

**Grade Nine**

## Show Me What You Know

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**Directions: Read the excerpt from “*The Nose*” by Gogol Nikolai. Then, answer the questions that follow. Draw a heart above the date.**

Gogol, Nikolai. “The Nose.” Translated by Ronald Wilks. *Diary of a Madman, and Other Stories*. New York: Penguin, 1972. (1836)

An extraordinarily strange thing happened in St. Petersburg on 25 March. Ivan Yakovlevich, a barber who lived on Voznesensky Avenue (his surname has got lost and all that his shop-front signboard shows is a gentleman with a lathered cheek and the inscription ‘We also let blood’) woke up rather early one morning and smelt hot bread. As he sat up in bed he saw his wife, who was a quite respectable lady and a great coffee-drinker, taking some freshly baked rolls out of the oven.

‘I don’t want any coffee today, Praskovya Osipovna,’ said Ivan Yakovlevich. ‘I’ll make do with some hot rolls and onion instead.’ (Here I must explain that Ivan Yakovlevich would really have liked to have had some coffee as well, but knew it was quite out of the question to expect both coffee and rolls, since Praskovya Osipovna did not take very kindly to these whims of his.) ‘Let the old fool have his bread, I don’t mind,’ she thought. ‘That means extra coffee for me!’ And she threw a roll on to the table.

Ivan pulled his frock-coat over his nightshirt for decency’s sake, sat down at the table, poured out some salt, peeled two onions, took a knife and with a determined expression on his face started cutting one of the rolls.

When he had sliced the roll in two, he peered into the middle and was amazed to see something white there. Ivan carefully picked at it with his knife, and felt it with his finger. 'Quite thick,' he said to himself. 'What on earth can it be?'

He poked two fingers in and pulled out—a nose!

He flopped back in his chair, and began rubbing his eyes and feeling around in the roll again. Yes, it was a nose all right, no mistake about that. And, what's more, it seemed a very familiar nose. His face filled with horror. But this horror was nothing compared with his wife's indignation.

'You beast, whose nose is that you've cut off?' she cried furiously. 'You scoundrel! You drunkard! I'll report it to the police myself, I will. You thief! Come to think of it, I've heard three customers say that when they come in for a shave you start pulling their noses about so much it's a wonder they stay on at all!'

But Ivan felt more dead than alive. He knew that the nose belonged to none other than Collegiate Assessor Kovalyov, whom he shaved on Wednesdays and Sundays.

'Wait a minute, Praskovya! I'll wrap it up in a piece of cloth and dump it in the corner. Let's leave it there for a bit, then I'll try and get rid of it.'

'I don't want to know! Do you think I'm going to let a sawn-off nose lie about in my room ... you fathead! All you can do is strop that blasted razor of yours and let everything else go to pot. Layabout! Night-bird! And you expect me to cover up for you with the police! You filthy pig! Blockhead! Get that nose out of

here, out! Do what you like with it, but I don't want that thing hanging around here a minute longer!

Ivan Yakovlevich was absolutely stunned. He thought and thought, but just didn't know what to make of it.

'I'm damned if I know what's happened!' he said at last, scratching the back of his ear. 'I can't say for certain if I came home drunk or not last night. All I know is, it's crazy. After all, bread is baked in an oven, and you don't get noses in bakeries. Can't make head or tail of it! ...'

Ivan Yakovlevich lapsed into silence. The thought that the police might search the place, find the nose and afterwards bring a charge against him, very nearly sent him out of his mind. Already he could see that scarlet collar beautifully embroidered with silver, that sword ... and he began shaking all over. Finally he put on his scruffy old trousers and shoes and with Praskovya Osipovna's vigorous invective ringing in his ears, wrapped the nose up in a piece of cloth and went out into the street.

All he wanted was to stuff it away somewhere, either hiding it between two curb-stones by someone's front door or else 'accidentally' dropping it and slinking off down a side street. But as luck would have it, he kept bumping into friends, who would insist on asking: 'Where are you off to?' or 'It's a bit early for shaving customers, isn't it?' with the result that he didn't have a chance to get rid of it. Once he did manage to drop it, but a policeman pointed with his

halberd and said: 'Pick that up! Can't you see you dropped something!' And Ivan Yakovlevich had to pick it up and hide it in his pocket. Despair gripped him, especially as the streets were getting more and more crowded now as the shops and stalls began to open.

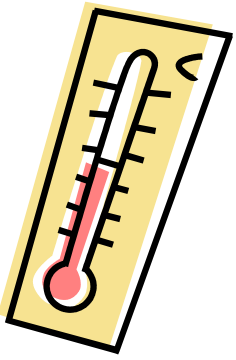
He decided to make his way to St. Isaac's Bridge and see if he could throw the nose into the River Neva without anyone seeing him. But here I am rather at fault for not telling you before something about Ivan Yakovlevich, who in many ways was a man you could respect.

**1. Determine three character traits of both Ivan Yakovlevich and Praskovya Osipovna. Be sure to include which parts of the text led you to your conclusions. (Monday's lesson):**

Ivan	Praskovya

- Character traits are the best to describe each character
- Cited text accurately

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2. Gogol is intentionally trying to keep the reader guessing. What information does he intentionally leave out in order to keep us on our toes? Share at least two pieces of information. Be sure to cite text details. **(Tuesday's lesson)**

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- Used specific details from the text in the answer
- Answer is an accurate depiction of the author's intentions

/4

**3. Read the following excerpt:**

He decided to make his way to St. Isaac's Bridge and see if he could throw the nose into the River Neva without anyone seeing him. But here I am rather at fault for not telling you before something about Ivan Yakovlevich, who in many ways was a man you could respect.

**What is one reason why Gogol has the narrator speaking directly to the reader? (Wednesday's lesson)**

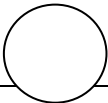
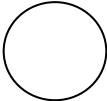
- Answer is an accurate depiction of the author's intentions
- What is one reason why Gogol might choose to have the narrator speak directly to the?

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**4. Read the following excerpt**

But Ivan felt more dead than alive. He knew that the nose belonged to none other than Collegiate Assessor Kovalyov, whom he shaved on Wednesdays and Sundays.

**What is the most likely purpose of the first sentence in the context of the entire passage? (Thursday's lesson)**

- Demonstrates understanding of the author's intent
- Specifically references a story device
- No excuses grammar or spelling

**/3**



# May I Have Some More Cake, Please?

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**Directions:** Read the following *poem* “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. Then answer the questions that follow.

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll’s House*. New York: Signet Classics, 2006. (1879)

From Act I

Helmer (in his room). Is that my lark twittering there ?

Nora (busy opening some of her parcels). Yes, it is.

Helmer. Is it the squirrel frisking around ?

Nora. Yes !

Helmer. When did the squirrel get home ?

Nora. Just this minute. (Hides the bag of macaroons in her pocket and wipes her mouth.) Come here, Torvald, and see what I’ve been buying.

Helmer. Don’t interrupt me. (A little later he opens the door and looks in, pen in hand.) Buying, did you say ? What !

All that ? Has my little spendthrift been making the money fly again ?

Nora. Why, Torvald, surely we can afford to launch out a little now. It’s the first Christmas we haven’t had to pinch.

Helmer. Come, come ; we can’t afford to squander money.

Nora. Oh yes, Torvald, do let us squander a little, now — just the least little bit ! You know you’ll soon be earning heaps

of money. Helmer. Yes, from New Year's Day. But there's a whole quarter before my first salary is due.

Nora. Never mind ; we can borrow in the meantime.

Helmer. Nora ! (He goes up to her and takes her playfully by the ear.) Still my little featherbrain ! Supposing I borrowed a thousand crowns to-day, and you made ducks and drakes of them during Christmas week, and then on New Year's Eve a tile blew off the roof and knocked my brains out

Nora (laying her hand on his mouth). Hush ! How can you talk so horridly ?

Helmer. But supposing it were to happen — what then ?

Nora. If anything so dreadful happened, it would be all the same to me whether I was in debt or not.

Helmer. But what about the creditors ?

Nora. They ! Who cares for them ? They're only strangers.

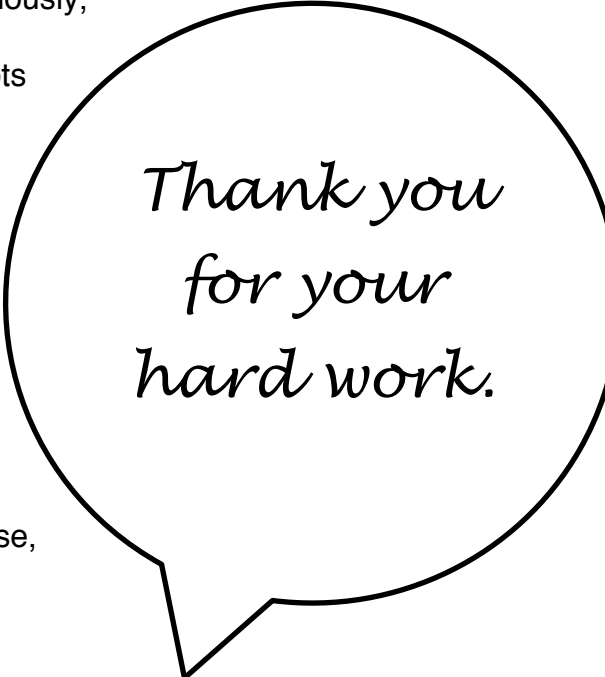
Helmer. Nora, Nora ! What a woman you are ! But seriously,

Nora, you know my principles on these points. No debts

! No borrowing ! Home life ceases to be free and beautiful as soon as it is founded on borrowing and debt. We two

have held out bravely till now, and we are not going to give in at the last.

Nora (going to the fireplace). Very well — as you please,  
Torvald.



*Thank you  
for your  
hard work.*

**5. Determine three character traits of both Helmer and Nora. Be sure to include which parts of the text led you to your conclusions.**

**(Monday's lesson):**

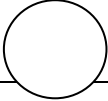
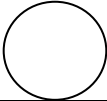
Helmer	Nora

- Character traits are the best to describe each character
- Cited text accurately

**Re-read the following excerpt:**

Helmer. Nora, Nora ! What a woman you are ! But seriously, Nora, you know my principles on these points. No debts! No borrowing ! Home life ceases to be free and beautiful as soon as it is founded on borrowing and debt. We two have held out bravely till now, and we are not going to give in at the last.

**6. What is the most likely purpose of the last sentence as it relates to the whole play? (Thursday's lesson)**

- Demonstrates understanding of the author's intent
- Specifically references a story device
- No excuses grammar or spelling

# Review a Few

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8. What are three characteristics of a not credible resource?

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Demonstrates understanding of credibility for internet research

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9. Create a fake parenthetical citation about cats, showing that you have mastered correct punctuation for parenthetical citations.

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Shows proper punctuation for parenthetical citations

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# Take That and Rewind it Back

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10. The average young person you meet today seems to have the motto, “If at first you don’t succeed, stop right there.” They want to start at the top of their profession and not to learn their art on the way up. That way they miss all the fun. If you write a hundred short stories and they’re all bad, that doesn’t mean you failed. You fail only if you stop writing. I’ve written about 2,000 short stories; I’ve only published about 300, and I feel like I’m still learning. Any man who keeps working is not a failure. He may not be a great writer, but if he applies the old-fashioned virtues of hard, constant, labor, he’ll eventually make some kind of career for himself as a writer.

**Which of the following details helps the reader know that the author works hard?**

- a. He thinks that the average young person wants to start at the top.
  - b. He has written 2,000 short stories.
  - c. He is still learning.
  - d. A person may write 100 bad stories.
11. The Star Trek writers didn’t call space the “final frontier” for no reason. They knew that just as the 49ers went to California over a hundred years ago seeking their fortunes in gold, adventurous young women would someday sign on to join work crews when the United States started settling and developing space. Miners will be among the first non-astronauts into space. Twenty percent of the moon’s crust is silicon, the material used to make computer chips and solar panels. IT seems likely that there will be mines on the moon.

**The author compares twenty-first century adventurers to**

- a. Star Trek characters
  - b. Frontier gold-seekers of long ago
  - c. The earliest astronauts
  - d. Real estate developers
12. Intellectuals who seek to escape the issues of today by withdrawing from problems of reality are not evading these problems. Lack of contact with the real world not only stalemates progress by preventing needed thinkers from contributing answers, it also starves intellectuals’ minds by denying them the stimulation of fresh experience.

**Based on this passage, which individual would the author probably criticize the most?**

- a. A novelist writing about poverty and disease among miners
- b. A scientist protesting pollution
- c. A famous writer refusing to support a campaign to clean up his city
- d. A soldier writing poems of protest about his experiences in war

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# Shining in the Darkness

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Human beings are not “nocturnal” creatures. Nocturnal creatures sleep during the day and come out only at night. We are “diurnal” creatures who stay awake during the day and sleep at night. But if you do go out for a nighttime hike, you will be surprised at how quickly you adapt to the nighttime world. As you walk, give your eyes time to become used to the darkness. The iris, or the part of your eye surrounding the pupil, needs time to enlarge and to let in more light. It needs at least 15 minutes, but 30 or 40 minutes is even better. A chemical in our bodies, called rhodopsin, helps our eyes adapt in the dark.

Rod cells also help us to see at night. These cells are located on the side parts of the retina. So to get a better look at an object at night, don’t look straight at it- try looking to one side of it. The object will look more focused if you do this. Also, if you bring a flashlight on your hike, put a red cover over it like red cellophane or a red lens. Nocturnal animals can’t see red light so they won’t be scared away by it. Your own night vision also will not be affected by red light.

If you are lucky, you may be able to see eyeshine on your walk. Eyeshine is a kind of eerie light reflected back from your flashlight by an animal’s eyes. Walk carefully and hold the end of your flashlight against your forehead or upper lip. Slowly scan the area all around you as you walk. As the beam from your light crosses the ground, you may suddenly see a pair of eyes shining out at you! Nocturnal animals need as much help as they can get to see prey and predators at night. Some of the nocturnal species have developed reflective cells behind their retinas. These cells allow for a light to be doubled. They are in a membrane called “tapetum lucideum.” The light from your flashlight reflects back to you from these cells and causes eyeshine. Diurnal creatures do not have this membrane.

You can tell which animals you have seen from the color of its eyes. Bright yellow eyeshine means you have seen a raccoon. If you see green, then it is a bullfrog. Greenish or white eyeshine could be a white-tailed deer. Alligators have red eye-shine, and opossums have orange or red. If you see eyeshine that glitters, you may have spotted a wolf spider! That would certainly be better than finding a wolf!

**13. What was most likely the author’s purpose in writing this selection?**

- a. To convince readers to be cautious of nocturnal life
- b. To stress the need for regular eyecare
- c. To encourage environmental awareness
- d. To provide information about a natural phenomenon

**14. Which of the following could be the title of the selection?**

- a. Creatures of the Dark
- b. Getting Your Eye’s Checked
- c. Rod Cells
- d. The Phenomenon of Eyeshine

# Survey Says

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1. Which genre are you reading the most at home? Why?

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2. Is there a book that you think more people should know about?

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3. On a scale of 1-5, how did you feel about this week's aims?

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4. Anything else you want to share?

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