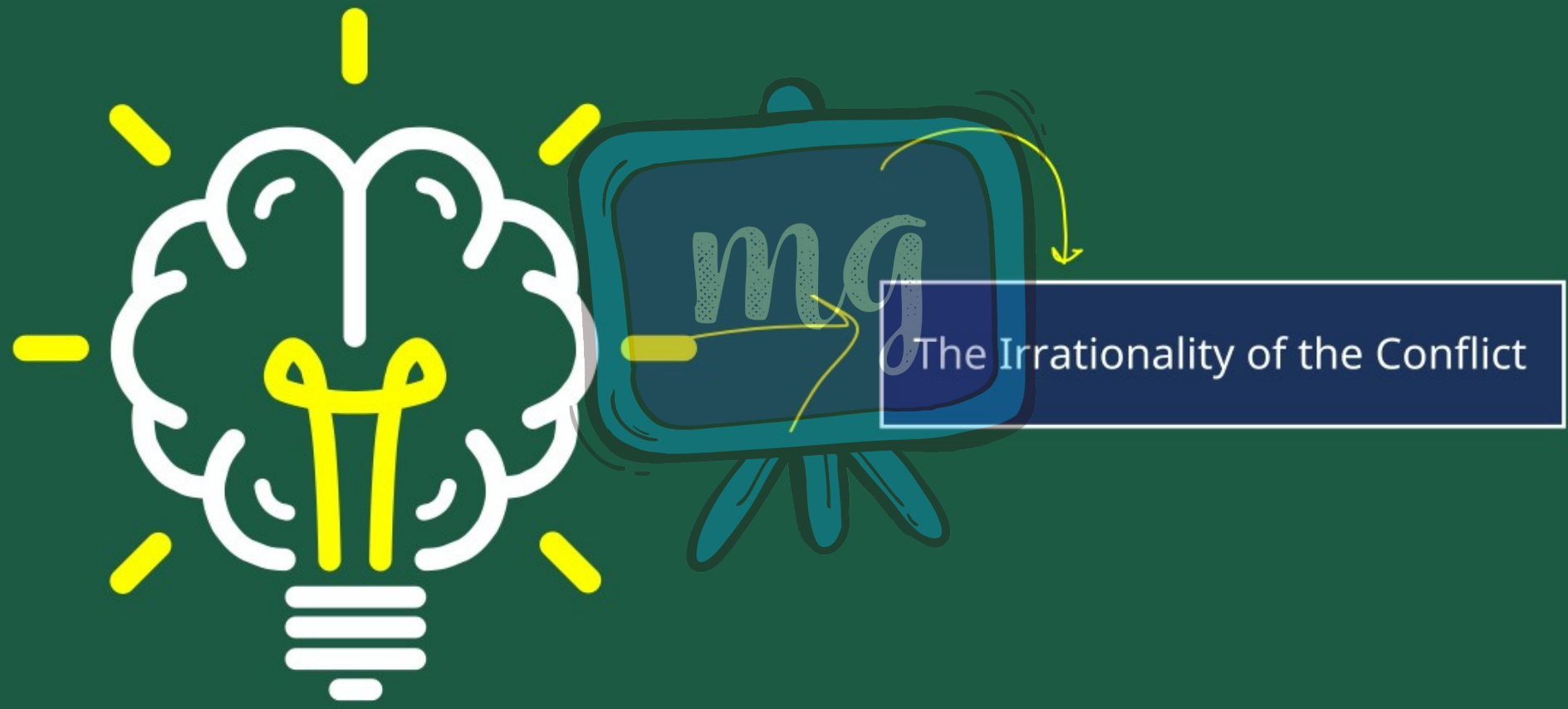
NATALYA : Ours!

LOMOV : Mine!



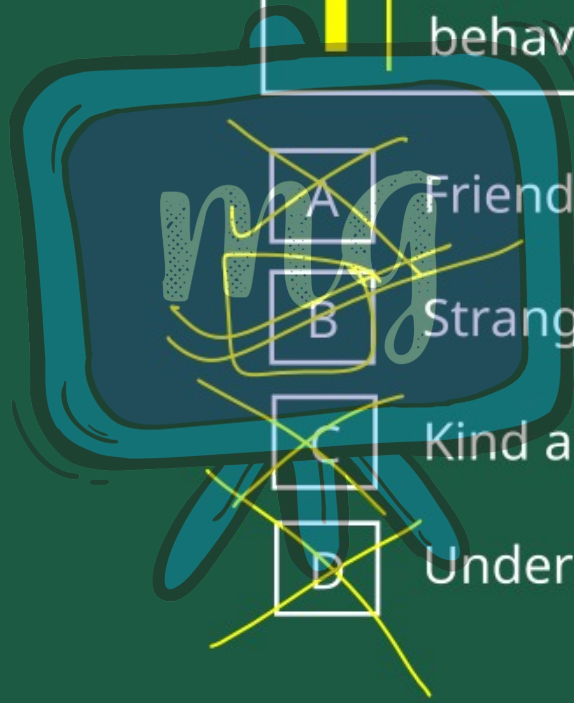
Chubukov enters

LEARNING OUTCOME





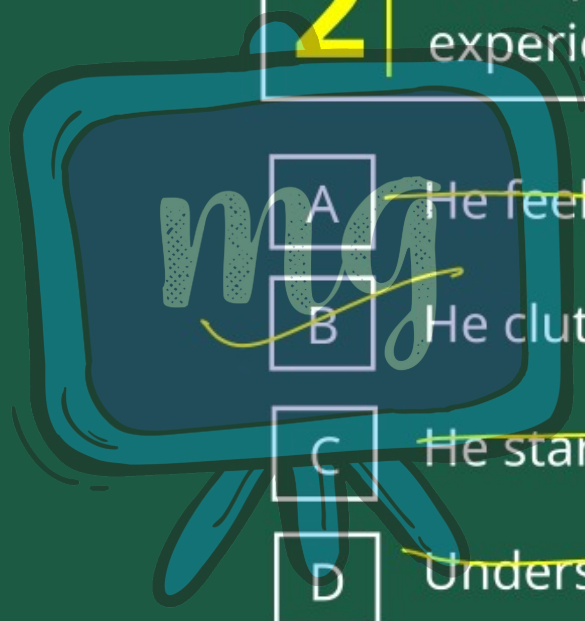
1 | How does Natalya describe Lomov's behavior?



- A | Friendly and generous.
- B | Strange and disrespectful and impudent.
- C | Kind and respectful.
- D | Understanding and patient.



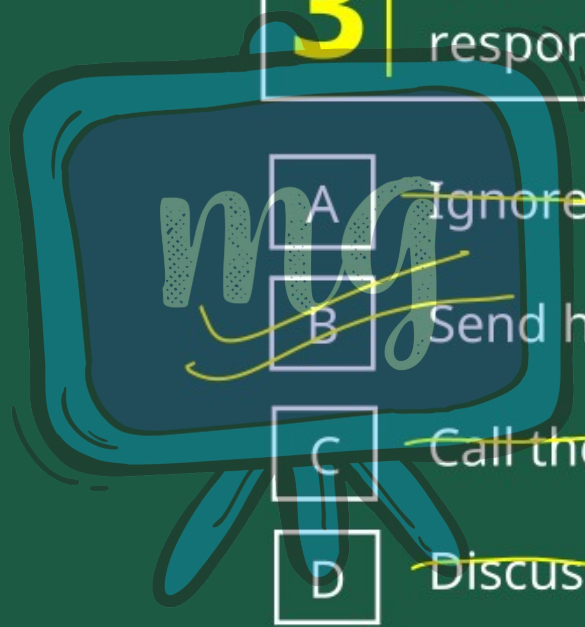
2 | What physical reaction does Lomov experience during the argument?



- A He feels hungry.
- B He clutches at his heart.
- C He starts to laugh.
- D Understanding and patient



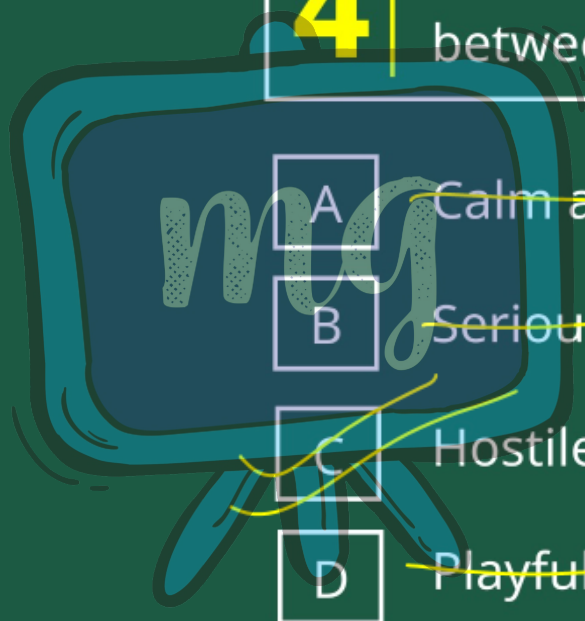
3 | What does Natalya plan to do in response to Lomov's claim?



- A ~~Ignore him.~~
- B ~~Send her mowers to the Meadows.~~
- C ~~Call the police.~~
- D ~~Discuss it with her father.~~



4 | What is the tone of the conversation between Lomov and Natalya?



- A ~~Calm and friendly.~~
- B ~~Serious and respectful.~~
- C Hostile and argumentative.
- D ~~Playful and humorous.~~