

The Nose

Nikolai Gogol

How does the narrator make an impossible event feel absurdly official and ordinary?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Part I - Kovalev discovers the impossible loss

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	On the 25th March, 18-, a very extraordinary occurrence took place in St. Petersburg.
END	But there was no nose!
PASSAGE ID	sec-nose-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how matter-of-fact narration intensifies absurdity

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The narrator reports the impossible with the tone of a civic record: exact dates, occupations, addresses, and routine actions. That calm specificity does not make the event believable; it makes the gap between bureaucratic normality and physical impossibility comic.

MARK

Underline exact dates, titles, places, or routine details. Circle the first unmistakably impossible detail. Box a sentence where the narrator treats the event as if it were ordinary news.

NOTICE

- What kinds of factual details make the opening sound official?
- How does the tone change - or fail to change - when the impossible appears?
- Why is the calm narration funnier than a shocked narrator would be?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the narrator make an impossible event feel absurdly official and ordinary? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The story’s absurdity comes from the collision between an impossible event and a narrator who reports it with bureaucratic calm. Exact details create the expectation of realism, so the unchanged matter-of-fact tone makes the missing nose seem both impossible and strangely administrative.

EVIDENCE

Use one precise realistic detail and one impossible detail reported in the same calm style.

WATCH FOR

Do not explain the event as if it needs a realistic cause. The lesson is about tone: realism is being used to make nonsense more striking.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 10 · LESSON 306

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WORK	The Nose
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Part I - Kovalev discovers the impossible loss

PASSAGE ID	sec-nose-01
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

On the 25th March, 18-, a very extraordinary occurrence took place in St. Petersburg.

END

But there was no nose!

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline exact dates, titles, places, or routine details. Circle the first unmistakably impossible detail. Box a sentence where the narrator treats the event as if it were ordinary news.
2. NOTICE What kinds of factual details make the opening sound official? How does the tone change - or fail to change - when the impossible appears? Why is the calm narration funnier than a shocked narrator would be?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the narrator make an impossible event feel absurdly official and ordinary?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.