

Connect to the Literature

1 Rate this comedy on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing “very funny” and 1 representing “not funny at all.” Share your response.

Comprehension Check

- Why does Smirnov come to Mrs. Popov’s house?
- Why does Mrs. Popov fetch her husband’s pistols?
- How do Smirnov and Mrs. Popov finally resolve their differences?

Think Critically

2. **ACTIVE READING VISUALIZING** Review the notes in your **READER’S NOTEBOOK**. What images of the **set** and **characters** did you form as you read the play? Sketch or briefly describe one of those images, and compare it with a classmate’s.

3. What is your opinion of Smirnov’s attitude toward women? Cite examples from the play to support your opinion.

4. Do you think that Smirnov is really a bear, as the title implies? Explain your answer.

5. How would you describe Mrs. Popov?

THINK ABOUT

- how she responded to her husband’s death
- what her marriage was really like
- why she agrees to the duel
- her change of heart at the end of the play

Ridiculous Situation

6. Of the sayings “Birds of a feather flock together” and “Opposites attract,” which do you think is more appropriate to the romance in *The Bear*? Explain your answer.

7 In a well-made play, even **minor characters** contribute to its success. In your opinion, what do Luke and the horse, Toby, contribute to this play?

Extend Interpretations

8. **Critic’s Corner** A student reviewer, Cynthia Villicana, found Chekhov’s play to be interesting because it is “romantic and funny at the same time.” How does her judgment of the play compare with your own?

9. **Connect to Life** Do you think men or women most often win the battle of the sexes? Explain your reasoning.