The Summary of Uncle Vanya

The story is arranged in four acts. It is also divided into some major conversations. They are the conversations between:
- Vanya and the professor
- Vanya and Astrov the doctor
- Vanya and Yelena, the professor’s wife
- Vanya and Sonya, his niece
- Astrov and Yelena
- Astrov and Sonya
- Yelena and Sonya

There will be explanations about each conversation that explain the story. However, I want to present the story in brief, so that it may give a clear understanding of the story.

The Story in Brief

The story happens in a countryside forestry belongs to Vanya’s family. The day starts with the conversation between Astrov and Vanya’s mother. It seems that Astrov has been familiar to this family. Actually he is a doctor that is also interested in forestry. He expresses his interest and his disappointment to the recent situation of Russia forest. His coming to this family can be in the matter of the professor’s health that spends his time in the forestry that time, or at least he has something to do there.

Vanya, from the beginning of the story stars to show his dislike to the professor and his condition now. Vanya considers the professor as a person that has no more capability as he used to be, a burden to the family, a source of the trouble. Yet Vanya loves the Professor’s wife, Yelena. In this matter he fails. He feels that the professor has disappointed him so far. His anger comes to the top when he listens to the professor’s idea to sell the estate that according to him is not profitable. Vanya becomes very angry until he takes a shot gun to the professor but missed.

Yelena is a beautiful young woman. She makes some people fall in love to her, including Astrov and Vanya. She has no much support to the story, she is just becomes the one of the factors that makes some people feels annoyed. Besides Vanya and Astrov, Sonya has a slight regret when she compares her appearance to Yelena’s beauty. She feels awfully not beauty so she dares not to expresses her feeling to the Astrov. Then she asks Yelena to investigate the doctor.

Sonya, at the end of the story, becomes the person that can make Vanya to put everything wrong behind and continue the life after the conflict and the professor and his wife’s leaving. Finally, Vanya agrees to Sonya’s opinion to continue the life as before.
The Content of the Conversation

✦ Vanya and the Professor
   The conversation mainly is about Vanya’s dislike to the professor’s (appearance, proposition).

✦ Vanya and Astrov
   The conversation is about life, interest and judging about the professor’s condition.

✦ Vanya and Yelena
   Mostly about Vanya’s feeling to her and her opinion about Vanya.

✦ Vanya and Sonya
   Sonya concerns about Vanya’s condition. At the last section, she asks him to go on the life as before.

✦ Astrov and Sonya
   They talk about the professor’s condition.

✦ Astrov and Yelena
   They talk about forest, actually it is just a way for Yelena to start the conversation to investigate his feeling to Sonya.

✦ Yelena and Sonya
   They have a conversation about their uncomforited feeling about each other. It’s continued with Yelena’s will to ask about Astrov’s feeling of Sonya.