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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**NCERT SOLUTIONS-First Flight**  
**The Proposal**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 157 Thinking about the Play**

**Answer1:** At first, Chubukov suspected that Lomov had come to borrow money. He was not sincere when he told Lomov that he had always loved him and that he was like his own son. He had decided that he would not give Lomov any money if he tried borrowing from him. If he truly meant what he had said, then he would not have thought of not giving him money. He said so only because Lomov had come with the proposal to marry his daughter.

**Answer2:** Chubukov thought that Lomov was a good marriage prospect for his daughter. He had been **waiting** for this proposal. When Lomov expressed his doubt regarding Natalya's consent to the proposal, Chubukov immediately told him that she was in love with him. However, this was not true. Natalya did not seem to be in love with Lomov at any point in the play. It seemed like she was more attached to her land, meadows and dogs than to Lomov. In fact, the way they kept getting into arguments about trivial matters suggests that neither Lomov nor Natalya was in love with the other.

**Answer3:** (i) Several words and expressions have been used by the characters to describe each other. Some of them are as follows:

Chubukov: grabber; intriguer; old rat; Jesuit

Natalya: a lovesick cat; an excellent housekeeper; not bad-looking, well-educated

Lomov: a good neighbour; a friend; impudent; pettifogger; a malicious, double-faced intriguer; rascal; blind hen; turnip-ghost; a villain; a scarecrow; monster; the stuffed sausage; the wizen-faced frump; boy; pup; milksop; fool

**Thinking about the Language**

**Answer (I):** 1. Expressions not used in contemporary English

1. "my darling", "my beauty", "my precious", "my angel", "my beloved" (here, an older man is addressing an adult man)
2. "...and so on..." (here, it is used after a sentence in order to complete it)
3. "...and all that sort of thing." (not explaining what it is, just leaving it as it is)
4. "...and all that." (again leaving the sentence as it is)
5. "the scarecrow", "the stuffed sausage", "the wizen-faced frump" (In this way, they hurled insults at each other)
6. "And how may you be getting on?" (Here, Lomov is asking Chubukov about his well-being)

Modern English expressions

1. "Madam", "my heart", "honoured Natalya Stepanovna" (used by Lomov for Natalya)
  2. "Honoured Stepan Stepanovitch" (used by Lomov for Chubukov)
  3. "I beg your pardon..."
  4. "My dear fellow" (Chubukov addressing Lomov)
  5. "malicious, double-faced intriguer", "fool" (Chubukov insulting Lomov)
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**Answer (III):**

- (i) You may take it that I am lying, but in fact it will help you in the long run.
- (ii) He seems to be coming round after the trauma of his father's death.
- (iii) After the three hour long yoga session, my foot's gone to sleep.

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**Answer (II):**

1. To report a question, we use the reporting verb asked.
2. To report a declaration, we use the reporting verb declared.
3. The adverb of place *here* changes to there.
4. When the verb in direct speech is in the present tense, the verb in reported speech is in the past tense.
5. If the verb in direct speech is in the present continuous tense, the verb in reported speech changes to past continuous tense. For example, am getting changes to *was getting*.
6. When the sentence in direct speech contains a word denoting respect, we add the adverb respectfully in the reporting clause.
7. The pronouns I, me, our and mine, which are used in the first person in direct speech, change to second person pronouns such as he/she, him/her, their or his/hers in reported speech.

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**Answer (III):** 90-year-old A.K. Hangal, one of Hindi cinema's most famous character actors, laughingly asked why we wanted to know his age. If people knew he was that old, he would not get work. For his age, he is rather energetic. We asked him what the secret was. He replied that his intake of everything was in small quantities and he walked a lot. He said that he had joined the industry when people retired. He had been in his 40s. So he did not miss being called a star. He was still respected and given work, when actors of his age were living in poverty and without work. He said he did not have any complaints, adding that he had always been underpaid. Recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Hangal never hankered after money or materialistic gains. He said that no doubt he was content at present, but money was important. He said regretfully that he was a fool not to understand the value of money before.

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