

The conflict between art and life

- The play constantly contrasts **different artistic ideals**:
- **Konstantin** wants new, experimental, symbolic art.
- **Trigorin** represents successful, conventional realism.
- This tension explores **what art should be and why people create it** — for truth, fame, or love?

Unrequited love and emotional frustration

- Almost every character loves someone who doesn't love them back:
- Konstantin → Nina
- Nina → Trigorin
- Polina → Dorn
- Masha → Konstantin

The search for meaning and purpose

- Characters struggle with **boredom, failure, and disappointment**.
- Sorin regrets his wasted life; Konstantin feels like a failure; Nina loses her innocence.
- Everyone tries to **find purpose** through love, art, or ambition but fails to hold onto it.

The passage of time and the loss of dreams

- As the play moves forward, idealism fades.
- What begins with youthful passion (Act I) ends in **disillusionment and tragedy** (Act IV).
- In Chekhov's plays, people often start out **full of dreams, passion, and ambition**, but as time passes, those dreams **fade, weaken, or completely die**. **the slow loss or destruction of people's hopes** like how something rots or fades away with time.

Generational conflict

- The younger generation (Konstantin, Nina) dreams of new forms and freedom.
- The older generation (Arkadina, Trigorin) clings to tradition and stability.
- This reflects the **clash between innovation and conservatism**, both in art and in life.



Ilya Repin Barge Haulers on the Volga (1873)



Vladimir Makovsky
The collapse of the bank (1881)



Ivan Shishkin (1889)
..... Morning in the pine forest



Vasili Perov
The village funeral (1861)



A Doss house (1889)

Vladimir Makovsky



