

Questions on “The Lady With the Dog” by Anton Chekhov:

1. When Gurov and Anna take their first walk together, they discuss “the strange light of the sea: the water was of a soft warm lilac hue, and there was a golden streak from the moon upon it” (par. 17). Why do you think Chekhov waits until this moment to provide the descriptive details of the story’s setting in Yalta?
2. How do the weather and season described in each section relate to the action in that section?
3. What is Gurov’s attitude toward his affair with Anna at the outset? What is Anna’s attitude? What are some indications that both Gurov and Anna are unprepared for the relationship that develops between them?
4. Compare and contrast Gurov’s reaction to the Pomeranian in Yalta and later in the town of S. Why are his reactions different?
5. What do you make of the house in S. where Anna lives? What does Gurov make of it?
6. If Gurov and Anna’s affair heats up under the hot sun in Yalta, why doesn’t it cool down, as we would expect, in the snow of a Moscow winter?
7. What hopes does Gurov hold out for Anna and himself as the story closes? How would you describe the tone of the last two lines?