

TIMES OF CHANGE. Oh for the good oldE days.....

One of the most emotionally charged moments of Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is Vanya's explosive monologue at the end as a response to Spike's incessant texting during Vanya's play reading. Vanya sees it as an insult—Spike sees it as multi-tasking.

Many people, especially older generations, can likely empathize with Vanya's frustration. Technology advances at an almost exponential rate, the pros and cons of which are a part of daily conversation nowadays. While many people may disagree over the benefits of increased dependency on technology, looking at the past to see how things have evolved provides a healthy new perspective.

VANYA: I know older people always think the past was better, but really—instead of a text with all these lowercase letters, and no punctuation, what about a nicely crafted letter, sent through the post office? Or a thank you note?

SPIKE: Yeah, yeah, it was real elegant back then, I get it. You had to wait five days for a letter, but it was real nice. Time marches on, dude.

Both Vanya and Spike have a point. It seems that the consideration and more articulate speech that comes with letter writing is a lost art. Then again, updates that you can exchange with your friends in a matter of minutes via texting or social media used to take weeks with the post office. Communication is definitely more efficient and environmentally friendlier now.

VANYA: We had telephones and we had to dial the number by putting our index finger in a round hole representing 2 to 0. If the number was 909-9999, it could take hours just to dial the number. We had to have PATIENCE then.

(The phone Vanya is referring to is a rotary telephone where you had to turn a dial clockwise to call someone. Because the the 9 was the furthest away, you had to turn the dial nearly 360 degrees if the phone number had a 9 in it. Imagine having to do that every time you wanted to call someone rather than just asking Siri to "call Mom.")

VANYA: There are 785 television channels. You can watch the news report that matches what you already think. In the 50s, there were only three or four channels, and it was all in black and white. The television used to be a cornerstone of every American household, half because of the entertainment value and half because it was often a great opportunity for the family to join together and share an experience. In fact, did you know that from 1959 to 1991, the only way most families saw The Wizard of Oz was when it was televised once a year as a regular broadcast tradition? It became a highly anticipated event for many families. And there was no DVR to record it, so if you missed your favorite scene, you had to wait until next year to see it again! It's difficult to imagine that now with the endless options on cable and streaming video websites such as Netflix, Hulu and Amazon.