

The Proposal

Q.1:- Describe the theme of the play the Proposal?

Ans:- The Proposal (originally titled A Marriage Proposal) is a one-act farce by Russian writer Anton Chekhov. The play humorously shows how wealthy families often seek to form connections with other wealthy families to increase their land and wealth, supporting marriages based on money rather than love.

Another main theme is the issue of Natalya's marriage. As Chubukov's adult daughter, she is a source of worry for her father. Luckily, Lomov, Chubukov's neighbour, comes to propose to Natalya. However, they soon start arguing over who owns Oxen Meadows, and the argument shifts to a quarrel about their dogs. The play hints that parents should help guide their children's behavior, as small issues can sometimes become serious problems if not handled properly..

Q.2:- Character Sketch of Lomov.

Ans:- Lomov is the central character in the play *The Proposal*. He is a 35-year-old bachelor, a neighbour to Chubukov, and owns a considerable amount of land. Physically, he is weak and suffers from heart palpitations. He also experiences a psychological issue, as he sometimes feels a pull on his left side while sleeping. Lomov is easily nervous and gets agitated over ordinary matters. He is short-tempered, lacks self-control, and quickly becomes irritated. This is evident when he begins arguing with Chubukov and Natalya over the ownership of Oxen Meadows.

Lomov is also timid and shows a lack of self-respect and integrity. Despite being expelled from Chubukov's house, he returns when called back. Overall, Lomov's character is comical and exaggerated, which suits the purpose of the play, as it is a farce.

Q.3: Character Sketch of Natalya:

Ans: Natalya is a character in the play and a 25-year-old unmarried daughter of Chubukov. She is attractive, well-educated, and a good housekeeper. When she enters the room, she warmly greets Lomov. However, she is also moody, impulsive, and overly emotional. Natalya is quick-tempered and quarrelsome. She starts arguing with Lomov even

when he has come to propose to her. She lacks a sense of responsibility and often thinks highly of herself and her belongings. For example, she believes her dog is better than Lomov's, and she even argues with him about it. This shows her lack of refinement and maturity in her conversations .

Q.4:- Character Sketch of Chubukov.

Or

Describe Chubukov's plight as father of a grown-up daughter.

Ans: In the play *The Proposal*, Chubukov earns our sympathy. He is put in an awkward position by his whimsical and moody daughter, who frequently embarrasses him. His biggest concern is to see his daughter married.

Chubukov, a wealthy landlord, lives near Lomov. He is somewhat hypocritical in his behavior. When Lomov arrives, Chubukov initially greets him warmly, thinking he might be there to borrow money, and quickly decides not to lend any. However, his attitude changes as soon as he realizes Lomov has come to propose to his daughter. Excited, he even calls his daughter a "love-sick cat." Chubukov appears overly

eager to marry her off, viewing it as a way to relieve himself of the responsibility.

Chubukov is not portrayed as a realistic character. His exaggerated actions and unusual behavior suggests that he is a farcical character, fitting the comedic tone of the play.

Q.5: Describe the first quarrel (Scene) between Lomov and Natalya.

Ans: Lomov and Chubukov are neighbours. Lomov visits Chubukov's house to propose to his daughter, Natalya. However, instead of addressing his purpose, Lomov begins discussing unrelated topics. He first mentions that he inherited his land from his aunt, and then notes that the Oxen Meadows border Natalya's Birchwoods. Natalya immediately claims that the Oxen Meadows belong to her family, sparking a heated argument over the ownership of the land. As Lomov and Natalya argue, Chubukov joins in, escalating the quarrel instead of calming them down. In the midst of the dispute, Lomov forgets to propose. He eventually threatens to take the matter to court. The

argument only stops when Lomov begins feeling unwell and stumbles out of Chubukov's house.

Q.6: Describe the second quarrel (Scene) between Lomov and Natalya.

Ans: The second quarrel is about their pet dogs. Both Natalya and Lomov claim that their dog is better than the other's. Lomov says he paid 125 rubles for his dog, Guess, but Natalya argues that this is too high a price. Lomov insists that Guess is a top-quality dog, while Natalya counters that her dog, Squeezie, is much better. Chubukov joins in and starts quarrelling with Lomov as well. Lomov calls Chubukov an "old rat," and Chubukov threatens to kill him "like a partridge." The fight only ends when Lomov faints and collapses into an armchair, unconscious.