

Main Points

- The Lament is a short story written by Anton Chekhov.
- Iona Potapov is an old man. He is a cabdriver.
- He is so white that he looks like a ghost. He is doubly bent.
- His little horse is white. They both remain motionless.
- Iona and his little horse are waiting for passengers but none turned up.
- Later on, he gets a call from an officer who had to go to the Viborg way.
- He lost his young son, Barin, last week. Barin died of a high fever in the hospital.
- He was sharing his grief to the officer but was interrupted in between for his driving.
- Next three quarrelling men board the cab who wish to pay only two griveniks.
- Three of them could not adjust, so short and humpbacked was standing.
- Iona thought of sharing his grief with the three men but they show no interest.
- He could not hold his thoughts anymore so he went to the stable.
- In the stable he finds a young cabman. Iona wants to tell how his son died.
- But the young man shows no interest and is fast asleep.
- At last, when Iona finds no one with whom he could share his feelings, he pours out all his feelings to his white horse.
- Iona's horse very patiently listens to the whole story of his master.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. **Which of the following is written by Anton Chekhov?**
 - a. Glory at Twilight
 - b. The Luncheon
 - c. The Lament
 - d. The Rocking-horse Winner
2. **The main theme of the short story, The Lament is-**
 - a. Life pathos
 - b. Nature
 - c. War
 - d. Celebration
3. **Who is the main character in the story?**
 - a. Barin
 - b. Anissia
 - c. Iona Potapov
 - d. None of these
4. **Iona Potapov is a-**
 - a. Cabdriver
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Doctor
 - d. Postman
5. **What was the colour of the horse?**
 - a. Brown
 - b. Black
 - c. Grey
 - d. White
6. **Who calls the Cab for Viborg Way?**
 - a. Iona
 - b. Passerby
 - c. The officer
 - d. Barin
7. **Where was the Officer going?**
 - a. Hospital
 - b. Viborg Way
 - c. Shop
 - d. Iona's house
8. **Who died that week?**
 - a. Iona's wife
 - b. Iona's father
 - c. Iona's son
 - d. Iona's mother
9. **What is the name of Iona's son?**
 - a. Anton
 - b. Gorinytch
 - c. Charlie
 - d. Barin
10. **What did Barin die of?**
 - a. High fever
 - b. Accident
 - c. Drowning
 - d. Starving

11. **Where did Barin die?**
 a. In the cab b. In the village
 c. In the hospital d. None of these
12. **How many days was Barin in the hospital?**
 a. Two days b. Three days
 c. Four days d. Five days
13. **What fare did the three men wish to give Iona?**
 a. Six rouble b. Three kopeks
 c. Two griveniks d. Four griveniks
14. **What did Iona want to share?**
 a. Grief b. Joy
 c. Hatred d. Fear
15. **The three passengers asked Iona to leave them to-**
 a. Sea bridge b. Police bridge
 c. River bridge d. None of these
16. **Where did Iona go after the three passengers got out of the cab?**
 a. He went to his house
 b. He went to his village
 c. He went to the stable
 d. He went to look for passengers
17. **Whom did Iona find there?**
 a. The officer b. His wife
 c. His son d. Young cabman
18. **What did Iona want to tell the young cabman?**
 a. Death of his son
 b. Death of his wife
 c. Death of his friend
 d. Death of his daughter
19. **What is Iona's daughter's name?**
 a. Anissia b. Arundhati
 c. Jhumpa d. Annie
20. **Where is Anissia?**
 a. She is in the hospital
 b. She is in the village
 c. She is in the school
 d. She is in Viborg Way
21. **With whom did Iona share his feelings?**
 a. His daughter b. His wife
 c. His companion d. The horse
22. **Who serves as a true friend and companion to Iona?**

- a. His father
 b. Young cabdriver
 c. The horse
 d. None of these

23. **The author of the story 'The Lament' is?**

- a. D.H. Lawrence
 b. Jhumpa Lahiri
 c. Anton Chekhov
 d. Mulk Raj Anand

24. **Iona, sitting on his box looks like a-**

- a. Thief b. Phantom
 c. Police d. None of these

25. **Who said, "We must all die"?**

- a. Short and humpbacked man
 b. Tall and lanky man
 c. Iona
 d. The officer

ANSWER KEY

1-c, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-d, 6-c, 7-b, 8-c, 9-d, 10-a, 11-c, 12-b, 13-c, 14-a, 15-b, 16-c, 17-d, 18-a, 19-a, 20-b, 21-d, 22-c, 23-c, 24-b, 25-a

VERY SHORT QUESTIONS

1. **Who has written the story, The Lament?**

Ans. Anton Chekhov has written the story, The Lament.

2. **Who is Iona Potapov?**

Ans. Iona Potapov is an old man who drives a cab.

3. **Who looks like a phantom?**

Ans. The cabdriver Iona looks like a phantom.

4. **Where did the officer wish to go?**

Ans. The officer wished to go to the Viborg way.

5. **What is the name of Iona's dead son?**

Ans. Barin

6. **What did Barin die of?**

Ans. Barin died of high fever.

7. **Where were the three quarrelling young men going?**

Ans. They were going to the Police Bridge.

8. **How much did the three young men pay to the cabdriver?**

Ans They paid two griveniks.

9. Who was Anissia?

Ans Anissia was Iona's (cab driver) daughter.

10. Where did Anissia live?

Ans Anissia lived in the village.

SHORT QUESTIONS

1. How does Iona Potapov look?

Ans Iona Potapov is a cabdriver. He is so white that he looks like a phantom (ghost) and is doubly bent. He keeps sitting on the box of his cab waiting for the passengers.

2. Why did Iona and his little horse not move?

Ans Iona and his little horse did not move from their place for a long time because since evening they had been waiting for passengers but not even one passenger did turn down.

3. What did Iona want to share with the officer?

Ans Iona was in grief. His son died that week. He wanted to share his grief of losing his young son with the officer.

4. What happened to Iona's son?

Ans Iona's son, Barin, was dead. He died of high fever.

5. How did the young driver react to Iona's announcement about the death of his son?

Ans The young cabdriver had no reaction to Iona's words. He hid his face and was fast asleep.

LONG QUESTIONS

1. Comment on the indifference that meets Iona's attempts to share his grief with his fellow human beings.

Ans Iona is an old man who rides a cab. He lost his son who died a week ago. He is suffering a lot and wants to share his feelings. He wants to mourn the death of his son. He looks for passengers and at the same time share his grief. But the people he comes across whether the passengers or the other cabman are least interested in his suffering. They were either in a hurry or busy in their own business. No one is concerned so he is forced to tell the story to his only companion, his horse to lighten himself.

2. What impression of the character of Iona, do you get from this story?

Ans The story begins with the main character, Iona. He is old, bent and is so white that he looks like a ghost. He is poor, helpless and struggling to drag his life. He has lost his son due to which he suffers and longs to share his grief. He is kind, patient, and tolerant. He is in grief and finds no one with whom he could share his emotions even then he is patient. The three quarreling passengers abuse him and he remains calm. He is more worried about the fodder of his horse that shows he is kind even to the animals.

3. How does the horse serve as a true friend and companion to Iona?

Ans Iona drives a sleigh to earn his living and his white horse who is always helping him to drag the cab. He has no one with whom he could share the grief of the death of his son. His son died a week ago but has not been able to speak about it to anyone. He wanted to tell how he fell ill, suffered from high fever, how he died and about his funeral but no one has time to listen to his story. He meets a few passengers, a young cab driver but they are least interested in his story. At last he is left alone then he finds his horse as the only companion who listens to his dead son's story very patiently and breathes over his master's hand.