



ASSIGNMENT NO-3 SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS: X

October '26

1. The Proposal — Anton Chekhov

Theme: The play is a humorous satire on the habits and attitudes of the landed upper class. Although Lomov visits Chubukov to propose marriage to Natalya, the conversation repeatedly turns into quarrels over property and the superiority of their possessions. The characters' pride, stubbornness and concern for material matters make the marriage proposal seem almost secondary. Through exaggerated arguments and comic misunderstandings, Chekhov exposes how ego and social conventions can overpower affection and sensible communication.

Questions

1. Why does Lomov visit Chubukov, and how does Chubukov initially react to his purpose?
2. What is the dispute about Oxen Meadows? Why does this disagreement become so intense?
3. "The Proposal" presents marriage as a social arrangement influenced by property and status. Support this view with two incidents from the play.
4. Do you think Chubukov genuinely wants Natalya and Lomov to be happy, or is he mainly concerned with getting the marriage settled? Justify your answer.
5. What does the play suggest about the consequences of pride and poor communication in relationships?

2. For Anne Gregory — W. B. Yeats

Theme: The poem explores the difference between physical beauty and inner worth. Through a conversation about Anne Gregory's golden hair, the speaker questions whether human love can look beyond outward appearance. Anne suggests that she could change her hair colour so that someone might love her for herself. The poem ultimately raises the idea that people often judge others by appearance, while unconditional love—love that is not influenced by physical beauty—is difficult to find.

Questions

1. What does the young man quoted in the poem say about Anne Gregory's hair?
2. Why does Anne Gregory suggest that she could dye her hair? What does this reveal about her understanding of love?
3. How does the poem present the contrast between outward beauty and inner worth?
4. Anne believes she can change her appearance to be loved for herself. Do you think changing one's appearance can change the reasons why others love a person? Give a reasoned response based on the poem.
5. How does the conversational style help communicate the poem's message?

3. The Necklace — Guy de Maupassant

Theme: The story examines vanity, dissatisfaction, social ambition and the consequences of trying to appear wealthier than one is. Mathilde Loisel longs for a life of luxury and feels unhappy with her modest circumstances. Borrowing a necklace to attend a prestigious event seems to offer her a brief escape into the world she desires, but its loss leads to years of hardship. The final revelation highlights the irony of appearances and the heavy cost of pride, while inviting readers to consider honesty, contentment and the importance of questioning assumptions.

Questions

1. Why is Mathilde Loisel dissatisfied with her life, despite having a home and a husband who cares for her?
2. How does the invitation to the Minister's ball affect Mathilde? What does she ask her husband to provide?
3. Why does Mathilde borrow a necklace from Madame Forestier, and what happens after the ball?
4. The story suggests that appearances can be deceptive. Explain this idea using Mathilde's experience and the final revelation.
5. Compare Mathilde's attitude at the beginning of the story with her attitude after ten years of hardship. What does this change reveal about her?
6. What lessons about honesty, contentment and social status can a modern reader learn from the story?

4. Bholi — K. A. Abbas

Theme: "Bholi" is a story about self-respect, education, gender discrimination and the power of supportive teaching. Initially treated as unintelligent and neglected because of her appearance and speech difficulty, Bholi gains confidence through education and her teacher's kindness. When Bishamber demands money as a condition of marriage after seeing her pockmarks, Bholi refuses to accept a humiliating arrangement. Her decision shows that education has helped her recognise her worth and speak up against injustice.

Questions

1. Why was Sulekha nicknamed Bholi, and how did people treat her during her childhood?
2. Why was Bholi reluctant to go to school on her first day? How did her teacher help her overcome her fear?
3. What role does Bholi's teacher play in changing her personality and outlook on life?
4. "Education gives people the courage to challenge injustice." How does Bholi's journey support this statement?
5. How had education changed Bholi by the time of her wedding?
6. Compare Bholi's teacher's attitude towards her with the way her family and society treated her.
7. Bholi chooses self-respect over social acceptance. Do you think her decision is justified? Support your answer with evidence from the story.
8. At the end, Bholi says that she will teach in the same school. What does this reveal about her confidence and her hopes for the future?

