

**Note: Click on the Description to get the Link  
for VideoExplanation:**

**<https://youtu.be/OHv2VKL25rg>**

## **‘A Marriage Proposal’ (also called “The Proposal”)**

1. It is a one-act play, a farce, by the Russian short story writer and dramatist **Anton Pavlovich Chekhov**. It was written in **1888–89**.
2. The play is about the tendency of wealthy families to seek ties with other wealthy families, to increase their estates by encouraging *marriages* that make good *economic sense*.

### 3. Characters

**STEPAN STEPANOVITCH CHUBUKOV** : a landowner

**NATALYA STEPANOVNA** : his daughter, twenty-five years old

**IVAN VASSILEVITCH LOMOV** : a neighbour of Chubukov, a large and hearty, but very suspicious, landowner

## **Theme- Great Economic Security Takes Precedence over Romance and Love**

Ivan Lomov, a long time wealthy neighbour of Stepan Chubukov, also wealthy, comes to seek the hand of Chubukov's twenty-five-year-old daughter, Natalya. All three are quarrelsome people, and they quarrel over petty issues. The proposal is in danger of being forgotten amidst all this quarrelling. But economic good sense ensures that the proposal is made, after all — although the quarrelling perhaps continues!

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4. Synopsis- Ivan Vassiliyitch Lomov, a long-time neighbor of Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov, has come to propose marriage to Chubukov's 25-year-old daughter, Natalia. After he has asked and received joyful permission to marry Natalia, she is invited into the room, and he tries to convey to her the proposal. Lomov is a [hypochondriac](#), and, while trying to make clear his reasons for being there, he gets into an argument with Natalia about The Oxen Meadows, a disputed piece of land between their respective properties, which results in him having "[palpitations](#)" and numbness in his leg. After her father notices they are arguing, he joins in, and then sends Ivan out of the house. While Stepan rants about Lomov, he expresses his shock that "this fool dares to make you (Natalia) a proposal of marriage!" Natalia then realizes that Lomov wanted to marry her and immediately starts into hysterics, begging for her father to bring him back. He does, and Natalia and Ivan get into a second big argument, this time about the superiority of their respective hunting dogs, Guess and Squeezer. Lomov collapses from his exhaustion over arguing, and father and daughter fear he's dead, sending them into another round of hysterics. However, after a few minutes he regains consciousness,

and Chubukov all but forces him and his daughter to accept the proposal with a kiss. Immediately following the kiss, the couple gets into another argument over their dogs.

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**Farce:** Farce is a subcategory of dramatic **comedy**, which is different from other forms of comedy as it only aims at making the audience **laugh**.

A **farce** is a comedy that aims at entertaining the audience through **situations that are highly exaggerated, extravagant, and thus improbable** that is the characters become involved in complicated and unlikely situations.

**Farce** is also characterized by **physical humor**, the use of deliberate absurdity or nonsense, and broadly **stylized performances**, violent horseplay.

It may represent something that is ridiculous Instead of being fair.

**Farce** is a comic dramatic piece that uses highly improbable situations, **stereotyped characters**, extravagant exaggeration.

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<http://www.ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/jeff111.pdf>

## A Marriage Proposal – MCQs

1. Chubukov addresses Lomov as –

- a) a peasant
- b) an angle
- c) a devil
- d) an angel

**2. Chubukov ordered Lomov to shut up or he would shoot him like a –**

- a) partridge
- b) dog
- c) fox
- d) wolf

**3. According to Natalya they had lent Lomov their –**

- a) hunting dog
- b) peasants
- c) lands
- d) threshing-machine

**4. Natalya was shelling.. for drying**

- a) peas
- b) meadows
- c) beans
- d) barley

**5. Natalya was a –**

- a) Thirty years old.
- b) Thirty three years old.
- c) Twenty years old.
- d) Twenty five years old.

**6. The name of Lomov's dog was –**

- a) Guess.
- b) Hedgeson.
- c) Squeezer.
- d) Challenger.

**7. Natalya and Lomov first argued over –**

- a) Birchwood.
- b) Burnt Marsh.
- c) Dog.
- d) Oxen Meadows.

**8. Chubukov threatened Lomov to shoot him like a –**

- a) Hare.
- b) Dog.
- c) Partridge.
- d) Jackle.

**9. Lomov's dog Guess was –**

- a) lame.
- b) blind.
- c) old.
- d) mad.

**10. Lomov warns Natalya to take the matter of oxen Meadows**

- a) to the Minister
- b) to the villagers
- c) to the Count
- d) to the Court.

**11. The name of Natalya's dog is –**

- a) Mrironov
- b) Squeezer
- c) Ivan
- d) Guess.

**12. According to Lomov, Chubukov's mother was –**

- a) ill-tempered
- b) kind hearted
- c) humpbacked
- d) insolent.

**13. Squeezer's parents were –**

- a) Rock and Mick
- b) Harness and Chisels
- c) Rocky and Roll
- d) Lalu and Tulu.

**14. Lomov is dressed in formal clothes –**

- a) because it is New Year's Eve.
- b) because he loves Natalia and is going to propose to her.
- c) because he has come to propose to Natalia.
- d) because he has come to finalize a business deal with Chubukov.

**15. Chubukov is delighted with the proposal for the following reasons –**

- a) Natalya can at last return her love for Lomov.
- b) Lomov loves Natalya.
- c) Chubukov had moved this proposal a long time ago.
- d) Chubukov would like to see his daughter married.

**16. Lomov, Chubukov and Natalya approach marriage –**

- a) with the sense of practicality.
- b) with a sense of romanticism.
- c) with a sense of idealism.
- d) with the sense of cynicism.

**17. Lomov has two considerations regarding marriage –**

- a) that he is 35 and must lead a stable life.
- b) that he suffers from lunacy and sleeplessness.
- c) that he must consolidate property and make gains.
- d) that he must enjoy love and passion.

**18. Natalya argues that Lomov, as a hunter, can't sit on a – (a) camel (b) fox (c) horse (d) wild beast**

**19. Chubukov wants a bullet to be put into his – (a) body (b) legs (c) brain (d) head**

20. "She's willing!" She is willing to -(a) accuse Chubukov once again (b) start an argument afresh (c) get Lomov out of her house (d) marry Lomov

21. "Well, that's a way to start your family bliss!" – The word bliss means – (a) gladness (b) example (c) conflict (d) blessings

22. What is the first argument over inheritance – (a) woods (b) hunting dogs (c) land (d) labour

23. What is the second argument over – (a) gifts (b) Oxen Meadows (c) estates (d) dogs

24. What label can you give the outcome of the play – (a) clowning (b) melodrama (c) farce (d) comedy

25. When Lomov arrived, Chubukov was surprised by his – (a) evening dress palpitations (c) impudence (d) shyness

26. Chubukov is a – (a) landowner (b) lawyer (c) merchant (d) physician

27. Before giving his proposal to Natalya, Lomov feels – (a) lunatic (b) smart (c) excited (d) nervous

28. During sleep Lomov feels a pull – (a) ten times (b) twenty times (c) five times (d) hundred times

29. Chubukov introduces Lomov to Natalya as a – (a) player (b) neighbour (c) merchant (d) suitor

30. Coming to meet Lomov, Natalya informs him that She was – (a) shelling peas (b) cooking (c) planting peas (d) baking peas

31. At the time of meeting, Natalya offers Lomov – (a) dinner (b) breakfast (c) lunch (d) cold water



32. When Natalya offers Lomov lunch Lomov – (a) accepts it (b) gets pleased (C) rejects it (d) gets angry

33. The day on which Lomov meets the weather is – (a) splendid (b) stormy (c) humid (d) wet

34. The day before Lomov meets Natalya was – (a) gloomy (b) rainy (C) wet (d) dry

35. Natalya informs Lomov that she felt so greedy that she had -(a) no field cut (b) sold her land (c) the whole field cut ( d) the half field cut

36. Noticing Lomov's evening dress, Natalya thinks that Lomov is going to- (a) a magic show (b) a wedding part: (c) ball (d) a birthday party

37. Lomov says that he knows the family of Natalya – (a) since boyhood (B) since childhood (c) long since. (d) for a few years.

**Answers-** (1) an angel. (2) partridge. (3) threshing-machine. (4) peas (5) Twenty five years old. (6) Guess. (7) Oxen Meadows. (8) Partridge. (9) lame. (10) ) to the Court. (11) Squeezer (12) humpbacked (!3) Harness and Chisels (14) because he loves Natalia and is going to propose to her. (15) Chubukov would like to see his daughter married. (16) with the sense of practicality. (17) that he is 35 and must lead a stable life.(18) horse (19) brain (20) marry Lomov (21) conflict (22) land (23) dogs (24) farce (25) evening dress (26) landowner (27) nervous (28) twenty times (29) merchant (30) shelling peas (31) lunch (32) rejects it (33) splendid (34) wet (35) the whole field cut (36) ball (37) since childhood

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