



Fat and Thin
Anton Chekov

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Where will you be in your life in 20 years? – Finish the predictions:

I will live in with

I will have

I will work as a

I will be

I will

I won't have

I won't be

I won't

What is *the social ladder*? Which factors create one's position in such a ladder?

Put them in order to the influence they have:

a) for adults

b) for 15 year-old teenagers

education, family, job/school, wealth, good luck, hard work, physical appearance, clothes, intelligence...

Are there any other factors?

Is it important to climb the ladder up? Why? Why not?

How can you do that? How can you do it most easily? What do you consider to be the best way?

What are the advantages of being at the top? Are there any disadvantages?

What are the disadvantages of being at the bottom? Are there any advantages?



READING ACTIVITIES

Did you notice any changes in the characters' behaviour towards the others? Where?
How exactly did it change?

Why do you think the changes appeared?

Work in groups of four. Create three living pictures based on the story in which you illustrate the changes in the characters' behaviour.

At which level of the social ladder are the two men at the moment?

Does the author say anything about how they have reached their positions?

Does the author say anything about the nature of the two men?

What is your impression of them from the story?



POST-READING ACTIVITIES

Work in groups:

“If someone is the only one who can help at the moment, then he has to do it.”

Do you agree?

What are some possible situations for which this statement may be applied?

Choose one of your ideas and create a dialogue between the two men – Fat and Thin, in which Thin is asking Fat for help.

What kinds of “instruments” could Thin use to persuade Fat more easily?

Would you use the same way to persuade someone to do something for you? Why?

Why not?

Alternative:

Choose one of your ideas and write down a letter of application in which you ask “an old friend” for help.

What are some of the “instruments” to be used in the letter to make him help you?

Which of them work best? Why do you think so?

Which of them would you avoid? Why?



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