



Story 4th

Out of Business

Q1. What was Rama Roa's business? How did it collapse?

Ans. Rama Roa did not have any big business. He worked as the Malgudi agent of a gramophone company. He had deposited the little money he had inherited with the company as security. For five years his business brought him enough money to help him keep his wife and children in good comfort. But then suddenly the company collapsed.

The gramophone company, which had its factory somewhere in Northern India, automatically collapsed when a bank in Lahore crashed, which was itself the result of a Bombay financier's death.

Q2. What effect did the collapse of Rama Roa's business have on him and his family?

Ans. Rama Roa suddenly found himself in the streets. At first he could hardly understand the full significance of this collapse. There was a little money in the bank and he had some stock on hand. But the stock moved out slowly. He could not even get back his security from the gramophone company. Rama Roa's wife tried some measures of economy. She sent away the cook and the servant, withdrew the children from a fashionable nursery school and sent them to a primary school. And they let out their bungalow and moved to a very small house behind the market. Rama Roa moved from pillar to post in search of a job for him, but all in vain. Thus, the condition of the family went from bad to worse.

Q3. What is the stock referred to in line 13?

Ans. Rama Roa worked as Malgudi agent of a gramophone company. He dealt in the gramophone records manufactured by this company. The 'stock' referred to here is the stock of gramophone records he had on hand with him when the company failed.

Q4. Why did Rama Roa worry less about his family after 'he' came across the captain?

Ans. The Captain was the name of journal. It consisted of four pages and all them were devoted to crossword puzzles. It offered every week a first puzzle of four thousand rupees. For the next few days his head was free from family cares as he was intensely thinking of his answers for the puzzles. After sending down his solutions, he would wait for the results. He had all hope of winning the prize. But he was badly disappointed when the results came. Week after week he invested a little money and sent down his solutions, and every week he waited the results with a palpitating heart. All the time Rama Roa remained lost in thinking of the answers to be filled in the puzzles. He became indifferent to his wife and children.



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RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Q5. Why did Rama Rao decide to send in at least four entries for the 'special offer crossword competition'?

Ans. Before this competition, Rama Rao had been sending his single entry for the crossword puzzles week after week. He always hoped to win a prize but never got any. One day, when he caught the sight of a special offer of eight thousand rupees in the journal, he was excited. As he badly needed money, he didn't want to lose it. He studied the puzzle thoroughly. There were only four doubtful corners in it. This time he did not want to take risk. He didn't want to leave anything to chance. He wanted to be sure of winning a prize. So, he decided to send in at least four entries this time.

Q6. Why did Rama Roa plan to go to Madras?

Ans. Rama Roa had sent in four solutions for the special offer crossword puzzle competition. This time he was dead sure of winning a prize because there were only four doubtful corners and he had covered them all by sending four entries. With this certainty, he started making plans for future. He thought he would send away the tenants and take his wife and children back to the bungalow. He would leave all the prize money in his wife's hands for her to manage the home affairs and run the family for a couple of years. For himself, he would take only a small amount and go away to Madras. There he would try to find some profitable work for himself. That was why Rama Roa planned to go to Madras.

Q7. What made Rama Roa believe that God had shown him mercy?

Ans. Rama Roa had tried his best to find a job for himself, but all in vain. He then sent in the solutions for the crossword puzzles with the hope to win. But here too he could not win. He had now all hope that he would win a big prize in the 'special offer crossword competition'. This time he had taken no chances. But when the results came, there was no prize for him. It was too big a shock for him. He decided to end his life on the railway line. He lay down across the railway line. A train was due in a few minutes. Rama Roa kept lying for quite some time, but the train didn't come. He got tired and rose up. He walked towards the station. Rama Roa came to know that there had been an accident in which a goods train had derailed. As a result the train was three hours late. Thus Rama Rao was sure that God had shown him mercy.

Q8. How did Rama Roa alternate between hope and despair?

Ans. Rama Roa desperately tried to overcome his financial difficulties. He followed the short cut method of solving the crossword puzzles. He would send an entry every week and then wait for the results. But when the results came, he would remain in a state of shock. The only way to forget about it was to plunge into the next week's puzzle. He would give all time to the thinking of correct solutions. There would begin another week of hope after he had sent in his entry. But this hope would again change into despair when the results came. Thus Rama Rao alternated between hope and despair.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Writing Work:

Q9. Keeping in view the theme of the story, do you think that short cut methods should be followed in life? Why?

Ans. Man is the crown of creations. He should not lose hope at any stage. Even if success eludes him for some time, he should not get despaired. He should keep his calm and try hard for success. He can succeed only if he plans his actions. There are people who use some shortcuts to do something and ignore sustained efforts. Short cuts may give some success but it is all temporary. There is a risk involved in short cut methods. If we work and put in sustained efforts, we are sure to win and feel satisfied. A sustained effort is the only key to real and everlasting success. Therefore, we must never form the habit of following short cut methods. This is what we learn from Rama Rao's story. He follows short cut methods to overcome his financial problems. These methods ultimately take him to the railway line. It is only God's mercy that holds up the train. Otherwise, Rama Rao's shortcut methods would have cut his life short.

Q10. Give character sketch of Rama Rao.

Ans. Rama Rao is a caring father and husband. Rama Rao works in a gramophone company. He has wife and children whom he loves very much. He lives a comfortable life. But one day his business collapses. He finds himself in the streets. Rama Rao goes from pillar to post in search of a job for himself. But all in vain. He now becomes a symbol of despair. He loses courage. He desperately needs a job to feed his family. But he cannot find one. He follows a short cut method of solving puzzles to solve the problems of his life. But he fails there too. He is in utter hopelessness. He does not know what to do. Finally, he decides to commit suicide. But it is God's mercy that saves him. We feel sorry for him over his pitiable condition. But one thing worth to be noted is that he does not maintain his cool to fight out the crisis. Instead he resorts to shortcut methods that ruin him. He never thinks about solving his problems by any other way.

Q11. What is the theme of the story 'Out of business'?

Ans. The story, 'out of business' has a very clear theme that we should not follow shortcut methods in life to solve our problems. These become the cause of our ruin. A short cut method means doing something quickly. It is said that haste makes waste. When we are in haste, we are sure to commit mistakes. Shortcut approach is not a sound approach for any work. Instead we must understand that the real success lies in the sustained efforts and hard work. Dedication and honesty give us strength. We should maintain our cool and fight out the crisis. There is no substitute to hard work. It pays in the long run.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Story 5

The servant

Q. Why did Gerasim been going about in vain in the village?

Ans. Gerasim had been called to the village for military duty, but he was not drafted (selected). So he had nothing to do in the village. Life in the village seemed dull to him. He was not used to village life. From the early boyhood, he had been living in Moscow, so, living in the village, he didn't feel happy. He felt that he had been wandering about the village in vain.

Q. Where had he been working? Why did he return to his village?

Ans. Gerasim had been working under a merchant in Moscow.

He returned his village to join military duty but he was not drafted (selected) there.

Q. What did the coachman tell Gerasim when he narrated his story?

Ans. When Gerasim narrated his story, the coachman started giving him a long sermon on honesty and faithfulness. He said that worker's don't serve their employers whole heartedly. They serve them so-so, that the employers have no good opinion of them. That is why when they come back again for the job, they are refused. The coachman said that we should work in a way that our employers miss us when we leave them. And if we come back again, they would at once dismiss the man who has taken our place. Thus he told Gerasim indirectly that if he had served his master sincerely, he would not have to hanker for a job now. Moreover, he told him that he would request his master to give him some employment.

Q. How did the coachman persuade his master to employ Gerasim?

Ans. The coachman had an oily tongue. He first tried to convince his master that it was no longer worth to keep Polikarpych as a servant. He had become too old to do his job well. Moreover being clever Yagor told many lies about Polikarpych to his master. The coachman painted polikarpych in a very dark colors. He was perfect in his glib art. Thus succeeded at last in persuading his master to dismiss polikarpych and employ Gerasim who, he said, was a young man from his village and was without a job. He told his master that the new boy for whom the request was made was very dutiful and punctual and would do everything if he was given a job.

Q. Why was the master reluctant to disengage the old servant?

Ans. The master was reluctant to discharge the old servant because he had been working with him for fifteen years. He had never any complaint against him. He knew the servant did not do some of the things very properly. But that was not his fault. He had become old and had not the strength of a young



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man, the master had real sympathy for his old servant. He thought it a sin to leave him to starve in his old age. That was why the master was not willing to dismiss him.

Q. What did Gerasim hear while crossing the yard?

Ans. He heard women cursing herself and also her fate. She said that they had nowhere to go and would have to beg. She criticized the masters but said that their master was provoked by the coachman, who was a serpent. The old woman burst out sobbing. She said that the coachman had ruined them.

Q. What did the old couple think about the master?

Ans. the old couple was much development with their master. They had served him honestly and faithfully for fifteen years but now in their old age he had suddenly asked them to go. The old woman said that their master cared only for his own advantage. He had no sympathy for them. But the husband said that the master was not so much to blame but it was the coachman who had poisoned his ears and said things against them.

Q. What was the effect of the old couple's conversation on Gerasim?

Ans. Gerasim had heard all that the old couple had said. Their conversation stabbed him like a dagger. He realized what misfortune he would be bringing for the old couple. It made him sick at heart. He stood there for a long while. He was sad and remained lost in thought. He finally decided not to work there as it would be unfair and unjust to be the cause of removal of the cold couple from the job. He realized what misfortune he would be bringing the old people by working there.

Q. How does story reflect the humility like of Gerasim?

Ans. Gerasim was kind hearted. He had a human heart which had sympathy for others. When he heard the voice of the old woman, it rent his heart. He decided not to do the job as it would be unfair to be the cause removal of the couple. He thought that they will be deprived of job in their old age. He was a good person. He would possibly have got the job but finally decided not to work there.

Writing Work:

Compare the contrast the characters of Gerasim and the coachman.

Ans. Gerasim and the coachman have only one thing in common. They are from the same village. But in their character they are poles apart. One is the opposite of the others. Gerasim is humble; the coachman is cunning. Gerasim is kind and loving; the coachman is proud. Gerasim is simple – hearted; the coachman unfeeling and hardhearted. Gerasim is a man of few words; the coachman has a glib tongue. And lastly Gerasim is soft-spoken; the coachman is abusive.



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All these points of contrast can be seen at every step in the story Gerasim frankly admits that his previous master has refused to take him back. The coachman at once taken it to mean that Gerasim had not been honest and faithful to his master. And he gives a proud description of his own honesty and faithfulness. No doubt, he helps Gerasim to get a bog with his master. But all the episodes show more of his cunning than helpfulness. And the contrast becomes so clear at the end of the story when Gerasim overhears the old couple's conversation and refuses to take their place. Yegor flies into a rage and calls him an idiot. We see a devil in one and an angel in the other.

Q. Theme of the story, (The Servant)

Ans. The theme of the story, "the Servant" is sincerity and humility. This theme runs across the whole story. Humility and sincerity are the real wealth of a person. The material wealth though needed by a person, is not everything. One cannot achieve all happiness from wealth. Sincerity gives a long lasting pleasure. It makes us light –hearted. Sincerity in a person makes him a human being. If we lack sincerity, we are worse than a beast. We see in the story at the end that Gerasim feels light – hearted even though he loses the position which he badly needs.

Discussion:

Imagine you have been working somewhere and you lost job. Where would you like to go and why? And what would you do there?

Ans. I would go anywhere to get a suitable job. But I would never beg for anyone's favor. I would like to have the job on my own merit and not on anyone's recommendation. I would go to my old employer also if he had no complaint against me. There too I would not accept the job at anyone else's cost I always want to be happy and light hearted at the place of my work. This can be possible only if I get job that I really deserve.

Story 6

Dusk

q. What was the atmosphere at the Hyde park?

Ans. It was an early March evening. Dusk had fallen heavily over the scene. The atmosphere was not so dark because of the moonlight and the street lamps. Over the road and the side walk, there was a wide emptiness. Yet there were many people moving silently in the half light. Some sat on the benches and chairs in the park, they were hard to distinguish from the dark in which they sat. we can say that the atmosphere all around the park was dusky.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Q. Do the atmosphere and the mood at the park justify the title of story?

Ans. Dusk means that time of the day when the light has almost gone, but it is not yet dark. The story has been placed in this very time of the day. It is about six thirty in the evening. Dusk has fallen heavily on the scene. The mood has been harmonized by comparing dusk to the hour of the defeated. Fallen fortunes dead hopes, bowed shoulders, unhappy eyes of the defeated people present in the park. Those who come to the park at this time of the day have reached the dusk of their life. They are those who are no longer wanted or needed anywhere. That is why these unfortunate people come out in “bat fashion” meeting like bats who came out only at the dusk and not during day light. Hence the title is justified.

Q. Draw a profile of the person who first sat near Gatsby on the bench?

Ans. It was an elderly gentleman who first sat by the side of Gatsby on the bench. He seemed to have lost interest in life; he looked defeated. No one seemed to care for him. However, he refused to admit this fact. It was because he was a self respecting person. He could never bow for anything to anybody. His clothes were not shabby. But one could not call them fine also. He was a perfect picture of an old man who is no longer cared for by anyone at home. It was because he was in the dusk of life.

Q. What according to Gatsby, was the weak point of the young man's story?

Ans. The weak point of young man's story was that he could not produce the cake of soap which he alleged to have bought from the market.

Q. While walking back to his seat in the park, what did Gatsby see?

Ans. While walking back to his seat Gatsby saw that a cake of soap lying on the ground by the side of the bench.

Q. How did Norman Gatsby feel when he realized he had been fooled?

Ans. When Gatsby realized he had been fooled he felt that it must have been a lesson for him not to be too clever in judging by circumstances.

Q. What did Gatsby imagine about the people who visited by Hyde Park?

Ans. Gatsby imagined that the people who visited park were those who had been defeated in their life. They were men and women who had fought and lost. Their fortunes had fallen, their hopes were dead. It was all clear from their shabby clothes their bowed shoulders and their unhappy eyes. That is why they came to the park in dusk. The silence and the gloom of the atmosphere harmonized with their feeling. Gatsby compares them with bats who keep away the light and show themselves in the dark only.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Q. What is irony? Bring out the elements of irony in the story?

Ans. Irony is a means of expression which suggests different, usually humorous or angry, meaning for the words used.

OR

A situation in which something which was intended to have a particular result has the opposite or a very different result.

The main character in the story is Gortsby. A young man tries to fool him. But Gortsby proves too clever for him. He at once finds the weak point in the young man's story. He proves that he is not a man to be fooled so easily. But he is easily fooled. We cannot even say that Gortsby fools himself. All that happens is the result of an irony of situation. The elderly gentleman loses his cake of soap. He loses it at the same place where soon after a young man comes to sit. And then the young man also weaves in his story an incident of the soap. Lastly, Gortsby goes running to find the young man and give him the soap that never was his. All these are elements of irony in the story.

Q. What is juxtaposition? How has Saki been able to juxtapose humour and pathos in "Dusk"?

Ans. Juxtaposition: It means putting opposite things together to show the contrast.

In the story "Dusk" Saki has juxtaposed humor and pathos in a very subtle manner. There are pathos in the description of people whose hopes are dead and whose fortunes have fallen. There is pathos in the description of the elderly gentleman 'to whose piping no one dances'. And juxtaposed with this pathos is the improbable story that the young man tells. We smile to ourselves when the weak point in the young man's story is picked. And then we burst into laughter when the elderly gentleman says, "Yes, sir, a cake of soap". There is both humor and pathos in the way Gortsby gets fooled.

Writing Work:

Q. Discuss the theme of story, "Dusk".

Ans. The story, "Dusk", is an interesting story. The theme of the story is that we should never let ourselves to be fooled by the false stories of others. In the story Gortsby falls prey to the improbable tale of the Youngman. Thus, the story conveys the message that we should always remain vigilant about our surroundings. We should never be swayed by the pathetic stories of strangers. In short, we should stop being gullible.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Q. Write a short ironical dialogue.

Ans.

Gopal: We went to the river this morning to enjoy swimming.

Abdul: Very nice. How long did you swim?

Gopal: All day. There was no water in the river.

Abdul: Fool, then how could you swim?

Gopal: You fool, our eyes swam.

Abdul: Yours eyes swam?

Gopal: Yes, with tears, fool.

Abdul: So you enjoyed yourself with tears. Ha!Ha!

Q. Do you approve of the behavior and approach of Gortsby in the story? Explain.

Ans. Gortsby's behavior and approach in the story are quite natural. All his actions and reactions are quite natural. He proves himself a nice and intelligent person. He seems to have sympathy for all those whose hopes are dead and whose fortunes have fallen. He also proves himself a good judge of human character. He at once picks the weak point in the young man's story and thus saves himself from being cheated. No doubt, he gets fooled at the end of the story. But the way he gets fooled only shows the goodness of his heart. It is none of his fault that he is fooled. We can only say that he falls a victim to the irony of the events.

Play

The Proposal

Q. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he later says "And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son"?

Find reasons for your answer from the play.

Ans. Chubukov, at first, suspects that Lomov has come to borrow money. Chubukov is not sincere what he says. When Lomov reveals his intentions of his coming there, Chubukov is pleased as he has been considering Lomov as a suitable match for his daughter. In a few moments, he starts fighting with Lomov over petty issues. He even starts abusing him.



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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

Q. Chubukov says of Natalya; “..... as if she won’t consent she’s in love; aged, she’s like a lovesick cat” would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yes, Natalya is in love. This is clear from her behavior when she comes to know from Chubukov that Lomov had come to propose her. Now she starts weeping. She asks her father to bring him back at once.

Q. Find all the words and expressions in the play that the characters use to speak about each other, and the accusations and insults they hurt at each other. (For example, Lomov in the end calls Chubukov an intriguer, but earlier, Chubukov has himself called Lomov a malicious, double faced intriguer”, Again, Lomov begins by describing Natalya as “an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, well educated,”).

Ans.

1. Natalya calls Lomov ‘Rascal and ‘The Monster’.
2. Chubukov calls Lomov; the villain! The scarecrow! The blind hen, Turnip ghost, the stuffed sausage, the Wizen faced frump, Malicious, double faced intriguer, pup, old rat, Jesuit, Milk shop, fool, pettifogger, lunatic, drunkard, etc.
3. Lomov calls Chubukov and the members of his family; hump backed, grabber.

II. Then think of live adjectival expression of your own to describe each character in the play.

Ans. Lomov: assertive, weak hearted, different, stupid, idiotic.

Natalya: Quarrelsome, Foolish, Idiotic, Unwise, Immature, mean.

III. Can you now imagine what their characters will quarrel about next.

Ans. They will quarrel over their honeymoon.

(Important Questions)

Q. Give the character sketch of Natalya.

Ans. Natalya is a young girl of twenty five years. She lives in the neighbourhood of Lomov. She is a good housekeeper and is not bad looking. She is still unmarried and is thirsting for love. Her father calls her a love sick cat.

Lomov says that she is well educated but she doesn’t seem to be so. She is very quarrelsome and abusive by nature. She begins a bitter quarrel with Lomov over a piece of land that has little value. But when she learns that Lomov had come to propose to her she forgets all about fairness and unfairness. She begins to wail over the lost chance. She forces her father to call him back. And when Lomov becomes so excited that he faints, she cries to her father to call a doctor. As soon as Lomov



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comes around to himself, she says, “Yes, Yes, I’m willing.” Thus she accepts the proposal even without being made.

Natalya is not a character from real life. No girl or woman in real life behaves the way Natalya does. This play is a farce and Natalya too; is a farcical character.

Q. Give a brief character-sketch of Lomov. Ans. Lomov is a funny character. All his actions in the play are comic. He seems to be an eccentric also. He is so eager to marry Natalya. But when he comes to propose to her, he starts talking irrelevantly. Natalya claims the meadows belong to them. The argument turns very hot. Lomov becomes terribly excited. He leaves in a fit of anger.

Lomov gets another chance to propose to Natalya. But again he starts a quarrel with her. This time it is about the breed of their dogs. The bitter argument makes Lomov so nervous that he faints. However his heart’s desire is fulfilled. His proposal of marriage is accepted without being made.

Lomov is not a character from real life. No man in real life behaves the way Lomov does. This play is a farce and Lomov too, is a farcical character.

Q. Give a brief character sketch of Chubukov.

Ans. Chubukov is an old man. He is a landowner. He lives in the neighborhood of another landowner, Lomov. Chubukov has a young daughter, Natalya. She is twenty five years old; he is anxious that she should get married. He thinks it a burden to be the father of a grown up daughter.

Chubukov is hypocritical in his behavior. He speaks very sweetly to Lomov when the latter comes to his house. He calls him “my darling”. But then he feels that Lomov has come to borrow money. He makes up his mind not to lend him any. And again his tone changes at once when he comes to know that Lomov has come to propose to his daughter. He goes mad with joy. He says that his daughter is already in love. He calls her ‘a love sick cat’. He says to Lomov, “I have always loved you, my angel, as if you were my son.”

Chubukov seems to be in undue haste to marry off his daughter. He knows that Lomov is unsound both physically and mentally. Yet he is too anxious to marry her off to him and thus get rid of her.

Chubukov is not a character from real life. No father behaves the way he does. The play is a farce and Chubukov, too, is a farcical character.

Q. Describe the first quarrel between Lomov and Natalya in your own words:

Ans. Lomov and Chubukov are neighbors, Lomov comes to the point when he starts talking irrelevantly. For example he says that he inherited his land from his late aunt. Then he says that his Oxen Meadows touch Natalya’s Birchwood’s. At this Natalya at once intervenes by saying, “Oxen Meadows are not yours they are ours.” A hot argument starts between the two.



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While Lomov and Natalya are thus arguing, Chubukov comes in he too joins in the argument. Lomov threatens them that he will take the matter to court. Very soon they start abusing each other. The quarrel becomes so bitter that Lomov begins to feel very nervous. He staggers out of Chubukov's house.

Q. Give a detailed description of the second quarrel in the play "The proposal".

Ans. The second quarrel turns over their own pet dogs. Natalya has a pet dog named squeezer, Lomov's dog is named Guess. Each claims their dog to be far superior to the others.

Lomov says that he had paid 125 rubles for his dog. Natalya calls it too big a price for a dog like guess. But Lomov calls his dog a first rate long. At this Natalya retorts. "Squeezers heaps better than Guess!" the argument turns very bitter. Each states finding fault with the other's dog. Just then Chubukov comes in, he too joins the quarrel. He calls squeezer the best dog in the district. Lomov and chubukov start abusing each other. Lomov calls chubukov an old rat. Chubukov says to him, "Shut up I'll shot you like a partridge!" Their quarrel ends only when Lomov faints and falls into an armchair.

Q4. Describe Chubukov's plight as the father of a grown up daughter? What part does he play in the drama?

Or

In Chubukov the writer makes a psychological study of a character. Discuss.

Ans. Anton Chekhov is a psychological writer. He goes into the minds of his characters and brings to light their hidden desires, hopes and fears. In his one-act play, 'The proposal' the character of Chubukov wins our sympathy. He was put in an awkward position by his whimsical and moody daughter. Rather he was time and again put into an embarrassing situation. His greatest worry was to see his ageing and unattractive daughter married. Twice he left his daughter with Lomov so that they might settle everything about their marriage. But twice he come back to find them quarreling once over the meadows and the second time over their dogs.

Lomov and Chubukov were neighbours. Chubukov was the father of a grown up daughter named Natalya. Lomov came to his house with a marriage proposal. On hearing this, Chubukov was overjoyed. He felt as if his great burden would be removed. To keep up a grown daughter at his house was really a miserable job for him. Lomov and Natalya began to quarrel. He took the side of his daughter and turned Lomov out of his house. When Natalya learned the purpose of Lomov's visit, she grew angry with her father and asked him to bring Lomov back. Chubukov cursed himself and said that he would shoot himself. He complained that it was a heavy burden and grave responsibility to be the father of a grown up daughter. Once again when they were quarreling, he joined their hands together and declared them to be married. Thus he felt relieved of his burden.



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(Class 10th – English)

Q7. Discuss the farcical elements in the play “The proposal” or show that the play is farce.

Ans. A Farce: The elements of improbabilities and exaggeration of simple situations combined with cheap humor and extravagant wit constitute the essential features of a farce. The play “the Proposal” is a farce because the chief traits of the comedy are:

1. Improbable situations: Lomov comes to propose to his daughter, Natalya. He beats about the bush and does not propose at once. They quarrel over the meadows. Chubukov feels happy at the proposal of Lomov but fails to disclose it to his grown up daughter in the first instance. In the course of quarrel he takes the side of his daughter, abuses and insults Lomov and pushes him out of the house. He forgets that only a short while he had embraced and kissed him. When Natalya learns the purpose of Lomov’s visit she feels sorry for her father’s rude behavior and forgets her own part in insulting Lomov. All these situations are improbable. They are far from reality. She compels her father to bring Lomov back. When Lomov returns, he and Natalya start quarreling again. Lomov faints. He revives but he is unable to propose. It is through the intervention of Chubukov that their marriage is brought about. But after his marriage they start quarreling again. Chubukov wisely remarks about their quarrel, “that is a way to start family bliss.” He downs their noisy quarrel by shouting for champagne to celebrate the happy occasion.
2. Exaggerated Characters: The characters are also not real. They are exaggerated in one way or the other. Lomov, the main character of the play is drawn in a funny way. He is nervous, suffers from heart palpitation, gets excited and even faints. He does not get sound sleep and jumps like a mad man. Natalya wants to marry Lomov and yet she quarrels, abuses and insults him. She is a noisy, quarrelsome girl and does not know restraint. She hates and loves Lomov in the same breath. Chubukov is also a farcical character. He is a source of much fun and laughter. He embraces and kisses Lomov who has come with a proposal of marriage for his daughter. But abuses and insults him completely forgetting his previous joy on receiving him.
3. Low kind of wit and humor: The characters hurl abuse at one another in a shameless way. Lomov calls Chubukov ‘a traitor’, ‘an intriguer’, ‘an old rat’ etc. Chubukov in his turn calls him a villain, scare crow, a blind puppy, a hen etc. they also abuse the members of their families past as well as present. This is not a good taste. All the above, facts prove that “The proposal” is a farce.

Q8. Bring out satire in the play ‘the proposal’.

Ans. A Satire is a manner of exposing the follies and drawbacks of an individual or society with a view to bringing out reform. In the play the main problem is that of the marriage of a grown up daughter. Everyone is anxious to have the marriage celebrated. Lomov, the hero wants to get married soon and lead a settled life because of his ill health. Natalya, the heroine also wants to get married soon. Her old father feels miserable to keep a grown up daughter of a marriageable age in the house. But human follies and drawbacks intervene. The hero and heroine start quarreling first over the meadows and then

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Assignment

(Class 10th – English)

over their dogs, and the problem of the marriage remains unsettled. Even the old father Chubukov commits a folly in joining the quarrel on the side of his daughter.

It is at long last wisdom dawns upon the old man. He joins the hands of Lomov and Natalya when they are still half unconscious and asks them to kiss each other as a token of their happy union. But their folly continues. As soon as they regain their consciousness, they start quarreling again. Now the old man makes ironical remarks. He declares, these are no quarrels but a way to start family bliss. These remarks have hidden meanings. A lover and a beloved may quarrel outwardly, but they have deep love for each other in their heart. Secondly, occasional quarrels between husband and a wife are a part of the game of love and marriage, because this is what the married couple bargains for thus there is plenty of satire and irony in the play