

The Government Inspector

Act 1

Act 1 begins with the Mayor while he was sitting with his officials in the Mayor's house. The officials were the Judge, the Charity Commissioner and the School Superintendent. The Mayor told them he had got bad news from a friend in Petersburg. This friend sent a letter to the Mayor and he told him that the government had sent an inspector to their town to inspect it. He told the Mayor also that this inspector was travelling in disguise. The friend told the Mayor that he got this news from a trustworthy person. So the friend sent that letter to the Mayor to warn him to correct his faults and to cover his mistakes and to put everything in order if he wanted to keep his position. This friend knew that the town was in disorder so he sent the letter to the Mayor to take all the necessary precautions to be careful and to do the best to cover all the wrongs. The officials of the Mayor were surprised when they heard this news because they didn't know the reason behind this visit. They thought the government would never care for a small town like them. The Judge and the Postmaster thought the government had sent this inspector because Russia was going into a war and they wanted to know if there was any treason. But the Mayor didn't believe in that idea because their town was very far away from the nearest foreign country. This showed that all the towns which were far away from the capital were neglected. The Mayor thought that the government inspected other towns and it might be that this was their turn or may be because someone had sent something against him to the government so they sent that inspector. Finally, the Mayor said that he didn't care for the reasons of the visit but he cared for the results of the visit. So the Mayor ordered everyone to be careful and to make some steps to put everything in order. Firstly, he ordered the Charity Commissioner: to make sure that the hospital looked clean and beautiful. To bring some new clean nightcaps instead of the dirty ones and to clean the patients themselves who looked very dirty like chimney sweepers. To put signs over each bed of the patients to be able to distinguish them. To make the doctor record the names of the patients in Latin which showed that there weren't any records about the patients, their names or what they suffered from. to make the patients stop smoking tobacco until the inspector leave the town. To get rid of some of the patients because they were so many and if the inspector saw them he would think that the doctor didn't know his job. Both of the doctor and the Charity Commissioner believed the people in the town were simple people so they didn't give them expensive medicines so they gave them natural treatment so if they died, they died and if they got better, they got better. This showed that nobody cared about the lives of those simple people. The Charity Commissioner said also that the doctor was a very good doctor but he couldn't deal with the patients because he didn't know Russian. Secondly, the Mayor ordered the Judge: to clean his court and the offices of the court who looked very dirty and full of all kinds of rubbish. To order his porter to stop keeping poultry in the court because they turned the court into a dirty place and they caused a very bad smell. to remove the skins of animals, whips and hunting tools which were hung on the wall of the court. These things were also mixed with the papers. The Mayor knew that the Judge like hunting so he ordered him to remove these things just for a while until the inspector left the town. To get the records of the court in order. To make his clerk eat onions to change the smell of Vodka in his mouth or to ask the doctor to give him some medicine to change this smell. Then, the



Mayor talked with the Judge about his faults and sins because he was taking bribes from people. But the judge defended himself by saying that he took only little bribes while others took many expensive things (he meant the Mayor).

The Mayor told the Judge that although he took bribes, he went to the church on Sundays because he believed in God while the Judge didn't believe in God and he didn't go to the church. This situation showed that the Mayor was a hypocrite character because he took bribes at the same time he went to the church because he believed in God. The Judge thought about himself that he was a cultured man although he read only 5 or 6 books so he said that he didn't believe in God because these were his own ideas but the Mayor told him that not to think was better than to think. This also showed that all of them were not only corrupted, robbers, hypocrites and dishonest but they were also ignorant. Thirdly, the Mayor ordered the School Superintendent: to superintend the teachers who had strange behaviour. The Mayor thought that clever, well-educated people always behaved in a strange way. This showed how ignorant was the Mayor because he thought that intelligent people were crazy. The Mayor said that one of the teachers had an angry face all the time and he looked boring so he was afraid that if the inspector saw him he would be in a bad mood. Another teacher didn't believe in God and he taught the students Godless ideas. The history teacher was always enthusiastic in explaining his lessons so he destroyed the chairs of the classes which were governmental properties. The Postmaster then came and the Mayor told him that it might be that the government sent that inspector to their town because there was someone of the people who sent a complaint to the government. So he asked the Postmaster to open all the letters and read them to find if there was any kind of complaints. So if he didn't find any complaints, he could send them once again and if he found any complaint against him, he had to keep it. The Postmaster comforted the Mayor by telling him that he knew his job well as he always opened the letters not only to know if there was any complaints but also because he felt interested in reading them. This showed there was no any kind of privacy as the Postmaster read all the letters of people before sending them. It also showed that the Postmaster was a dishonest character as he opened all the letters to read them to know the secrets of people and send them once again. The Mayor told the Postmaster that if he found anything he had to tell him at once and he had to keep his eyes open. When the Judge warned the Postmaster about opening the letters the Mayor said that it would be safe as everything was done secretly so they didn't have to fear anything because nothing was done in public. This showed how mean and unfaithful those characters were. Then 2 of the landlords came. They were Dob and Bob. They were very excited and they came to tell the Mayor that while they were in the inn, they saw a man who looked official. They asked the innkeeper so he told them that the man was travelling from Petersburg to his family in Saratov. The man's name was Hlestakov and he behaved in a strange way. Both of Bob and Dob thought that he was the inspector who was mentioned in the letter that the Mayor received for many reasons: Because Hlestakov stayed for 2 weeks in the inn which was a long time and he didn't go away yet. Because he didn't pay any money to the innkeeper and he took everything on credit. Because he was so observant and watchful and he looked at everything. The Mayor became any angry because this meant that the inspector all those 2 weeks was inspecting everything. So he decided to go alone to see Hlestakov. He said that it was good that the inspector was a young man as it would be easier to bribe him which showed the corrupted character of the Mayor. Then the officials of the Mayor left him alone

and a policeman came to the Mayor. The Mayor asked the policeman about his partner and the policeman told him that his partner didn't come because he was totally drunk which showed another picture of corruption in that society. Then the Mayor gave orders to clean the streets near the inn because the inspector was there.

Then the Police Superintendent came to tell the Mayor about the preparations that he had done. He told the Mayor that he had sent the watchmen to clean the streets. So the Mayor gave him some orders: He ordered him to put a tall policeman on the bridge so the town would have a good appearance. He also ordered him to pull down a fence very quickly and to cover it with marks as if they were going to destroy it to show that they were very active. He ordered the Police Superintendent to order his men that if the inspector asked any one of them if he was satisfied and happy to answer yes. He also ordered him that if the inspector asked why the hospital wasn't built yet although the Mayor had the money for building it 5 years ago so the answer would be that they started to build it but it was burnt down. He also ordered him not to let the soldiers running in the streets half-naked. The Mayor told the Police Superintendent that he knew about his bribes. Even the Police Superintendent was corrupted as he stole silver spoons and took more cloth for his uniform. Then the Mayor and the Police Superintendent left and Anna – the Mayor's wife – and his daughter Marya came. Anna was a shallow, superficial character. All what she cared for was to know what the inspector looked like, if he had a moustache or not what the colour of his eyes was. So she ordered her servant to go to find everything was happening. Both of Anna and Marya were shallow as they were discussing many unimportant things like the appearance of the inspector. Anna always treated her daughter in a very bad way. She was shouting at her daughter because she was standing in front of the mirror for a long time so she couldn't know any news about the inspector. And when Anna realized that her daughter was in love with the Postmaster, she told her daughter that he didn't love and he only acted to care about her.



Act 2 – Scene 1

Scene 1 of Act 2 begins with Yosif the servant of Hlestakov and his monologue. He was suffering from hunger and he was lying on Hlestakov's bed. He criticized the way that his master was living and he was complaining about the behaviour of his master. He said that Hlestakov was throwing money everywhere like water on trivial things. Yosif was making fun of his master and he was imitating him. Hlestakov was a showing off character so he spent all of his money to show off. Although he was just a junior official, he spent all of his money to have good food, good drink, excellent clothes, excellent type of tobacco and going to the best and most expensive hotels, restaurants and theatres. He also spent his money on gambling and playing cards and he was always a loser so he lost his money. Hlestakov was travelling from Petersburg to the town of his family which was Saratov. His father wanted him to return back to Saratov because Hlestakov failed to be promoted so his father had sent him money but Hlestakov wasted all that money only in one week and he became penniless because he spent the money on caps and theatre tickets. Hlestakov wasn't promoted for a long time because he was lazy and instead of going to work, he liked to show off. Now he had a lot of debts in the inn and the innkeeper threatened him that he would send him to the Mayor if he didn't pay back the debts. This showed that Hlestakov was a showing off character and he couldn't deal with money because he spent it foolishly. Sometimes when Hlestakov couldn't pay back his debts he began to sell his expensive clothes to get money. Even when he sold his expensive clothes he lost the money because he sold them just for a few pounds. He also didn't like to return to the countryside once again because he liked the life in big cities like Petersburg. That's why he considered his father a fool and a stupid man to take him away from Petersburg. Yosif said that it was better to live in the countryside than to live in a big city like Petersburg. Although the life in the country was boring but he wouldn't have all those problems. If you had a lot of money in Petersburg, so you would have a nice life. All people would treat you in a good way. Anyone could go to beautiful places like theatres and markets and enjoyed his time there and everyone would respect him. Even the shopkeepers treated them in a respectable way. So they were treated like noblemen. But when he spent all his money and couldn't pay the bill, they began to ill-treat them so Hlestakov made their life useless because of his showing off. When Hlestakov came, he ordered Yosif to go and to ask the innkeeper to bring him a meal. Yosif refused and he told his master that even he went there, the innkeeper wouldn't accept to give them any more food because they had to pay back all their debts first or he would complain about them to the Mayor to send them to prison. At last Yosif went to bring the waiter to Hlestakov. For some moments, Hlestakov thought about selling some of his expensive clothes to have money to buy food, but then he refused because he preferred to arrive to his town in hunger than to sell his clothes that he wanted to show off by them. This showed how showy was Hlestakov. Even after the waiter had brought the food to him, Hlestakov didn't like the meal. Although he didn't have any money he said that the meal wasn't enough and he also didn't like the quality of the food. The meal was a poor dinner which was served to low-class customers.

Mrs. RASHA ISMAEL

01009182359

English Tutor



Hlestakov was very angry because he wasn't treated like other customers with respect and he was offered an awful meal. Then Yosif came to tell his master that the Mayor came to see him. Hlestakov became very afraid because he thought that the innkeeper had sent a complaint about him to the Mayor so the Mayor came to send him to prison.



By this way the idea of misunderstanding began because at the same time the Mayor was afraid of Hlestakov as he thought that he was the government inspector who came to inspect their town. So both of them were afraid of each other and both of them began to defend themselves. The Mayor began to draw or to portray a false picture of himself. He told Hlestakov that he came in order to make sure that the travellers were treated in a good, kind way in the inn so he was looking after them. He said that he wasn't like other mayors who were careless and didn't care about their towns. This wasn't true but the Mayor wanted to appear as an active official who was always watchful and he cared for his town. So he was lying to Hlestakov and he tried to deceive him. **(Theme of deception)**. Hlestakov began to defend himself because he thought that the Mayor came to take him to prison. He complained about the food, the tea and the room which was dark and full of insects. He also complained about the bad treatment that he had in the inn that they didn't respect in the inn. The Mayor became very afraid when he heard about the complaint and quickly he apologized to Hlestakov. He defended the shopkeepers by saying that they were honest people who had good reputation and excellent quality of food. He also offered to Hlestakov to come to his house so he would have a better service. But Hlestakov refused to go with him because he thought at first that the Mayor wanted to take him to the prison so he threatened the Mayor that he would go to the Minister to complain to him because they didn't respect people and they treated people in a bad way. The Mayor became full of fear and he asked Hlestakov to have mercy on him and he began to confess that he took bribes because his salary wasn't enough to live a good life so he was lying and giving false excuses. He said that he took little bribes which didn't harm anyone. He also said that his enemies were trying to ruin his reputation by telling lies about him. Then when the Mayor knew that Hlestakov didn't have money and he couldn't pay his bill, he found it a good chance to offer him some money as a bribe. Hlestakov accepted to take money and he called them loans that he would return back again when he returned to his town. Also Hlestakov found it a good chance to get out of his trouble. Now the Mayor thought that the inspector had accepted the money so he could cover up his mistakes and he thought that he succeeded to gain Hlestakov to his side. The Mayor also thought that Hlestakov was lying to him when he told him that he couldn't pay his bill and the story about his father and his journey to Saratov because he wanted to keep inognito or in disguise. The Mayor thought that Hlestakov was a big liar but he agreed to all what he had said to him. This showed how hypocrite was the Mayor because he pretended that he believed Hlestakov. Then the Mayor invited Hlestakov to his house as his room in the inn was too small, dirty, dark and full of insects. So Hlestakov accepted the offer at once. Again the Mayor wanted to portray a wrong picture of himself.

He wanted to appear as a generous man in front of Hlestakov who cared about people and tried to make them feel comfortable especially if they were important people like the inspector. This scene also showed that the Mayor was a hypocrite who wanted to appear generous but he wasn't. The Mayor then invited Hlestakov to a tour in the town to visit their institutions and to see how they were in order. The Mayor also sent 2 letters. The first one was to his wife to tell her to prepare a room to Hlestakov and to tell her that the inspector would be their guest and the second was to the Charity Commissioner to prepare for their arrival and to take the necessary steps.

Act 2 – Scene 2

This scene begins with Anna the wife of the Mayor and his daughter Marya while they were sitting together in the Mayor's house. Anna was very worry, angry and nervous because she was waiting for anyone to come to give her a description of the inspector. She was talking to her daughter Marya in an angry way. She told Marya that she was wasting a lot of time in front of the mirror to get dressed to wear make-up and to be ready so they lost the chance to know anything about the inspector and this annoyed her. So she was blaming her and she told her that she was silly because she didn't listen to her words. But Marya comforted her mother by telling her that they would know everything about the inspector very soon. While they were talking beside the window, a man was coming to their house. This man was Dob and Marya could realize him but Anna was arguing with her daughter that he wasn't Dob and she was imagining things until she discovered that he was really Dob. This argument showed that Anna was always arguing and contradicting with her daughter over everything just to annoy her. When Dob came, he gave them a description of the inspector. He told them that he was a great, good-looking, elegant man with high education and great manners. He told them that Hlestakov at first was angry and said that everything in the hotel was bad. But when he had a conversation with the Mayor he changed his opinion and he knew that it wasn't the Mayor's mistake so everything went well again. Then they went together in a visit to the hospital and they would have dinner there. Dob told them that he felt afraid when he saw the inspector because he looked too great so Dob felt nervous. He also told them that the inspector was a young man of 23 years old but he talked like wise men and he looked very respectable. He was also a cultured man because he liked to read and write. Then Dob gave Anna the letter of her husband. He told her that everything went well with the inspector and he thanked God for that and he asked her to prepare a room for Hlestakov. He told her not to prepare any dinner because they had dinner in the hospital and he asked her to bring a lot of the excellent wine. Then Anna ordered Mishka – the servant of the Mayor – to go to bring the wine and to tidy the room to the inspector. Anna was very worry what to wear when the inspector came. She wanted to appear elegant and fashionable because he was from Petersburg and he met elegant ladies so she didn't want the inspector to laugh at them. This showed how superficial and shallow was the character of Anna.

Mrs. RASHA ISMAEL

01009182359

English Tutor



Again Marya and her mother argued together of what they would wear which showed that the mother and the daughter never got on well at all. Yosif then came and he had a conversation with Mishka. Mishka asked Yosif if his master was really a general and Yosif lied to Mishka telling him that Hlestakov was a general and a very important person. Yosif lied to Mishka in order to enjoy his meal and to have food and to back up his master in his lie. Then, Hlestakov, the Mayor and the Charity Commissioner arrived. Hlestakov told them that he liked his visit to the hospital and the meal that he had there. He also said that he passed on other towns but they never took him in visits to their institutions. The Mayor found it a good chance to lie to Hlestakov and to portray a deceitful picture of him and his officials. He said that he and his officials were different than other mayors and officials because their only goal was to look after their town and this was the most important thing to them. They also cared for gaining the good opinion of the government and to satisfy it by their honesty and by hard working. The Mayor wasn't only corrupted and hypocrite but he was also a big liar. Hlestakov was also surprised that he didn't find many patients in the hospital. The hospital was full of beds but most of them were empty. This was one of the steps that the Charity Commissioner took. He got rid of some of the patients to appear as if he was active so most of the patients recovered.

The Charity Commissioner copied the Mayor. He also began to lie to Hlestakov and he wanted to draw a false picture about his job. He said that most of the patients recovered because of his wise management and good control of the hospital. He said that they recovered from the day that he became responsible for the hospital because everything became organized. He said that the reason wasn't the medicine but his honesty and good control. At that time the Mayor felt jealous and he wanted to appear also as an active official so he began to praise himself. He talked about his responsibilities and he said that nothing could be compared to the loads that the Mayor had. He faced a lot of difficulties but by the help of God he could solve them. He said that the Mayor never felt comfortable because he had a lot of work to do. He had to keep many things in his mind like good order, cleanliness and repairing. He said also that some mayors were only caring for their own benefits but he didn't. For him, he only cared for his town and how to satisfy the government and to have their trust. Even when he went to sleep he began to think about his town and how to satisfy the government. He wasn't waiting for a reward for his services. The only reward that he wanted was to keep his town well; the streets clean, to look after the prisoners, to organize his town and to satisfy the government. All what he wanted was to have a good, clean life and he didn't expect anything in return. All of these were lies and false pictures that the Mayor drew about himself. Even the Charity Commissioner realized how the Mayor was a liar and hypocrite. Hlestakov then asked the Mayor if they had enjoyed their time by playing cards. But the Mayor thought that Hlestakov was trying to trick them to know if they were playing cards or not to know if they were neglecting their work but the Mayor was so careful so he denied that they had played cards and he said that he never played it. Even he didn't know how to play it because he spent his valuable time in something which was more important which were solving the problems of his town. Then the Mayor introduced his wife and his daughter to Hlestakov.



Hlestakov began to flirt both of Anna and Marya. Even Hlestakov himself began to lie and to draw an untrue, fake picture about his life in Petersburg and to drink wine, a glass after glass and he told them how important he was there:- He said that he had a very good relation with his boss and they went to have dinner together. He also said that he had a man whose job was to write letters for him because he was a very important man. He said that he was a very famous man in Petersburg. Sometimes he tried to move without anyone could notice him but he found it very difficult because everyone realized him as everyone knew him. He also said that he had strong relations with the most beautiful actresses and the most famous writers. He also said that he wrote some scripts to be acted on the theatre and he also wrote for the magazines but this wasn't his main job. He only did it because the managers of the theatre came and begged him to write plays for them because he was a successful and talented writer. For him writing plays and articles was an easy work and he did it only for fun. It didn't take him a lot of time and everyone was surprised when he read his plays because they were wonderful. His plays were also published by the most famous newspapers. He also corrected the articles of other writers and the newspapers paid him a lot of money. He said also that everyone knew his house and he made a lot of parties in it to dance, to have the excellent and most expensive food and to play cards. All of his guests were important people of high rank like ministers, ambassadors and princes. He also said that he was promoted to be the manager of the department that he was working in and they begged him to accept that position.

All the clerks were terrified of him when he came because he had a very strong character and he was very strict. He said also that he went to the most expensive and famous places in Petersburg. Then when the Mayor realized that Hlestakov had become really drunk, he offered to him to take him to his room to rest and Hlestakov accepted.





Act 3 – Scene 1

This act begins with the Mayor while he was talking to one of his police officers. He ordered his officer to keep silent because Hlestakov was sleeping and to prevent any one of the people in the town from entering the house of the Mayor to meet Hlestakov. He ordered the officer not to let them in especially the merchants even if they didn't have any complaints against him. Then Anna and Marya came and the Mayor expressed to them his fear of Hlestakov that he couldn't sleep well at night. Anna and Marya were arguing together again. Each one of them thought that Hlestakov liked her that's why he was paying attention at her and was looking at her without anyone could realize. This showed how superficial and shallow were Anna and Marya. Anna thought that Hlestakov was cultured and he admired her. The Mayor was annoyed by the shallow and superficial conversation between Anna and her daughter. The Mayor didn't believe all what Hlestakov had said about himself. He said that maybe Hlestakov had said some lies to affect them. This showed that the Mayor was a hypocrite character because he pretended that he believed Hlestakov. When Yosif came out of the room of Hlestakov, all of Anna, Marya and the Mayor tried to have some information about Hlestakov from him. The Mayor gave Yosif some biscuits, tea and money to have this information. The Mayor wanted to know what kind of men was Hlestakov. He asked Yosif if Hlestakov was a strict or firm character and if he liked to catch the mistakes of others or it was easy to deal with him. He also asked Yosif about the best thing that Hlestakov liked and what Hlestakov was paying attention to. On the other hand, Anna didn't care about all those questions and she began to ask Yosif her shallow and silly questions. All her questions were about trivial things. She asked Yosif if the guests of Hlestakov were people from the high rank. She also asked how Hlestakov looked like while he was wearing his uniform and what was his rank. She asked Yosif also about the colours of eyes that Hlestakov liked the best. Marya wasn't asking any questions but she was praising Hlestakov saying that he was a handsome man. This showed the superficial characters of both Anna and Marya. Yosif lied to all of them. He told them that all the guests of his master were people of the high rank like ministers and princes. He also said that Hlestakov liked to be treated in a good, kind and gentle way and to have fun and that Hlestakov liked generous people like them. He lied to them also when he told them that Hlestakov always made sure his servant was treated kindly. Yosif told them those lies to cover up his master and to make them take care about him and to treat him well. Anna who didn't care about all that conversation left the place and she took with her Marya. Then the Charity Commissioner, the School Superintendent, the Judge, the Postmaster, Dob and Bob came to the Mayor's house to meet Hlestakov. Then the Mayor left them to get ready. The Charity Commissioner said that they came because they wanted to pay their respects to Hlestakov and to introduce themselves to him. The officials wanted to bribe Hlestakov but they were afraid of his reaction. They didn't know how to bribe him.

They were also arguing together to choose one of them to talk to Hlestakov firstly because they were too afraid of him. Then they chose the Judge to talk firstly to Hlestakov because he knew how to talk well. Both of Bob and Dob came also to ask Hlestakov for a favour. Then the Mayor left them. Hlestakov then woke up and he came out of his room and he was talking to his servant, Yosif. Hlestakov liked the time that he was spending in the town. He thought that the people in the town were treating him in a good and gentle way because they were generous and kind and because they didn't see any important man before that's why they tried to please him. He said also that Marya was a beautiful girl and Anna could do anything to achieve what she wanted.



The Judge then introduced himself to Hlestakov. So Hlestakov asked the Judge if he could earn a lot of money from his job as a judge. The Judge thought Hlestakov wanted a bribe and he praised himself and his job by saying that the government was satisfied by his work. Then the Judge dropped the money that he had in his hands so Hlestakov could see it. The Judge asked Hlestakov to take the money. Hlestakov accepted to take the money and he called them loans. He told the Judge that he lost his money on his way to the town and he would return the money to the Judge when he returned to Saratov. But the Judge refused and he told Hlestakov that his only goal was to serve the government. So he asked Hlestakov if he had any orders about his court to him before he left. But Hlestakov said that he didn't have any orders. By this way the Judge thought that he succeeded to bribe Hlestakov and to win him in his side. Then the School Superintendent came to introduce himself to Hlestakov. So Hlestakov offered to the School Superintendent cigars and he asked him about the kind of women that he preferred. Then Hlestakov told him that he had lost all his money on his way to the town, so he asked the School Superintendent to lend him money and he would return it when he got back to his town. So the School Superintendent gave him 400 roubles. Then the Charity Commissioner came to introduce himself to Hlestakov. He reminded Hlestakov that he was the one who took him in a tour to the hospital. Then the Charity Commissioner revealed all the mistakes of the other officials. He said that he was surprised that the government chose a man like the School Superintendent to be responsible for the school. He said that the School Superintendent put evil ideas in the minds of the students. He said also that the Judge spent all of his time in hunting and he neglected his work and his court was full of dogs that he used to hunt. He said that the Judge was an immoral man as he had a relation with Dob's wife and he went to Dob's house when Dob was out. That's why all the children of Dob were like the Judge. He also said the Postmaster neglected his work and his department was always in disorder and he delayed the letters for days. He also offered to Hlestakov to write all these mistakes to him. Hlestakov accepted because he liked to read these things and he asked him to come again to tell him these stories. He also asked the Charity Commissioner to lend him money and he would return it when he got back to his town because he lost his money on his way to the town. So the School Superintendent gave him 400 roubles. Then Bob and Dob introduced themselves to Hlestakov. Hlestakov asked them to lend him 1000 roubles but they had only 65 roubles so Hlestakov took them. Then Dob asked a favour from Hlestakov. Dob wanted his oldest son to be his son legally and to bear his name because he had this son before marriage.

So Hlestakov promised him that he would help him and he would do his best. Bob also asked Hlestakov for a favour. Bob wanted Hlestakov to mention his name between the high ranks when he went to Petersburg. Then all of them left Hlestakov alone with his servant, Yosif. At that time, Hlestakov realized that they had mistaken him for somebody very important in the government.

This showed that Hlestakov was an opportunist as he found this was a good chance to collect a lot of money. Hlestakov realized that he had deceived them so he began to write to one of his friends in Petersburg who wrote plays to tell him about what had happened to him to write a play about it. Then he began to count the money that he had collected from them. Yosif then advised Hlestakov that they had to leave the town because it might be that the important man that they waited for could arrive at any time so they had to leave before the people discovered their real characters and because Hlestakov's father would be angry if they were late. This showed that Yosif was wiser than his master because Hlestakov wanted to stay because he liked the town.

At last Hlestakov accepted so Yosif took the letter of Hlestakov to send it and to prepare the horses to leave. Many merchants were outside of the Mayor's house. All of them came to complain to Hlestakov about the Mayor's behaviour with them. They hoped that Hlestakov could save them from the unfair Mayor. The policeman tried not to let them enter as the Mayor ordered him but Hlestakov ordered the policeman to let them enter. The first merchant said that there were no any word could describe the injustice of the Mayor. He ill-treated them even when they gave him all the presents that he needed to his wife and his daughter in the feasts but he wasn't satisfied. The second merchant said that the Mayor took everything when he visited their shops even if he didn't need it or if it wasn't suitable to him. He said that if any merchant refused, the Mayor would shut up his business. So they couldn't complain. The third merchant said that they hid all their goods when they knew that the Mayor would come because the Mayor took everything even if it was rotten. He said also that the Mayor created feasts to take more presents for him and for his family. Then the merchants offered to Hlestakov sugar and wine to take them. Hlestakov refused and he told them that he never took bribes but he could take money as loans. So they gave him money to save them from the Mayor. Then Yosif took the basket which had the wine and the sugar as it would be useful in their journey. After that 2 women came to complain about the Mayor. The first one was the wife of the locksmith and the second one was the wife of the sergeant. The locksmith's wife complained that the Mayor had sent her husband to the army although he was married and it wasn't his turn so this was against the law. She said that the Mayor didn't take the son of the tailor or the son of the draper because they bribed him but he took her husband because they didn't bribe him. The sergeant's wife also complained that the Mayor had whipped her on her back by mistake because there were some women fighting in the market and the police came when everything was finished so they took her by mistake. The sergeant's wife wanted the Mayor to pay her a fine. Then the 2 women left Hlestakov and he ordered Yosif not to let anyone to enter to him. Then Marya came and Hlestakov began to flirt her and he kissed her which made her feel angry. So he knelt and he asked her to forgive him and he told her that he did that because he loved her.



Then Anna came and shouted at her daughter so Marya left them. At that time Hlestakov began to flirt Anna and he told her that he loved her. Anna reminded Hlestakov that she was married but Hlestakov told her that he didn't care. This showed that Anna was a flirting woman because she was ready to have a relation with Hlestakov although she was married. She was also jealous of her daughter and she tried to attract the attention of Hlestakov. Marya came again and her mother began to shout at her because she came at once. So Hlestakov told Anna that he was in love with her daughter.

This showed that Hlestakov was immoral as he was ready to have relations with Anna and her daughter at the same time. The Mayor came and he asked Hlestakov not to believe what the merchants had said to him because they were liars and cheaters. He also said that he didn't whip the sergeant's wife but she whipped herself. But Hlestakov told him that he didn't care. Then Anna told the Mayor that Hlestakov wanted to marry their daughter. At first the Mayor didn't believe it and he thought that this was a joke but then he was very happy by this news and he accepted. Then Yosif came to tell Hlestakov that the horses were ready for leaving. Hlestakov told them that he had to go to his rich uncle to tell him about his marriage for one day then he would return to them. Before Hlestakov left them he asked the Mayor to lend him some money, then he left them.



Act 3 – Scene 2

The Mayor was sitting with his wife and his daughter. He was expressing to his wife his happiness and surprise that their daughter would marry an important like Hlestakov. He ordered his policeman to make a list of all the merchants who wanted to complain about him to Hlestakov. He also ordered him to go to tell everybody in the town that his daughter would marry an important man from the high rank. Both of the Mayor and Anna had many dreams about their future life. They made many plans to begin a new life. They thought that they would go to Petersburg to live in it. The Mayor also thought that he would have a better rank and he could be a general as his daughter would marry an important man. He even began to imagine himself in his uniform and the officers who would run with their horses in front of his carriage. Also Anna had many dreams as she told her husband that life would be different in Petersburg as they would mix with the high rank so she advised her husband to behave himself and to use a better language in talking. She also imagined many pictures of their house in Petersburg. Then all the merchants came. The Mayor insulted all of them because they complained about him to Hlestakov. The Mayor was very angry and he reminded them that he was the one who helped them to be rich and make wealth. He helped them in cheating and making contracts to gain money by illegal ways. The merchants were afraid and they apologized to the Mayor. So he told them that he forgave them but he asked them to provide him with money and presents because his daughter would marry soon. Then the officials with their wives and Bob and Dob came to congratulate the Mayor when they heard the news.

All of them were surprised and they asked Anna and the Mayor how it happened. Anna began to praise herself and she lied to them. She told them that Hlestakov wanted to marry Marya because of Anna's good manners and qualities. She also told them that they would move to Petersburg because her husband would be a general there. All the officials were hypocrite because they congratulated the Mayor for his new position but they knew that he didn't deserve it. The officials asked the Mayor not to forget them when he got his new position as a general and to help them if there was any problem. But Anna told them that the Mayor wouldn't have enough time to do that and this would be a load over him. This showed that Anna was a selfish and ungrateful character.

Then the Postmaster came to tell them the terrible news. He told them that when he went to his office, he found the letter of Hlestakov and he found on it the address of his friend "Post Office Street" so he thought that this was a report about him. The Postmaster was hesitated and afraid of opening the letter but he opened it at the end and he discovered that he wasn't the government inspector and he cheated all of them. The Mayor didn't believe the Postmaster so he read the letter to them. Hlestakov was telling his friend that he had lost his money on his way to the town and he was cleaned out. He didn't send a letter to his father to help him because he was too angry with him and he asked him not to ask for more money. Then the innkeeper wanted to send him to prison for his debts. But the people in the town were mistaken him for the government inspector because of his face and his clothes. He said that he was staying in the Mayor's house and he was living with his wife and his daughter. He said that Anna could do anything to achieve what she wanted. He also said that he took money from the officials as loans and they were afraid of him so they gave him a lot of money. He said that the Mayor was generous but stupid. Hlestakov said also that the officials were generous but he insulted every one of them. The Mayor didn't believe that this letter was written by Hlestakov and he thought that the Postmaster wrote it. Every one of the officials took the letter to read what Hlestakov had written about them. The Mayor was shocked. He said that he deceived many people before so how he could be deceived after 30 years of service.

He was also worried that his story would be a play and he would be a joke in all Russia. Then the officials and the Mayor accused Bob and Dob that they were the ones who came to tell them Hlestakov was the inspector. Then they insulted Bob and Dob and described them as foolish and stupid. Bob and Dob accused each other that he was the first one to say that Hlestakov was the inspector. Then a policeman came to tell the Mayor that the government inspector had arrived from Petersburg and he wanted to see the Mayor at the hotel at once.

