

Question 1.

What purpose does the first sentence serve?

Answer:

The first sentence serves as a suitable introduction to a story which itself talks about a sad and gloomy situation. It looks like rain but it does not come. Happiness is like the rain here. It looks like happiness but it is not there!

Question 2.

Can you guess what story Ivan was about to tell Bourkin?

Answer:

The story is of two brothers who pursue happiness in their own ways.

Question 3.

How do you feel when it rains?

Answer:

I feel sad and gloomy when it rains. I prefer sunshine to rain.

Question 4.

Describe Aliokhin's appearance.

Answer:

Aliokhin was about 40, tall and stout. He had long hair. He looked more like a professor or a painter than a farmer. At the time we see him first he was wearing a grimy white short and rope belt, and pants instead of trousers. His boots were covered with mud and straw. His nose and eyes were black with dust.

## **Gooseberries (Story) About the Author**

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904) was a Russian physician, dramatist and author. He is one of the greatest short story writers.

'Gooseberries' is the middle story in a trilogy of Chekhov's stories. The first is entitled 'The Man in a Shell' and the last is titled 'About Love'. All are united in theme – the isolation and escape from life. This story has much irony and humour and is poetic in mood.

# Gooseberries (Story) Summary in English

Page 132: From early morning the sky had been overcast with clouds. The day was still, cool and wearisome. It looked like it would rain but it never came. Ivan Ivanich, the veterinary surgeon, and Bourkin, the schoolmaster, were tired of walking. The fields seemed endless to them. Far ahead they could see the windmills of the village of Mirousky. Nature looked gentle and melancholic and the two men were filled with love for the fields and thought how nice the country was.

Bourkin reminded Ivan of the story he had promised to tell him. Ivan told him that he wanted to tell him about his brother. Ian took a deep breath and lit his pipe before he began his story. But soon the rain fell and showed no signs of stopping.