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# ❁ PARTS ONE-THREE ❁

## PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

*Prepare to think about the novel and its Central One Idea by drawing upon my prior knowledge, experience, or interests.*

1. What principles are important for a family to live by in order to be healthy and happy?

## GRAMMAR | Presentation LOGIC | Dialectic

*In the Grammar section, discover essential facts, elements, and features of the novel through the Reading Notes, Words to Be Defined, and Comprehension Questions.*

*In the Logic section, reason with the facts, elements, and features of the novel; sort, arrange, compare, and connect ideas – and begin to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.*

## *Part One · Chapters I-VIII*

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### READING NOTES

1. **valet** (p. 4) – personal attendant to a gentleman
2. **barb** (p. 7) – an intentional insult or putdown
3. **progenitor** (p. 7) – an ancestor, parent, or forbear
4. **shamming** (p. 9) – pretending; lying
5. **chiffonier** (p. 10) – a tall chest of drawers usually used to store various odds and ends
6. **scriveners** (p. 15) – record keepers or other literate employees holding various administrative duties
7. **provincial** (p. 15) – rural areas outside or away from the city or capital of a country

8. **adjutants** (p. 17) – administrative assistants to the commanding officers
9. **coterie** (p. 18) – a small, exclusive association or syndicate
10. **imperial aide-de-camp** (p. 22) – a confidential, personal assistant to a member of the royal family or other high ranking official
11. **polemics** (p. 23) – admonitions, critiques, or debates
12. **materialists** (p. 23) – Materialism was a Russian philosophical movement that began in the 1860s. Valuing science over theology, materialism undermined traditional religion and the established monarchy. Its tenets comprise elements of naturalism (the belief that everything arises from nature instead of God) and causal determinism (the belief that every event is determined by prior events). The movement often opposed established authority and traditional values. Materialism was a forerunner to communism; its ideas and philosophers were highly revered by Lenin and the other communist leaders through the twentieth century.
13. **promissory note** (p. 26) – a signed legal document that serves as a written promise to pay a debt, either on demand or at a specific date
14. **epigraph** – A motto, phrase, or quotation set at the beginning of a literary work (or one of its divisions). The epigraph usually suggests the theme, subject, or mood of the work.

## WORDS TO BE DEFINED

### Definitions Bank

apprehensively; fearfully	passionate; lustful
compensate; make amends	respect; courtesy
conscientious; meticulous	squandered; wasted
disdainful; scornful	warm; agreeable
embarrassed; humbled	

1. a thirty-four-year-old, handsome, **amorous** man, did not feel amorous with his wife, *adj.* (p. 3)
2. she stopped, looked at the door and vainly tried to give her face a stern and **contemptuous** expression. *adj.* (p. 10)
3. "I'm guilty, so punish me, tell me to **atone** for it." *v.* (p. 11)
4. Stepan Arkadyich remembered his joke about this **punctilious** bald-headed man, *adj.* (p. 13)
5. Yet, despite his **dissipated** life, none-too-high rank and none-too-ripe age, *adj.* (p. 14)
6. something that physically made an **amiable** and cheerful impression on the people he met. *adj.* (p.15)
7. The secretary came in with familiar **deference** and a certain modest awareness, *n.* (p. 19)
8. The **abashed** secretary withdrew. *adj.* (p. 20)
9. "Why?" Levin asked **timorously**. *adv.* (p.20)



*Read Chapters I-VIII, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."*

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is the Oblonsky household in disfunction and turmoil? Describe some of the activities occurring in the house.
2. What does the opening of Chapter II reveal about Stiva? Include a quotation.
3. What news does Matvei's telegram bring? What is Dolly's response to the telegram?

4. *This wood had to be sold; but now, before his reconciliation with his wife, it was out of the question.* (p. 6)  
What thought about himself is offensive to Stepan regarding this issue of the wood on his wife's estate?
5. *He had been born into the milieu of those who were or had become the mighty of this world.* (p. 14)  
List some details you learn about Stepan in the first couple pages of Chapter V. What do you learn about the Russian aristocracy during this time?
6. Briefly describe Levin, as well as his relationship with Oblonsky. How are they different?
7. Why has Levin come to Moscow? Briefly describe the old noble Moscow houses of Levin and Shcherbatsky. What about the Shcherbatskys appealed to Levin?

**SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (LOGIC | Dialectic)**  
May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. *Vengeance is mine; I will repay.* – Epigraph of the novel  
Where does the **epigraph** at the beginning of the novel come from? What **theme** does it suggest?
2. *All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.* (p. 1)  
How does the opening sentence **foreshadow** the **thematic structure** of the novel?
3. *– his face involuntarily ... smiled all at once its habitual, kind and therefore stupid smile.* (p. 3)  
What are the implications of Stiva's reaction to his wife finding the note? Could it **foreshadow** anything?
4. What are Sergei and the philosopher arguing about? Why is Levin frustrated?

## Part Six • Chapters IX-XVI

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### READING NOTES

1. **hummocks** (p. 579) – small, irregular hills or mounds.
2. **snipe** (p. 580) – a wading bird that resides in wet meadows and marshes
3. **bonhomie** (p. 587) – cheerful friendliness; congeniality
4. **petit brin de cour** (p. 602) – "to have a little flirt with"
5. **Entrez** (p. 597) – "Come in"
6. **onomatopoeia** – The use of words whose sounds suggests their meaning (e.g., zip, bang, buzz, hiss). In poetry, it might look like this: "And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain" (Poe, "The Raven").
7. **dramatic situation** – when a character or characters are involved in some conflict
8. **antithesis** – A rhetorical device that features contrasting words or phrases in a strong parallel structure. For example, from Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

### WORDS TO BE DEFINED

#### Definitions Bank

dishonesty; deception

morosely; crossly

fickle; temperamental

poor; impoverished

1. And so it was with some **duplicity** that he said it was not likely there would be anything. *n.* (p. 578)
2. "I will do whatever you say," he said **sullenly**. *adv.* (p. 598)
3. "Masha has worn me out. She slept poorly and has been very **capricious** all day." *adj.* (p. 599)
4. will live my life out and bring up unfortunate, poorly educated and **destitute** children. *adj.* (p. 607)



Read Chapters IX-XVI, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Briefly describe the men's hunting trip. What is Veslovsky like on the trip?
2. How many snipe do Oblonsky and Levin end up with at the end of the day? What is the explanation for Levin's shooting performance? Include a quotation.
3. In Chapter XI, what **motif** is present in the behavior of Oblonsky and Veslovsky at the cottage?
4. When Levin and Laska go out hunting in the early morning, what details of **setting** and **imagery** stand out to you? Include a quotation with a **simile** or **onomatopoeia** that helps enhance the imagery.
5. What is the **dramatic situation** that is the main concern in Chapter XIV? Include a quotation.
6. Referring to page 598, can you locate the use of **antithesis** in a description about Levin's feelings? Answer with a quotation.
7. How is the **dramatic situation** in Chapter XIV resolved?

## SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (LOGIC | Dialectic)

May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. *"Yes, you feel it, and yet you don't give him your property," said Stepan Arkadyich, as if deliberately provoking Levin. ... "I'm not at all convinced. On the contrary, I feel that I don't have the right to give it up, that I have responsibilities to the land and to my family."* (p. 588)  
What political and philosophical issues are at stake here?  
With whose perspective do you agree? Are these issues still with us today?
2. *"Nothing but trouble. No work, no nothing. Just bondage."* (p. 606)  
The young peasant woman at the inn mentions to Dolly some harsh but realistic words about raising children, which incites Dolly to some heavy thinking. Do you agree with the peasant woman and Dolly's subsequent thoughts? Why or why not?