

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) wrote the play "The Proposal," which is sometimes also called "A Marriage Proposal," in the late 1880s. It is a farce with only one act that is played out in less than half an hour on stage. The play is set in only one location and can be summarized in four parts.

The Father-in-Law

The scene is set in the country house of wealthy landowner Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov who receives a visit from his neighbor of some time, Ivan Vassiliyitch Lomov. After some polite introductions and conversation, Lomov starts hesitating and is obviously beating around the bush about an issue on his mind. It transpires that he has come to make a marriage proposal to Chubukov's daughter Natalia. After he finally has taken courage and asked, he is enthusiastically accepted by his future father-in-law who calls his daughter, and Lomov's subject of desire, into the room.

The Argument

Natalia enters the room and greets Lomov like an old friend. While she chats about her household chores and invites Lomov to lunch, he tries awkwardly to express his proposal of marriage. However, in his attempt, he makes the mistake of mentioning a piece of land that is obviously situated at the border between the two neighbors' properties. Instead of hearing Lomov out, Natalia starts an argument with her suitor, who, being a hypochondriac, is increasingly plagued by nervous palpitations and other ailments as the argument continues.

Father and Daughter

When Natalia's father hears their argument, he enthusiastically starts participating and finally throws his neighbor out of the house. Alone with Natalia, he is complaining loudly about Lomov, and his dismay that his neighbor dared to make a marriage proposal. As this is the first Natalia hears about Lomov's visit, she is not only taken aback, but becomes hysteric and demands her father to bring back the neighbor to finalize his proposal.

Solution

Following Natalia's hysterics, her father rushes out and calls back the neighbor who willingly returns. Lomov again makes an attempt to

propose, but in doing so touches the subject of their respective dogs, and immediately is involved in another major argument with Natalia who insists she has the better dog. Lomov, exhausted from the exertion of arguing, faints and must be revived by father and daughter. Finally, Chubukov has enough and insists that his daughter and the neighbor seal the acceptance of the proposal with a kiss. The couple-to-be oblige him, but continue their argument about the dogs immediately after the kiss, while Chubukov calls for champagne.

INTRODUCTION

Anton Chekov (1860-1904) was a famous writer. He is chiefly known for his short stories. This story 'The Proposal' is a romantic story of a neighbour named Ivan Lomov. He is a landowner and often gets money from Chuhukov's another landowner. Chubukov has a daughter named Natalya. Lomov comes to Chubukov with a marriage proposal for his daughter Natalya.

DETAILED SUMMARY

When the play begins we see that Lomov comes to meet Chubukov at his house. Chubukov who is a farmer welcomes Lomov. He asks him why he is wearing formal clothes and whether he is going to attend a function. Lomov replies that he is not going anywhere; he has come only to meet him. Lomov appears excited and perturbed. He calms himself down and begins to tell him the purpose of his visit. He tells him that he came to him many times in the past also for his help but he did not help him. Before telling the purpose of his visit. Lomov is excited once again. Chubukov thinks that perhaps he has come to ask for a loan. He makes up his mind not to help him in any way.

Lomov once again begins to tell Chubukov about the purpose of his visit. But he once again becomes excited. He talks about himself in exaggerated terms. Chubukov asks him not to beat about the hush and to talk about his purpose of coming. Lomov gathers courage and tells him that he has come to ask for his daughter Natalya's hand in marriage. On hearing this Chubukov becomes very happy, he goes in to call Natalya. But before this Lomov asks him whether Natalya would give her

permission for this. Chubukov replies that she will readily accept a match like him.

Lomov is left alone in the room. His body is trembling with excitement. He thinks about his present life. He wants to settle the question of his marriage at once. He thinks that now he should not delay. He thinks about Natalya. She is a skilled house-keeper. She is educated and is not bad to look at. At this age, he should not expect a better girl than her. Now he is thirty-five years old. Now he should lead a regulated life. He is suffering from serious diseases like palpitation, excitement and insomnia. Because of these reasons, he should marry.

Just then Natalya comes in. Her father has not told her that Lomov has come to meet her. He only told her that a customer had come. Even then she welcomes Lomov. Before Lomov can speak, she starts speaking- When she mentions his beautiful dress, he is again excited. Before he can talk about his marriage to her, he starts trembling. Natalya encourages him and he recovers. He says that he will tell her everything in brief. Even then he cannot talk in a straight-forward manner. He beats about the bush. He tells her that for the Iasi many decades their families have had good relations. Their estates are also adjoining. His Oxen Warbles touch their birchwoods. Natalya protests against this. She says that the Oxen Meadows belong to her. they lay their claims to it. They start quarrelling about the ownership of the Oxen Meadows. They shout loudly at each other. They do not calm down in any way.

Chubukov comes in and finds them both quarrelling. He is greatly surprised. But when he finds that they are quarrelling about the ownership of the Oxen Meadows. he also becomes angry. Instead of calming them down, he also starts quarrelling. He claims to be the owner of the Meadows. He insults not only Lomov but also his family members. Lomov becomes more excited. He uses insulting words for Chubukov, Natalya and their family members. Lomov's palpitation increases and he becomes very perturbed. He goes out of the room. Chubukov says how the foolish Lomov dared to bring a proposal for Natalya's marriage. When Natalya hears this, she is deeply shocked. She is almost unconscious. She starts weeping and asks her father to

bring tomorrow back. Chubukov feels sad. He says that it is the biggest misfortune to be the father of a girl. He goes out to call Lomov.

Lomov again enters the room. Natalya thinks that she will not annoy him this time. She tries to please him. She says that the Meadows belong to him. She tries to change the topic so that he could propose to her. But he is still not all right. He is feeling disturbed. He does not come to the point. Lomov starts praising the qualities of his dog Guess, which he has purchased for 125 roubles. But Natalya says that her dog Squeezer which she purchased for 85 roubles is much better than Lomov's dog Guess. Both of them praise the qualities of their dogs. Now they start quarrelling on this topic. They again start shouting at each other. In the meantime, Chubukov comes. Instead of putting an end to their quarrel, he also starts quarrelling. In this dispute, Lomov's condition deteriorates and he falls on the chair, unconscious. Both the father and the daughter think that he has died. Natalya starts lamenting that her chance of getting married has gone.

After sometime, Lomov comes to his senses. Chubukov tells Lomov that Natalya is willing for marriage, so he should marry her. Natalya expresses her willingness. Chubukov does not want to lose even a moment and joins their hands. He asks them to kiss each other. But soon, they start quarrelling again. They start debating the qualities of their respective dogs. Chubukov tries to calm them down. With this, the play comes to an end.

1. 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 time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married.

(a) Who is saying, "I'm trembling all over as if I had got an examination before me"?

(b) What is the great thing that the speaker is talking about?

(c) What state of Loom's mind does the passage reflect?

(d) Why did Loom not want to wait for real love?

Ans. (a) Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov.

- (b) The speaker is talking about real love and marriage.
- (c) His mind reflects that way he would never get married because it is difficult to get an idea or real love.
- (d) This was because he was anxious to get married.

2.”He is old, but I wouldn’t take five Squeezers for him. Why, how can you? Guess is a dog, as for Squeezer; well it’s too funny to argue. Anybody you like has a dog as good as Squeezer...

You may find them under every bush almost. Twenty-five roubles would be a handsome price to pay for him.”

- (a) Who does ‘he’ refer to?
- (b) Whom does Squeezer belong to?
- (c) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- (d) What would be a handsome price to pay for Squeezer?

Ans. (a) He refers to ‘Guess’ the dog.

(b) Squeezer belongs to Chubukovs.

(c) Lomov.

(d) It would be twenty-five roubles.

3. “She’s willing... I give you my blessing and so on. Only leave me in peace !”

- (a) ‘Ib whom is the speaker giving his blessing?
- (b) Why is he giving his blessing?
- (c) Who is giving his blessing?
- (d) What is she willing for?

Ans. (a) The speaker gives his blessing to Lomov and Natalya.

(b) Because both are willing to marry each other and Chubukov agrees to it. So he is giving his blessings.

(c) Chubukov.

(d) She is willing for her marriage.

4. Last year we lent you our threshing machine, although on that account we had to put off our own threshing till November you behave to us as if we were gipsies. 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.

- (a) What did the speaker do last year?
- (b) What happened after that?

(c) How did Natalya try to prove that they were at least good neighbours?

(d) Why Chubukovs had to delay their threshing till November

Ans. (a) Last year the speaker lent their threshing machine.

(b) After that, they had to put off their own threshing till November.

(c) They lent their threshing machine to Lomov the previous year that delayed their own threshing till November.

(d) This was because; they had lent it to Lomov, their neighbour.

5. “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 dissipations and are worth perhaps 300 roubles, but I can’t stand unfairness”.

(a) Who is making fun of whom?

(b) For how long did they have the land?

(c) Who is the speaker of these lines?

(d) What has been unfairness with the speaker?

Ans. (a) Lomov is making fun of Natalya.

(b) They had the land for nearly three hundred years.

(c) Natalya

(d) The land that the speaker has had for nearly 300 years have been told that it isn’t theirs.

6. “Well, that’s a way to start your family bliss! Have some champagne!”

(a) Who speaks the above lines and on what occasion?

(b) Name any one conflict they’ve had before starting the ‘family bliss’.

(c) Who were ‘Guess’ and ‘Squeezer’?

(d) What were the positive and negative points of Squeezer?

Ans. (a) Chubukov speaks these lines on the occasion of Natalya and Loom’s marriage.

(b) Their conflict over the dogs i.e., Guess and Squeezer.

(c) Guess was Loom’s dog and Squeezer was Natalya’s dog.

(d) Squeezer was young but was overshot and did not have a strong grip.

7. “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...”

- (a) Who is the speaker?
- (b) What did the peasants do?
- (c) Who is the speaker talking to?
- (d) Which land was under dispute?

Ans. (a) Lomov.

(b) The peasants baked bricks for Loom’s aunt’s grandmother.

(c) Natalya

(d) Oxen Meadows

8. “And are you a hunter? You only go hunting to get in with the Count and to intrigue Oh, my heart! You’re an intriguer!”

- (a) Who is speaking and to whom?
- (b) Which character trait of the listener is being emphasized?
- (c) Who is an intriguer?
- (d) Find all the words and expressions in the play that the speaker uses to speak to Chubukov?

Ans. (a) Lomov to Chubukov.

(b) That of being an intriguer.

(c) Chubukov

(d) Not a neighbour but a grabber, old rat, intriguer.

9. “Then you make out that I’m a land grabber? 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. Oxen Meadows are mine!”

- (a) Who is ‘Madam’ in the above lines?
- (b) In which situation does Lomov call himself a ‘land grabber’?
- (c) What had happened to the speaker?
- (d) What will he not allow the other?

Ans. (a) Natalya

(b) Natalya accuses Lomov of grabbing Oxen Meadows. So, Lomov says that he is not a land grabber.

(c) The speaker got infuriated with Natalya for having called him a land grabber.

(d) He will not allow anybody to accuse him of having grabbed anyone's land.

10. "The peasants used the land for forty years and got accustomed to it as if it was their own..."

(a) Who speaks this line?

(b) Who is the speaker speaking to?

(c) Which land is being referred to?

(d) Who gave the free use of this land to whom?

Ans. (a) Lomov is speaking this line.

(b) Chubukov.

(c) Oxen Meadows

(d) The grandmother of Loom's aunt gave its free use to the peasants of Chubukov's grandfather.

11. "It true, was 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 to the peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her."

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines?

(b) Who is he speaking to?

(c) What was the 'subject of dispute'?

(d) What did the peasants do for them?

Ans. (a) Lomov

(b) Natalya

(c) The ownership of Oxen Meadows.

(d) The peasants worked for forty years for them making bricks.

12. My dear fellow... I'm so glad, and so on... Yes, indeed, and all that sort of thing. [Embraces and kisses] I've been hoping for it for a long time. It has been my continual desire, (sheds a tear) and I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own. May God? we you both — His help and His love and so on, and so much hope — what am I behaving In this idiotic way for? I am off my balance with joy, absolutely off my balance! Oh, with all MY soul I'll go and call Natalya and all that.

(a) Name the speaker of the above lines.

- (b) Why is the speaker so happy?
- (c) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- (d) What purpose did the speaker initially suspect the guest had for visiting?

Or

- (a) Who is addressing who
- (b) Name the lesson an author?
- (c) Who is the speaker of the above lines?
- (d) What joy has made the speaker behave in an idiotic manner?

Ans. (a) Chubukov is the speaker

(b) Lomov has expressed his desire to marry Natalya, Chubukov's daughter.

(c) Chubukov

(d) He thought guest had come to borrow money.

Or

(a) 'Chubukov' to Lomov

(b) The Proposal, Anton Chekov

(c) Chubukov

(d) He is happy because Lomov has expressed his desire to marry Chubukov's daughter Natalya

13. I can make you a present of them myself because they are mine! Your behaviour, Ivan Vassilevitch, is strange, to say the least! Up to this, we have 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, you behave to us as if we were gipsies. Giving me my own land, indeed! No, really, that is not in all neighbourly my opinion, it is even impudent if you want to know.

- (a) Who is speaking to whom?
- (b) How had she helped her neighbour?
- (c) What did the speaker do last year?
- (d) What happened after that?

Ans. (a) Natalya is speaking to Lomov.

(b) She helped her neighbour by lending the threshing machine.

(c) She lent her threshing machine to her neighbour.

(d) They had to put off their own threshing till November.

14. Well, there! It's you, and papa said, "Go, there's a merchant come for his goods"

- (a) Who is the speaker of the above lines?
- (b) Why does the speaker's father mention the vision as 'a merchant come for his goods'?
- (c) Who is a speaker talking to?
- (d) What did Natalya's father say to her?

Ans. (a) Natalya

(b) Lomov had come to marry Natalya. Chubukov considered 'Lomov' as 'merle Natalya' as 'his goods'.

(c) Lomov

(d) There was a merchant to come for his goods.

15. You see my aunt's grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetual, peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for

- (a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- (b) What type of relationship has been described in these lines?
- (c) Who is the speaker speaking to?
- (d) What did the peasants do?

Ans. (a) Lomov

(b) They had a cordial relationship as they were neighbours.

(c) Natalya

(d) The peasants baked bricks for Lorne's aunt's grandmother.

16. We just get along somehow, my angel, thanks your prayers, and so on. Sit down, please do... Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling. My dear fellow, why are you so formal in your get-up?

- (a) Who is the speaker?
- (b) 'You shouldn't forget all about your neighbours' — what does the speaker wish to say here?
- (c) Who is the speaker speaking to———?
- (d) What did the speaker mean by 'so formal in your get-up' here?

Ans. (a) Chubukov

(b) Chubukov wishes to say that they are neighbours and hence should take care of each other.

(c) Lomov

(d) Chubukov wanted to suggest Lomov not to be formal in his get up. This was because, he was in his evening dress, gloves and so on.

17. 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.

(a) Who speaks the above lines and to whom?

(b) How much are the meadows worth?

(c) Who is the speaker of these lines?

(d) What is difficult for the speaker to believe?

Ans. (a) Lomov speaks these lines to Natalya.

(b) They worth perhaps 300 roubles.

(c) Natalya Stepanovna

(d) That the Meadows don't belong to the speaker.

VERY SHORT-ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer in one sentence each]

Q.1. Who is Lomov?

Ans. Lomov is a young landowner.

Q.2. Why did Lomov come to Chubukov's house?

Ans. Lomov came to Chubukov's house with a marriage proposal for Natalya.

Q.3. How old were Lomov and Natalya? [H.B.S.E. March 2017 (Set-C)]

Ans. Lomov was thirty-five years old and Natalya was twenty-five years old.

Q.4. Why is Lomov so eager to marry?

Ans. Lomov is so eager to marry because he is already over thirty-five.

Q.5. What disease does Lomov suffer from?

Ans. Lomov suffers from palpitations.

Q.6. What does Lomov quarrel over with Natalya for the first time?

Ans. Lomov quarrels over ownership the right of Oxen Meadows.

Q.7. What documents does Lomov offer to show Natalya?

Ans. He wants to show her the documents relating to the Oxen Meadows.

Q.8. Who has been using Oxen Meadows?

Ans. Peasants have been using Oxen Meadows.

Q.9. What do they quarrel over for the second time?

Ans. For the second time, they quarrel over the quality of their dogs.

Q.10. Who was Guess?

Ans. Guess was Lomov's pet dog.

Q.11. Who appears to be dead to Chubukov?

Ans. To Chubukov, Lomov appears to be dead.

Q.12. Did Lomov and Natalya get married ultimately?

Ans. Yes, they got married ultimately.

Q.13. How does Natalya react when she learns that Lomov had come to propose her?

Ans. She weeps and yells and asks her father to fetch his hack.

Short Answer Type Important Questions

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

1. What do you think would have been Chubukov's reaction on hearing the reason for which Lomov had come to his house?

Ans. When Chubukov came to know that the reason of Lomov's coming to their house is to marry Natalya, he was overwhelmed with joy. He embraced and kissed Lomov and told him that he was hoping for it for a long time. He told Lomov that he had always loved him as if he was his own son.

2. What justification did Lomov give to Natalya and Chubukov to prove that he is the rightful owner of Meadows?

Ans. Lomov told Natalya and Chubukov that his aunt's grandmother gave the Meadows for the temporary and free use of Chubukov's grandfather's peasants. So he is the rightful owner of the open meadows.

3. Lomov was a quarrelsome person. Justify.

Ans. Lomov was a quarrelsome person. He came to Chubukov's house to propose Natalya. But he started arguing about the meadows and insisted that those meadows belonged to him. Later he kept on proving that his dog Squeezer is better than 'Guess' – the dog of Chubukov's. He

did not care for his health or his proposal but kept on fighting for one or the other reason. It proves that he was a quarrelsome person.

4. There is a certain way in which the characters speak in the play “The Proposal”. What does it tell us about the Russian men?

Ans. As the story belongs to the Russian character. So through the dialogues of the characters, we come to know a lot about Russian man. According to the story the Russians are very particular about their dress and have particular dresses for the special occasion. Secondly, they are hypocrites. They show off to be sweet but the very next moment, they started fighting. They pretend to be good neighbours but within their heart, they have so many grudges. They love to have dogs as a pet and consider their pet better than the other one. All of them are stubborn, short-tempered, quarrelsome and rigid.

5. Describe, in brief, the character of Natalya as sketched in the chapter the proposal.

Ans. Natalya was 25 years old, daughter of Chubukov. She was a good housekeeper, not bad looking and well educated. She secretly loved Lomov. She was greedy and short-sighted. She was short-tempered as well.

6. Lomov went to Chubukov’s house and was seeking permission so that he could trouble him with a request. What is the trouble that he is talking about?

Ans. Lomov went to Chubukov’s house to ask him to marry his daughter, Natalya. He asked Chubukov for Natalya’s hand. This is the trouble he was talking about.

7. Natalya was not Lomov’s real love. But still, he wanted to marry her. Give two reasons for his decision.

Ans. Though Lomov was not in love with Natalya, he wanted to marry her because he was suffering due to a weak heart and sleep-sickness. He wanted a companion who could look after him.

8. Lomov calls himself a ‘land grabber’. Justify the statement in about 20-25 words.

Ans. Lomov and Natalya argue over the ownership of Oxen Meadows. Natalya calls him a ‘land grabber’ as he claims his ownership over it.

Lomov says that he is not a ‘land grabber’ as he has never done so and would never let anyone do so.

9. How and why did Lomov come to meet the Chubukov family?

Ans. Lomov came in a formal evening dress — wearing a jacket and white gloves. He had come to meet the Chubukov family to put his proposal for Natalya. He wanted to marry her.

10. How can you say that Natalya was not convinced that Oxen Meadows were owned by Lomov?

Ans. Natalya was not convinced as she said that they owned Oxen Meadows for nearly 300 years. It was surprising and ridiculous if someone else claimed it to be his own. Chubukov also joined the quarrel.

11. What did Natalya say about Guess?

Ans. Natalya said that Squeezer was superior to Guess — Lomov’s dog. Lomov said that his dog Guess was better than Squeezer. Natalya believed that Guess had become old and ought to be shot. She also claimed that Squeezer was a hundred times better than Guess.

12. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Or

Why was Stephan Chubukov not happy to welcome Lomov in his house?

Ans. Lomov arrives in a formal evening dress. On seeing him, Chubukov thinks that he has come to borrow money. He decides not to lend it to him but talks to him quite politely.

13. What is the ailment that Lomov is suffering from?

Ans. Lomov is 35 years old. It is high time that he should settle for a quiet and regular life. He is suffering due to a weak heart and sleep-sickness. In need of a companion who may look after him, he wants to get married.

14. What request did Lomov make to Chubukov?

Ans. Lomov went to Chubukov in a formal dress in order to propose marriage to his daughter, Natalya. Hesitatingly he told Chubukov that he needed his help and had come to trouble him with a request. He told him that he wanted to marry Natalya.

Q.15. Describe Lomov’s first meeting with Natalya.

Ans. Lomov goes to his neighbour Chubukov's house to ask for the hand of his daughter Natalya. He is in a fix how to make the marriage proposal. He talks in a roundabout manner. He makes a mention of his meadows which touch their birchwoods. At this, a quarrel ensues between them over the ownership rights the meadows.

Q.16. What kind of a man is Lomov?

Ans. Lomov is a man of thirty-five years old. He is really a very funny and comical character. He comes to make a proposal to Natalya. But he is so nervous and excitable that he continues quarrelling with the girl over trifles, and fails to make the proposal. He has no confidence and no self-control. He suffers from the fits of epilepsy.

Q.17. Who is the heroine of the play?

Ans. Natalya is the heroine of the play 'The Proposal'. She is twenty-five years old. She is still unmarried. It causes a great worry to her father. Natalya wishes that somebody should love her and propose to her. Her father calls her 'a love-sick cat'.

Q.18. Why does the proposal remain unmade during Lomov's first visit?

Ans. The proposal remains unmade during Lomov's first visit because Lomov is very much nervous and excitable. He beats about the bush. When Natalya comes Lomov begins to quarrel with her about a piece of land. He gets very much excited and leaves the room, cursing and threatening the old man and his daughter, Natalya. He forgets all about the proposal.

Q.19. Why is Natalya is so anxious to marry Lomov?

Ans. Natalya is an ugly, middle-aged woman. She knows that only a fool like Lomov can marry her. So, the moment she comes to know that Lomov had come to propose for her hand, she cries and shouts and forces her father to bring Lomov back.

Q.20. How does Chubukov join the quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?

Ans. Chubukov comes in and finds Natalya and Lomov quarrelling. When he finds that they are brawling about the ownership of the Oxen Meadows, he also becomes angry. Instead of calming them down, he

also starts quarrelling. He claims to be the owner of the Meadows. He insults not only Lomov but also his ancestors.

Q.21. What is the cause of the second quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?

Ans. Lomov starts praising the qualities of the dog Guess. But Natalya says that her dog sq which she purchased for 85 roubles is much better than Lomov's dog Guess. Both of them praise the qualities of their dogs. Now they start quarrelling on this topic. They again start shouting at each other.

Q.22. What is Chubukov guess about the purpose of Lomov's visit?

Ans. Lomov calms himself down and begins to tell him the purpose of his visit. He tells him that he came to him many times in the past also for his help but he did not help him. Chubukov thinks that perhaps he has come to ask for a loan. He makes up his mind not to help him in any way.

Q.23. Why is Lomov anxious to marry Natalya?

Ans. Lomov wants to settle the question of his marriage at once. He thinks that now he should not delay. He thinks about Natalya. She is a skilled house-keeper. She is educated and is not bad to look at. At this age, he should not expect a better girl than her. He is suffering from some serious diseases. Because of these reasons, he is anxious to marry Natalya.

Q.24. Why was Lomov brought back by Chubukov?

Ans. Chubukov wondered how Lomov dared to make a proposal of marriage. Natalya was startled to hear it. She forced her father to bring Lomov back. Chubukov rushed out most unwillingly to request Lomov to come back. Lomov agreed to come back.

Q.25. How does Lomov behave when he is excited?

Ans. When Lomov is excited his heart starts palpitating. His right eyebrow starts twitching. His foot goes to sleep. In the play, he becomes so excited that he falls unconscious.

Q.26. How does Natalya lay claim to the piece of land called the 'Oxen Meadows'?

Ans. Natalya says that the land belonged to her family for the last three hundred years. Now suddenly Lomov lays his claim to that land. She

says that the land is not worth much in terms of money. But as a principle, she won't let Lomov claim it.

Important Long/ Detailed Answer Type Questions- to be answered in about 100 -150 words each

1. Neighbours must have a cordial relationship which Lomov and Natalya do not have. Describe the first between them.

Ans. Neighbours must have a cordial relationship which Lomov and have. Although he had come there to propose Natalya he started fighting with her over a small piece of land. This land adjoined her land and his oxen meadows touched her birch woods. Natalya told Lomov that Lomov tried meadows belonged to her but Lomov claimed that in the oxen meadows are his. Convince Natalya by telling her that his aunt's grandmother gave the meadows for the temporary and free use to Chubukov's grandfather's peasants. They did not demand money for it for a long time so the Chubukov's misunderstood that the meadows belonged to them. While Chubukov's insisted that yelling could not prove anything because everyone knows that meadows belong to Chubukov's since last three hundred years. Both threatened each other.

2. The proposal was forgotten amidst argumentation. Which right approach should have been followed by both parties?

Ans. Lomov came to Chubukovs to propose Natalya. Both are neighbours and at the right age to marry. But instead of forwarding the proposal both of them started fighting over truffles. Firstly they fought over a small piece of land called oxen meadows both of them claimed that the land belonged to them and not the other one. Somehow the argument came to an end and they started fighting over dogs and claimed each of their dog better than the other ones. The proposal was forgotten amidst all these arguments. The situation might be different if both the parties had followed the right approach. Oxen meadows would belong to both of them if they got married. Similarly, dogs are the very petty thing to argue about while marriage is going to take place. There should not be any ego in between of them both. They should be polite and patient to each other. They should not be rigid and stubborn. Their

priority should be their marriage and not meadows or dogs. Only the proposal could be carried on.

3.”The way Chubukov, Natalya and Lomov fought over petty issues is against the behaviour and mannerisms of good neighbours.”

Comment. What would you have done to resolve the issue? (if you were in the place of Chubukov)

Ans. Lomov and Chubukovs were neighbours. Lomov came to Chubukovs to propose Natalya. But instead of proposing they started fighting over petty issues like oxen meadows and quality of dogs. This is not the quality of good neighbours. Neighbours should live like friends. There should be a positive relationship between the two neighbours. There should be understanding and patience among neighbours. The fight between Looms and Chubukovs could have been avoided if handled carefully. The issue of meadows could be resolved calmly and quietly by a good conversation. There must have been some documents showing the ownership of the meadows or both the parties could be convinced by making them understand that if they got married, the meadows will belongs to both of them.

Similarly, the issues of dog could be solved instead of counting the negative points of each other’s dogs. They can discuss the positive features of the dogs. Thus the issues could be resolved.

4. Why does Lomov think of marrying he should settle into a quiet and regular Natalya Stepanovna

Ans. Lomov was 35 years old. It was high time that life IV moreover, he was suffering d In order to put his proposal to Natalya, due to a weak heart and sleeplessness. He wanted company and file one to look after him, so he wanted to get married he visited Chubukov. However, Lomov was not in love with Natalya. Besides his ill health, he understood quite well that she was an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, and well-educated. Thus, he thought of marrying her because of all these practical reasons.

5. Write a brief character sketch of Lomov.

Ans. Lomov is a man who is of marriageable age. He also suffers from a weak heart and sleeplessness. So, he is desperate to settle down in life and lead a quiet and regular life. Despite his ailments, Lomov was a rich

and prosperous farmer. This makes Chubukov secretly wish him to marry his daughter Natalya. As for Lomov, he did not love her, though he was desperate to have a life partner, and so marry Natalya. Lomov was however hesitant to ask for her hand from Chubukov. That made him beat around the bush, argue with Natalya and leave without proposing. Thus we can find that Loom's conditions overpower the other traits he has. He is an eligible, assertive, rich, bachelor, who will be liked by any girl. However, we also know that he is nervous, lacks confidence and is prone to talk in a long-winded manner.

6. Describe how Chubukov got Natalya married with Lomov.

Ans. Chubukov was thinking that Lomov had come to borrow money from him but when he told him that he had come to propose to his daughter he was overjoyed and even shed a tear. He kissed and embraced Lomov. He told Lomov that he was hoping it for a long time. He also told Lomov that he loved him as his own son.

In fact, Chubukov, secretly wished Lomov to marry his dither as he knew that Lomov was a rich and prosperous farmer and his only daughter could lead a comfortable life with him. No wonder, he was overjoyed to know that Lomov was there to propose to his daughter.

7. Describe the incidents of humour in the play, 'The Proposal'?

Ans. 'The Proposal' is certainly a humorous play. The very entry of Lomov in a formal I dress and the way Chubukov greets calling him 'darling', 'my treasure' or 'my beauty' make one laugh. Marriage proposal, supposed to be romantic turns to be humorous as the way Natalya and Lomov indulge in arguments over petty issues like ownership of Oxen Meadows and superiority of dogs makes the play humorous. The critical terms that the characters I use for each other like a scarecrow, turnip ghost, blind hen, stuffed sausage, etc., force one to laugh. The hysterical fit of Natalya when she comes to know about the proposal and the wailing of father and daughter when they think Lomov is dead create immense humour. Finally, the way Natalya puts her hand in Loom's under continuous arguments indicating acceptance of the proposal is really humorous. Thus we see that the whole play is replete with humour, making it a humorous play.

8. Give a brief character sketch of Natalya.

Ans. Natalya was 25 years old and the daughter of Chubukov. She was a good housekeeper, not bad to look at and educated; that was why Lomov wanted to marry her. She could be a good wife to him.

She secretly loved Lomov. She became hysterical when she came to know that Lomov had come to propose to her. She asked her father to call him back. To please Lomov she asked him to forgive her and agreed to his ownership of the Oxen Meadows.

She was greedy and short-sighted. She got the whole field of hay cut. She was also very inquisitive and wanted to know why Lomov was dressed up formally.

She was touchy and short-tempered and fell into contradiction and argument on two occasions—once over the ownership of Oxen Meadows and second time over the superiority of her dog Squeezer. She is as rigid as Lomov. She is not ready to give up even after getting ready to marry him.

Q.9. Bring out the humorous element in the one-act play ‘The Proposal’.

Ans. The one-act play ‘The Proposal’ is full of the humorous element. The characters in the play behave ridiculously. Lomov comes to propose to Natalya. But he cannot talk in a straight forward manner. He beats about the bush. He starts quarrelling with her over a piece of land. When he comes back, he quarrels about the superiority of his dog. Chubukov is also a humorous character. He knows that Lomov has come to ask for his daughter’s hand in marriage. Even when he quarrels with him. We laugh at the words used by them and their behaviour. The sudden marriage of Lomov and Natalya creates laughter. Chubukov puts his daughter’s hand in Lomov’s in a foolish manner. Lomov is a comic character. His complaints about his poor health provoke laughter. Thus the play gives us a lot of laughter.

Q.10. Draw a brief character-sketch of Natalya.

Ans. Natalya is the heroine of the play ‘The Proposal’. She is twenty-five years old. She is still unmarried. It causes a great worry to her father. Natalya wishes that somebody should love her and propose to her. Her father calls her ‘a love-sick cat.’

She is very quarrelsome. She quarrels with others over trifles. Lomov comes to propose to her, but she starts quarrelling with him over the ownership of a piece of land. Lomov leaves her house in a fit of anger. When she comes to know that he had come to propose to her, she starts weeping. She asks her father to bring him back. When Lomov comes back, she tries to please him. But after some time, she starts quarrelling with him on the question of dogs. Lomov faints and she again begins to wail lest she should lose the opportunity for marriage. After some time, Lomov regains consciousness. Her father does not want to lose this opportunity. He at once puts Natalya's hand in the hands of Lomov. He announces that they are engaged to each other. Natalya becomes very happy. But she again starts quarrelling with him. Thus Natalya is an interesting character.

Q11. Describe the first meeting of Lomov and Natalya.

Ans. Lomov goes to his neighbour Chubukov's house to ask for the hand of his daughter Natalya. When he talks to Natalya, he becomes nervous. He is in a fix how to make the marriage proposal. He talks in a round-about manner. He beats about the bush. He makes a mention of his meadows which touch their birchwoods. At this, a quarrel ensues between them over the ownership of the meadows. Both of them claim the ownership and start rebuking each other. In the meantime, Chubukov comes there. Instead of pacifying them, he also joins the quarrel. He abuses Lomov which worsens the situation. Lomov is deeply upset. He leaves Chubukov's house and forgets about the marriage proposal.

Q.12. Give a short character sketch of Lomov.

Ans. Lomov is the hero of the One Act Play 'The Proposal'. He is a land-owner. He is a funny character. He is a young man of thirty-five years. He becomes nervous very soon. He loses his temper whenever he is upset. He looks very funny when he complains about his ill-health. He is short-tempered. He quarrels with Natalya over the ownership of a piece of land. He also quarrels with her over the superiority of his dog. He loses temper and starts abusing Chubukov. He loses control over himself and faints in a fit of anger. Lomov is a funny and foolish character. We laugh at his dress, manners and behaviour. Lomov is a bachelor even at the age of thirty-five. He wants to marry Natalya not

out of love but because he is already a grown-up man. He has no sense of beauty. He wants to marry Natalya only because she is a good housekeeper.

Q.13. What is the theme of the play ‘The Proposal’?

Ans. The One Act play ‘The Proposal’ throws light on the lifestyle of the landlords of Russia in the 19th century. The farm labourers worked on their farms. So these landlords led a life of ease and comfort. In fact, they led an idle life. They were full of vanity and pride. They quarrelled over petty things. In the play, we see that Lomov and Natalya have a dispute over a piece of land. They quarrel again over the qualities of their dogs. Chubukov, Natalya’s father, instead of pacifying them, joins them. He and Lomov abuse each other. All of them behave in a very funny way. The play also brings to light the social life of the landowners of the 19th century. An unmarried grown-up daughter was considered a great burden by the parents. Chubukov curses himself for being the father of Natalya. An aged bachelor was also looked down upon in the society. This theme has been presented nicely through the characters of Lomov and Natalya.