

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 1027 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

4. Make Inferences Reread lines 354–374. Why might Chekhov have chosen this ending?

- _____ **a.** to show that Olga has at last found a meaningful love
 _____ **b.** to prove that love always has both positive and negative effects
 _____ **c.** to suggest that all of Olga's problems have not been solved

5. Analyze Structure Fill in this chart. Describe what happens in each episode.

Olga and Kukin	Olga and Pustovalov	Olga and Smirnin	Olga and Sasha

6. Analyze Tone Circle the words that describe Chekhov's tone toward each subject.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| a. description of Kukin: | angry | astonished | humorous |
| b. Pustovalov's courtship: | straightforward | shocked | bitter |
| c. description of Olga: | sarcastic | pitying | detached |
| d. Olga's feelings for Sasha: | sympathetic | disapproving | ironic |

7. Examine Naturalism Complete these sentences.

The plot of the story is not traditional because _____

The character of Olga can be understood as an element of naturalism in the story because _____

8. Make Judgments Do you think Olga feels true love? Why or why not? _____