

STUDY MATERIAL 10

Sub: ENGLISH 'B'

Class: XII

Topic : THE PROPOSAL

Date: 18.06.2020

Textual Words & Meanings :

WORDS	MEANINGS
1. Dress jacket	1. a short coat worn on formal occasions.
2. Squeezes	2. presses with fingers.
3. Formal	3. ceremonious.
4. Privilege	4. advantage.
5. Awfully	5. badly, extremely.
6. Assistance	6. help.
7. Spit it out	7. to say immediately.
8. By Jove	8. expression of joy.
9. Egad	9. old fashioned expression of surprise.
10. Palpitations	10. to have very rapid heartbeats.
11. Twitch	11. jerk.
12. Lunatic	12. crazy.
13. Negligee	13. a loose gown.
14. Wedged	14. positioned very tightly, as if sandwiched, between two boundaries.
15. Marsh	15. wetland.
16. Perpetuity	16. forever.
17. Reckoned	17. considered.
18. Implore	18. request earnestly, appeal.
19. Gypsies	19. vagabond type of people.
20. Impudent	20. too bold; rude.
21. Carafe	21. glass container for storing water.
22. Mowers	22. workers who cut grass.
23. Land-grabber	23. one who captures land by force.
24. Excruciating	24. severe.
25. Threshing-machine	25. machine that can separate grain from corn.

Short Questions & Answers :

1. What makes Anton Chekhov well known?

Ans: Anton Chekhov is well known for his plays and short stories.

2. What did he provide his readers with?

Ans: He provided his readers with insights into the lives of men and women of his time.

3. What is Constantin Stanislavski's opinion about Anton Chekhov's plays?

Ans: Constantin who produced Chekhov's plays observed: "Chekhov often expressed his thought not

in speeches but in pauses or between the lines or in replies consisting of a single wordthe characters often feel and think things not expressed in the lines they speak.”

4. What technique does the play make use of?

Ans: The play uses farce to laugh at society that believed marriage would bring about economic stability. An individual's personal desires, likes and dislikes did not matter.

5. Mention the names and ages of the different characters in the play ‘The Proposal’.

Ans: The play “The Proposal” has three characters. Lomov is in his mid-thirties, Chubukov is in his seventies and his daughter Natalya is twenty-five years old.

6. Describe Lomov's dress when he visited Chubukov's house.

Ans: Lomov visited Chubukov wearing a dress-jacket and white gloves.

7. Give the full names of Lomov, Chubukov and Natalya.

Ans: Lomov : Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov.

Chubukov : Stephen Stepanovitch Chubukov.

Natalya : Natalya Stepanovna.

8. What were the different words used by Chubukov while addressing Lomov?

Ans: They were : ‘my darling’, ‘my angel’, ‘my dear fellow’, ‘my precious’ etc.

9. What made Chubukov compare Lomov's visit to the New Year's Eve visit?

Ans: New Year's Eve is a time for celebration when people are formally dressed. When Lomov visited Chubukov, he was dressed formally in a dress-jacket and white gloves. The way Lomov is dressed, it is almost as if he is going to a New Year's Eve party! Thus, the comparison.

10. What does Lomov's formal wear and Chubukov's extraordinary warmth suggest to the audience?

Ans: Lomov's formal wear and Chubukov's extraordinary warmth suggest to the audience that both men are trying very hard to please each other. That is why terms like ‘my darling’, ‘my angel’, ‘precious’, ‘my treasure’ are used. Such words of greeting may seem odd but they were said with purpose.

11. How had Chubukov expressed his immense joy on hearing the marriage proposal?

Ans: Chubukov was totally off his balance with joy. He not only embraced and kissed Lomov but also shed a tear. He confessed that it had been his continual desire to see Lomov married to his daughter. Chubukov also confessed that he had always loved Lomov as if he was his own son.

12. How far were Chubukov's words true?

Ans: His confession of being off balance by Chubukov makes the readers realize in the latter part of the play that all the words of love spoken by him for Lomov were not true. His extreme excitement had prevented him from thinking straight.

13. What made Lomov decide to marry Natalya?

Ans: Lomov was already thirty-five and still unmarried. If he searched for an ideal or real love he would never get married. According to Lomov, Natalya was an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well educated. As Lomov desired to lead a quiet and regular life, thus, under the circumstances marrying Natalya was his only option.

14. What was so particular about the way Lomov slept?

Ans: No sooner did he go to bed and begin to go off when suddenly something on his left side gave a pull which he could feel on his shoulder and head. Instantly he had to jump up like a lunatic, walk about a little, and lie down again. Again the whole experience was repeated with about twenty subsequent pulls.

15. Why does Chubukov refer to Lomov as a merchant?

Ans: Chubukov believed that ‘a marriage proposal’ is a business deal. As Lomov had arrived with the business deal he was referred to as a merchant by Chubukov.

16. '....I felt greedy....'— Identify the speaker .Why did the speaker say so?

Ans: The speaker is Natalya , the twenty-five year old daughter of Chubukov. Being the daughter of a landowner she felt greedy and had a whole field cut.

17. How did Lomov try to convince Natalya about his ownership of Oxen Meadows?

Ans: Lomov wanted to show the legal documents proving his ownership of the Oxen Meadows but Natalya refused to look at them and continued her baseless argument.

18. What was the source of the confusion?

Ans: Lomov's aunt's grandmother had given the free use of Oxen Meadows forever to the peasants of Natalya's father's grandfather , in return for which they were to make bricks for her. Lomov believed that after using the Meadows freely for forty years ,they had started to think of the land as their own.

19. "They only come to five dessiatins..."— Who are 'they' referred to here? What is the value of five dessiatins?

Ans: Here 'they' refer to the Oxen Meadows. Five dessiatins is equivalent to 13.5 acres.

20. '....as if we were Gypsies.'—Who said this and why?

Ans: The speaker of the above line is Natalya Stepanovna. Natalya felt insulted when Lomov claimed the ownership of the Oxen Meadows. Natalya argued that they the meadows belonged to their family. The Gypsies are a nomadic community and they don't own any property. She uses the word in a negative sense here, as if her family had no land ownership.

Descriptive & Analytical Questions:

1. "He's come to borrow money! Shan't give him any...."— Who is the speaker? What makes him say this? What features of his character are revealed here?

Ans: The above line has been extracted from the play 'The Proposal' by Anton Chekhov. The speaker of the above line is Chubukov.

Lomov had arrived at Chubukov's house wearing an evening dress. Chubukov was taken in by surprise by Lomov's visit. His surprise was intensified when Lomov addressed Chubukov as 'honoured'. All this unnecessary warmth in Lomov's speech made Chubukov suspect that he (Lomov) had come to borrow money.

Feeling that Lomov was there with the intention to borrow money, Chubukov made up his mind to deny any monetary help. This thought process of Chubukov reveals his narrow-mindedness. He was eager to get his daughter married to Lomov but he was determined not to lend any money to him. In fact Chubukov was a money minded hard core businessman.

2. "I've come to ask the hand of your daughter in marriage." Who is the speaker? To whom does the speaker say this? What was the reaction of the person spoken to?

Ans: The speaker is Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov.

The speaker said this to Stephan Stepanovitch Chubukov.

On hearing Lomov's words ,Chubukov was overjoyed. He was glad that Lomov was willing to marry his daughter Natalya. His daughter was twenty-five years old and yet he had failed to find a suitable groom for his daughter. He had hugged and kissed Lomov and had said that it was his continual desire to get Natalya married to Lomov. He bestowed his blessings and declared that he had always loved Lomov as his own son. He assured Lomov that Natalya would give her consent to marry him.

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