

Think of three questions you would like to ask about Chekhov. Then, read the biography and see if you can answer them.

**Anton Pavlovich Chekhov** was born in Taganrog in Russia. When he was nineteen, he went to medical school in Moscow and later became a doctor. It was while working as a doctor that he began to publish his stories in order to help support his family. By 1886, he had become famous as a writer of plays and short stories. His works include the play *The Seagull* (1896) and his famous short story *The Steppe* (1888).

Chekhov was a very fast writer who could produce a story in under an hour! A typical Chekhov story is about the thoughts and emotions of the characters. In *The Darling* (1899), Chekhov describes a woman, Olenka, who uses other people to give her own life meaning.

(1860-1904)

He wrote *The Darling* (1899) and *The Steppe* (1888).

He became famous in 1886.

Moscow and Taganrog.

He wrote *The Seagull* (1896).



# Learn new words

коммерческий

осматривать,  
инспектировать

чрезмерный

засунутый

печально, грустно

заплетаться

парень

пристыженный

глазеть на

переполненный

лучезарно  
улыбаться

учить наизусть

бормотать

туманный, смутный

мурлыкать

ямочка на щеке

привязанность, узы

материнский  
инстинкт

# Learn new words

commercial

to inspect

superfluous

tucked

sorrowfully

overflowing

fellow

ashamed

to stare at



To look at something or someone carefully in order to discover information, especially about their quality or condition

to beam

to learn by heart

to mutter

misty

to purr

dimple

tie

maternal instincts

When she had seen Sasha off to school, **D** ..... Her face, which had grown younger in the last six months, smiled and **beamed**. People who met her were pleased as they looked at her.

"How are you Olga Semyonovna, darling? How are you getting on, darling?"

"The school courses are very **difficult** nowadays," she told people at the market. "It's no joke. Yesterday the first class had a fable to **learn by heart**, a Latin translation, and a problem. How is a little fellow to do all that?"

And she spoke of the teacher and the lessons at the textbooks, **E** .....

At three o'clock they had dinner. In the evening they did his homework together, both crying at how difficult it was. When she put him to bed, **F** ..... And when she lay in bed, she dreamed of the far-away, **misty** future when Sasha would finish his studies and become a doctor or an engineer, have a large house of his own, with horses and a carriage, marry and have children. She would fall asleep still

<sup>1</sup> hard, brittle cakes or biscuits

<sup>3</sup> a school bag with a long

<sup>2</sup> stories which teach moral lessons

<sup>4</sup> fruit

are they related?



Text 1

Text 2

Text 3

Text 4

Note





When she had seen Sasha off to school, **D** .... Her face, which had grown younger in the last six months, smiled and **beamed**. People who met her were pleased as they

with the parts of the  
is extra.



1 repeating exactly what Sasha said about them.

2 she ... ful and

A - 5

D - 2

3 and

B - 7

E - 1

4 wh ... y day.

5 and

C - 3

F - 6

6 she ... the cross

over him, **muttering** a prayer.

7 looking at him as though he was departing on a long journey.

engineer, have a large house of his own, with horses and a carriage, marry and have children. She would fall asleep still thinking of the same things and tears would roll down her

<sup>1</sup> hard, brittle cakes or biscuits

<sup>3</sup> a school bag with a long

<sup>2</sup> stories which teach moral lessons

<sup>4</sup> fruit

Text 1

Text 2

Text 3

Text 4

Note

Study skills

Sentences

Answers



Match the highlighted words in the text with their meanings below.

rather fat

deeply

set up, organised

pushed quickly and  
carelessly

hard

awakened

left alone for a  
long time

abandoned

fixed up

sound

shoved

stout

aroused

difficult

Using a dictionary, explain the words in bold.

commercial ✓

to inspect ✓

superfluous ✓

tucked ✓

sorrowfully ✓

overflowing ✓

fellow ✓

ashamed ✓

to stare ✓

More than is needed or wanted

to beam ✓

to learn by heart ✓

to mutter ✓

misty ✓

to purr ✓

dimple ✓

tie ✓

maternal instincts ✓



she dreamed of the far-away, **misty** future when Sasha would finish his studies and become a doctor or an engineer, have a large house of his own, with horses and a carriage, marry and have children. **7** And the black cat would lie at her side **purring**: "Mrr, mrr, mrr."

How are you, Olga Semyonovna, darling? How are you getting on, darling?"

"The school courses are very **difficult** nowadays," she told people at the market. "It's no joke. Yesterday the first class had a fable to **learn by heart**, a Latin translation, and a problem. **6**"

And she spoke of the teacher and the lessons and the textbooks, repeating exactly what Sasha said about them.

At three o'clock they had dinner. In the evening they did his homework together, both crying at how difficult it was. When she put him to bed, she stayed a long time making the sign of the cross over him, **muttering** a prayer. And when she lay in bed,

60

50

55

How difficult it was (l. 56)

Olenka

sympathy

affection

happiness/joy

sorrow

responsibility

dedication

peacefulness

1

2

3

4

5



Which part of the text best describes the picture?



The picture shows Olenka looking at Sasha as he enters school.





Sasha comes home one day and tells his aunt he wants to go and live with his mother in Kharkov. How would he say this? How might Olenka react? In pairs, write a short dialogue, then act it out for the class. Vote for the best dramatization.

### ***Suggested Answer Key***

*A: Aunt Olenka, there's something I'd like to tell you.*

*B: Yes Sasha, darling. What is it?*

*A: Aunt, I want to go and live with my mother. I miss her very much!*

*B: What!*

*A: Please, Aunt Olenka. I miss my mother and I want to be with her.*

*B: But your mother abandoned you.*

*A: I don't care. I hate it here. School is so difficult.*

*B: But I love you, Sasha darling.*

*A: I know, but I have to go.*

**Answer**



Fill in: *beam, stare, mutter, purr, overflow, arouse* in the correct form.

## Workbook

- 1 Jim was so bored in the lesson that he just ..... **stared** ..... out of the window.
- 2 “Stop ..... **muttering** ..... Nancy, I can hardly hear what you’re saying!” said Grandpa.
- 3 The cat began to ..... **purr** ..... as she stroked its head.
- 4 The garden was ..... **overflowing** ..... with fresh vegetables.
- 5 That lecture has really ..... **aroused** ..... my interest in politics.
- 6 Sarah’s mother ..... **beamed** ..... with pride as she watched her win the race.

Complete the sentences with the correct word derived from the words in bold.

- 1 It is not certain whether the project will be a .. **commercial** ... success or not.      **COMMERCE**
- 2 She was really .... **ashamed** ..... about the way she had acted.      **SHAME**
- 3 It was a cold and ..... **misty** ..... morning.      **MIST**
- 4 George was .. **abandoned** ..... by his parents as a small child.      **ABANDON**
- 5 They tried to find a ..... **peaceful** ..... solution to the troubles.      **PEACE**
- 6 She shook her head ... **sorrowfully** ..... after hearing the sad news.      **SORROW**



Match the words. Then, use the phrase to complete the sentences.

1	c	sound
2	d	deep
3	b	school
4	a	maternal

a	instinct
b	entrance
c	asleep
d	ties

- 1 She didn't know she had a , maternal instinct , until she held her newborn baby.
- 2 Mother started to cry when she dropped me off at the .. school entrance ... for the first time.
- 3 The baby was . sound asleep , despite all the noise.
- 4 Mothers usually have ..... deep ..... emotional ..... ties ..... with their children.

# Fill in: die, open, learn, mind.

- 1 The pupils have to ... **learn** ... the poem by heart before the performance.
- 2 I hadn't eaten for so long I felt like I was going to .... **die** ..... of hunger.
- 3 When you graduate from university there are many roads ... **open** .... to you.
- 4 It's not always easy to concentrate in class, especially when you have other things on your **mind** .....

**Annie:** Yes. It's like the rules of what you should and should not wear. Some companies are very conservative while others allow a bit of individuality.

**Presenter:** And how can our listeners find out this information?

**Annie:** Try to get in touch with people who already work for that company and ask questions about the dress code. Another alternative is to take the bull by the horns and just call the Human Resources office and ask.

**Presenter:** Great. Any general tips that you consider a must for any potential interviewee?

**Annie:** Well, first and foremost, never wear jeans. They are far too casual for any interview. Women should avoid short miniskirts and loud noisy jewellery. Men should not wear casual jumpers or leather jackets. Better stick to a suit, either blue or grey in colour.

**Presenter:** Well, that's all been so helpful. Thank you so much for being with us today.

**Annie:** You're very welcome. Glad to be of help.

According to Annie, a black suit is appropriate if you're interviewing for

A any job.

B a creative job.

**C** a high position in a big company.

the correct answer.



What does Annie suggest is essential in an interview?

**a** There should be something characteristic in the candidate's appearance.

B The candidate should be well-dressed.

C The candidate should wear a tiepin.

How can candidates find out more information about what to wear to the interview?

A Go to the company and look at what the others are wearing.

B They can call Annie at her office.

**c** They can speak to other employees of the company.

What should all candidates definitely NOT wear to an interview?

A Jewellery **b** Jeans C Leather jackets

Script 1

Script 2

Script 3

Script 4