

For p. 564:

Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, Act 2, Scene 2 (Andrei and Ferapont)

Andrei: ^c **A:** To dismiss: Nothing. (IM: “Why does Protopopov bother me at home?”). ^c ③ **A:** To evaluate: Tomorrow is Friday. ② **A:** To complain: **I don’t**
^v have to attend ② (IMG: Andrei does not want to go, do you have such a place in
^v ^c mind?) **A:** To decide: **but I’ll go** ① anyway ... (Notice the ellipsis, there must be
^v a thought here.) ① **A:** To justify himself: to occupy myself. ① (IM: “I must get
away from Natasha, and there is nothing to do here.”) **A:** To complain: **It’s**
^c boring at home ...

Pause.

(This is a major pause in the scene, and there is no need to rush it. Take your time to really achieve deep thought and logically come to a decision to continue speaking. Ask yourself what Andrei is thinking and feeling. What analogies do I have in my experience, either personal or observed, to use as a source of images in the following section. What do I need to create and see in my imagination to be able to justify Andrei’s self-ridicule and state of loneliness. To Blame Life: How did my life end up like this? Maybe Andrei thinks something like this: All the dreams I had when I was younger are fading away. I married too hastily and made a mistake, and now life has cheated me. Ferapont is deaf so I can quietly get this off my chest by speaking my deepest feelings aloud.)

A: To quietly implore: ^s **Dear Grandpa!** ① **A:** To ridicule: ^c How strangely ① ^s life
^v ① changes and deceives us! ① **A:** To cite an example: ^c Today, ① **out of**
^c boredom, ① **because I had nothing else to do,** ① I picked up ① (IMG:
^v ^v

(Choose an image, either personal or imaginary, of something that has had a great meaning for you in the past and now it doesn’t, so it seems ironic to you.)

A: To treat the book as if it is a lost treasure: ^S **this book**—

^S **old university lectures**—A: To mock himself and Chairman: **and**

^V **I wanted to laugh** ... (Note the ellipsis.) ① A: To mock yourself: ^S **My God**, ①

(IMG: See an image of something menial that you look down upon.)

^S I'm a **secretary of the District Board**, ① ^S **the Board** ① **where**

(IMG: Andrei dislikes and distrusts the Chairman intensely; what image would

you choose here?) ^S **Protopopov** ① ^V **is** ① ^S **the chairman**. ③ I'm the

^S **secretary**, ① (Andrei pictures himself as a nobody) ^C **and the most** ① **I can**

^{VC} **expect is to be** ① ^S **a member of the** (IMG: Andrei sees a place and occupation

that is far beneath him and repulses him. What images do you have?) ^S **District**

Board! ② ^S **I**, ① ^S **a member of the District Board**, ③ (IMG: Take a slight pause

here to capture the image of an analogous dream, savor it, and let it affect you

before you speak the line. Use your voice to express your feelings.) ^V **who dreams**

^C ① **every night** ① ^S **that I am a professor** ① ^S **at Moscow University**, (IMG:

Choose an analogous image of a wonderful place that you'd really like to be right

now!) ① ^S **a famous scholar** ① ^S **whom all of Russia** ① ^{VS} **is proud of!** ①

^V **Ferapont: I wouldn't know** ... ① ^V **I don't hear** well ...

(Up to now Andrei has been speaking aloud; however, mostly to himself. Ferapont is a device Chekhov uses to give Andrei a justification for speaking his private thoughts aloud.)

Note: Now it is your turn, use the remainder of the text below to determine and write in the actions, speech groups, underlined words, images, inner monologue and logical pauses.

Andrei: If you could I probably wouldn't talk to you. I need to talk to somebody, but my wife doesn't understand me. I'm afraid of my sisters for some reason. I'm afraid they'll laugh at me embarrass me. I don't drink, I don't like salons, but with what pleasure I would be sitting now at Testov's in Moscow, or in the Bolshoi Moscovsky, my dear fellow.

End