

English 12/AP English Literature and Composition
Passage for close analysis, *Anna Karenina*, Reading 19

Consider the following passage:

“This was the very thing she had been dreaming about during her journey earlier in the day, but now that she had learnt that it was possible, she was horrified. She felt that this was an excessively simple solution to an excessively complicated problem.”

Explain what Dolly means by this and how she resolves her problem. Why is Dolly horrified to find out that what she has wanted is possible? For Dolly, what are the complications of the problem? How are they inadequately addressed by the solution Anna has found?

What are the consequences for Anna of her decision? If the consequences are unsatisfactory, how is it that Anna feels the need to accept the “simple solution”? How is it that Anna has come to be in this situation?

Connect the passage and the dilemmas here to those faced in our world. Consider the idea of marriage in our society in general and the role of contraception, etc., in relation to that society.

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