

## NCERT Solutions for Class 10 English Chapter 11 The Proposal

### Question 1.

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.

Answer:

At first Chubukov suspected that Lomov had come to borrow money as he was in his evening dress. He was not sincere when he told Lomov that he had always loved him and that he was like his own son, because he had decided to not give any money to Lomov. It was only when Lomov asked for his daughter's hand in marriage that his attitude changed and he rushed out to call his daughter, Natalya.

### Question 2.

Chubukov says of Natalya: "..... as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a lovesick cat....." Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Yes, Natalya is in love. This is clear by the way she behaves when she gets to know that Lomov came to propose to her. She starts weeping and asks her father to bring Lomov at once.

3. (i) Find all the words and expressions in the play that the characters use to speak about each other, and the accusations and insults they hurl 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: The characters have utilised a variety of phrases and expressions to characterise one another. The following are a few of them:

Chubukov means "grabber," "intriguer," or "old rat." Natalya, a Jesuit, is a love-sick cat who is also an outstanding housekeeper, not bad-looking, and well-educated.

Lomov: a good neighbour; a friend; impudent; pettifogger; rascal; blind hen; turnip-ghost; a villain; a scarecrow; monster; the stuffed sausage; the wizen-faced frump; child; pup; milksop; fool

(ii) Then think of five adjectives or adjectival expressions of your own to describe each character in the play.

Ans: Chubukov: intriguer, grabber, old rat are some of the phrases and expressions used by various characters in the play to describe each other. Natalya is a love-sick cat who is also an amazing housekeeper and is well-educated. Lomov is a good neighbour, a pettifogger, a double-faced intriguer, a rascal, a blind fowl, a turnip ghost, a villain, a scarecrow, a stuffed sausage, and so on.

(iii) Can you now imagine what these characters will quarrel about next?

Ans: All of the characters appear to have a short fuse and are thus likely to get into a fight over the tiniest of matters. They'll get into a fight sooner or later, it's safe to say.

### Thinking About Language

1. This play has been translated into English from the Russian original. Are there any expressions or ways of speaking that strike you as more Russian than English? For example, would an adult man be addressed by an older man as my darling or my treasure in an English play? Read through the play carefully, and find expressions that you think are not used in contemporary English, and contrast these with idiomatic modern English expressions that also occur in the play.

Ans: Expressions that are not commonly used in modern English

1. "My beautiful," "my beauty," "my priceless," "my angel," and "my adored" (here, an older man is addressing an adult man)
2. "...and so forth..." (It is used after a statement to finish it)
3. "...as well as other things." (I'm not going to explain what it is; I'm just going to leave it as is)
4. "...and everything else." (I'm going to leave the sentence alone for now)
5. "the stuffed sausage," "the wizen-faced frump," "the scarecrow," "the stuffed sausage," "the stuffed sausage," "the stuffed sausage," "the stuffed sausage," "the stuffed sausage," "the (They insulted each other in this manner.)
6. "How are things going for you?" (Lomov is inquiring about Chubukov's health at this point.)

### Idioms in modern English

1. "Madam," "my heart," "honoured Natalya Stepanovna," etc (used by Lomov for Natalya)
2. "Honored Stepan Stepanovitch" is number two (used by Lomov for Chubukov)
3. "Please accept my apologies..."
4. "My dear comrade" (Chubukov addressing Lomov)

5. "fool", "malicious, double-faced intriguer" (Chubukov insulting Lomov)

1. Look up the following phrases in a dictionary to find out their meaning, and then use each in a sentence of your own.

(i) You may take it that

(ii) He seems to be coming round

(iii) My foot's gone to sleep

Solution :

Expressions not used in contemporary English

1. "my darling", "my beauty", "my precious", "my angel", "my beloved" (here, an older man is addressing an adult man)

2. "...and so on..." (here, it is used after a sentence in order to complete it)

3. "...and all that sort of thing." (not explaining what it is, just leaving it as it is)

4. "...and all that." (again leaving the sentence as it is)

5. "the scarecrow", "the stuffed sausage", "the wizened-faced frump" (In this way, they hurled insults at each other)

6. "And how may you be getting on?" (Here, Lomov is asking Chubukov about his well-being)

Modern English expressions

1. "Madam", "my heart", "honoured Natalya Stepanovna" (used by Lomov for Natalya)

2. "Honoured Stepan Stepanovitch" (used by Lomov for Chubukov)

3. "I beg your pardon..."

4. "My dear fellow" (Chubukov addressing Lomov)

5. "malicious, double-faced intriguer", "fool" (Chubukov insulting Lomov)

3. (i) You may take it that I am lying, but in fact it will help you in the long run.

(ii) He seems to be coming round after the trauma of his father's death.

(iii) After the three hour long yoga session, my foot's gone to sleep.

(II.) You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the following

sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred in the above pairs of sentences. One has been done for you.

- 1. To report a question, we use the reporting verb asked (as in Sentence Set 1).
- 2. To report a declaration, we use the reporting verb \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The adverb of place here changes to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. When the verb in direct speech is in the present tense, the verb in reported speech is in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense (as in Sentence Set 3).
- 5. If the verb in direct speech is in the present continuous tense, the verb in reported speech changes to \_\_\_\_\_ tense. For example, \_\_\_\_\_ changes to was getting.
- 6. When the sentence in direct speech contains a word denoting respect, we add the adverb \_\_\_\_\_ in the reporting clause (as in Sentence Set 1).
- 7. The pronouns I, me, our and mine, which are used in the first person in direct speech, change to third person pronouns such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in reported speech.

Solution :

- 1. To report a question, we use the reporting verb asked.
- 2. To report a declaration, we use the reporting verb declared.
- 3. The adverb of place here changes to there.
- 4. When the verb in direct speech is in the present tense, the verb in reported speech is in the past tense.
- 5. If the verb in direct speech is in the present continuous tense, the verb in reported speech changes to past continuous tense. For example, am getting changes to was getting.
- 6. When the sentence in direct speech contains a word denoting respect, we add the adverb respectfully in the reporting clause.
- 7. The pronouns I, me, our and mine, which are used in the first person in direct speech, change to second person pronouns such as he/she, him/her, their or his /hers in reported speech.

(III.) Here is an excerpt from an article from the Times of India dated 27 August 2006. Rewrite it, changing the sentences in direct speech into reported speech. Leave the other sentences unchanged.

“Why do you want to know my age? If people know I am so old, I won’t get work!” laughs 90-year-old A. K. Hangal, one of Hindi cinema’s most famous character actors. For his age, he is rather energetic. “What’s the secret?” we ask. “My intake of everything is in small quantities. And I walk a lot,” he replies. “I joined the industry when people retire. I was in my 40s. So I don’t miss being called a star. I am still respected and given work, when actors of my age are living in poverty and without work. I don’t have any complaints,” he says, adding, “but yes, I have always been underpaid.” Recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Hangal never hankered after money or materialistic gains. “No doubt I am content today, but money is important. I was a fool not to understand the value of money earlier,” he regrets.

Solution : 90-year-old A.K. Hangal, one of Hindi cinema’s most famous character actors, laughingly asked why we wanted to know his age. If people knew he was that old, he would not get work. For his age, he is rather energetic. We asked him what the secret was. He replied that his intake of everything was in small quantities and he walked a lot. He said that he had joined the industry when people retired. He had been in his 40s. So he did not miss being called a star. He was still respected and given work, when actors of his age were living in poverty and without work. He said he did not have any complaints, adding that he had always been underpaid. Recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Hangal never hankered after money or materialistic gains. He said that no doubt he was content at present, but money was important. He said regretfully that he was a fool not to understand the value of money before.