



# THE PROPOSAL



**Introduction:** In the opening scene, Lomov, dressed to impress, enters Chubukov's house to propose, setting the stage for a comedic tale filled with misunderstandings and heated exchanges.

## **Lomov's Proposal Intentions:**

Lomov's intention to propose for Chubukov's daughters, Natalya's hand in marriage, unfolds, shrouded in Chubukov's initial assumption of a financial request.

## **Turbulent Family Dynamics:**

As the conversation progresses, the discussion shifts to property disputes, particularly the Oxen Meadows, leading to a heated exchange, with Chubukov unwittingly exposing his own failed proposal for Natalya.

## **Dramatic Expulsion and Regret:**

Amidst shouting and banishment, Natalya realizes her hasty decision, regretting sending Lomov away. Chubukov laments his role as a father in exacerbating the situation.

## **Revived Proposal and Unsettled Disputes:**

Lomov's return sparks new debates, shifting from property disputes to the comparison of dogs. Despite palpitations and chaos, Chubukov unites the couple, sealing the deal with an unexpected kiss.

## **Conclusion:**

The Proposal unfolds as a satirical exploration of marriage, wealth, and familial expectations, highlighting the absurdity of misunderstandings and the peculiar dynamics that arise in the pursuit of love and fortune.

## Extract Based Questions:

A. " 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 real love, then I'll never get married. Brr... It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. [Drinks]And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35 - a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow. But the very worst of all is the way I sleep. I no sooner get into bed and begin to go off, when suddenly something in my left side gives a pull, and I can feel it in my shoulder and head... I jump up like a lunatic, walk about a bit, and lie down again, but as soon as I begin to get off to sleep there's another pull! And this may happen twenty times..

**Q1. Who is saying, "I'm trembling all over as if I had got an examination before me"?**

**Ans.** Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov

**Q2. What is the great thing that the speaker is talking about?**

**Ans.** The speaker is talking about real love and marriage.

**Q3. What state of Lomov's mind does the passage reflect?**

**Ans.** His mind reflects that way he would never get married because it is difficult to get an idea of real love.

**Q4. Why did Lomov not want to wait for real love?**

**Ans.** This was because he was anxious to get married.

B. "Lomov; He Is old, but / wouldn't take five squeezers for nim. way, now 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 almost every bush. Twenty-five rubles would be a handsome price to pay for

**Q1. Who does 'he' refer to, "He is old"?**

**Ans.** He refers to 'Guess' the dog.

**Q2. Whom does Squeezer belong to?**

**Ans.** Squeezer belongs to Chubukovs.

**Q3. Who is the speaker of these lines?**

**Ans.** Lomov

**Q4. What would be a handsome price to pay for Squeezer?**

**Ans.** It would be twenty-five roubles.

## Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. Lomov was a quarrelsome person. Justify.**

**Answer:** 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. 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.

**2. There is a certain way in which the characters speak in the play "The Proposal". What does it tell us about the Russian men?**

**Answer:** As the story belongs to the Russian character. So through the characters' dialogue, we learn a lot about Russian men. According to the story the Russians are very particular about their dress and have particular dresses for special occasions. Secondly, they are hypocrites. They show off to be sweet but the very next moment, they start fighting. They pretend to be good neighbors but within their hearts, they have so many grudges. They love having dogs as pets and consider their pet better than the others. All of them are stubborn, short-tempered, quarrelsome and rigid.

**3. What did Natalya say about Guess?**

**Answer:** 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 a Guess.

**4. Why does the proposal remain unmade during Lomov's first visit?**

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

### **5. Who are Lomov and Chubukov and how are they related to each other?**

**Answer:** Lomov and Chubukov are landlords. They are neighbours too. According to Lomov, he has been coming to Chubukov for help. Chubukov has helped him even earlier. There seems to be a dispute over the ownership of Oxen Meadows. Each one claims that the land belongs to him. Lomov is interested in marrying Chubukov's daughters, Natalya and considers her a suitable match for her.

### **6. How does Chubukov join the quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?**

**Answer:** Chubukov comes in and finds Natalya and Lomov quarreling. When he finds that they are `unveiling the ownership of the Oxen Meadows. he also becomes angry. Instead of calming them down. he also starts quarreling. He claims to be the owner of the Meadows. He insults not only Lomov but also his ancestors.

### **7. What is the cause of the second quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?**

**Answer:** 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.

### **8. Why does Lomov come to Chubukov? How does Chubukov react to his visit?**

**Answer:** Lomov, a landlord, pays a visit to Chubukov. The purpose of his visit is quite clear. He has come with a proposal of marriage. He is interested in marrying Natalya who he considers a good housekeeper and not bad looking. Chubukov misunderstands the purpose of Lomov's visit. He thinks that he has come to borrow money from him. However, when he comes to know that he has come with a marriage proposal, he is overjoyed and excited.

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

**Answer:** Lomov came to Chubukovs to propose Natalya. Both are neighbors 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 was better than the other ones. The proposal was forgotten amidst all these arguments. The situation might have been different if both parties had followed the right approach. Oxen meadows would belong to both of them if they got married. Similarly, dogs are a very petty thing to argue about while marriage is going to take place. There should not be any ego between them. 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.

**10. Describe how Chubukov got Natalya married with Lomov.**

**Answer:** 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.