

Chapter 1 : Rosamund Bartlett on Russian Short Stories | Read Russia

How Stories Can Help You Learn Russian. There are four main reasons that stories can play an important part in the language learning process. Stories allow you to see correct Russian grammar, syntax, spelling and punctuation in context, rather than simply memorizing the rules of the language.

I had never really read any works by any of the authors mentioned before and would have to credit this collection of short stories as my first introduction to Russian literature. The Queen of Spades by Alexander Pushkin - A poor man begs an old woman for her secret to winning games. Shows how poor people can be possessed by greed if they have the opportunity to. He gets a new one, but it gets stolen. He dies soon afterwards, but haunts people and takes their cloaks. She, knowing that she will die soon, falls in love with him, just so she can love someone before she dies. She dies, and the doctor is seen recollecting this story to another one of his patient sort of like Vertigo, if you get what I mean. Another man witnesses him being cold and cruel to him, later on he sees the man getting married to the girl. Years later, a man shows up in the jail who is the actual murderer. He pleads guilty but by the time the innocent man is allowed out of jail, he is already dead. So a Muzhik peasant has to cook for them, and later he makes a vessel for them to ride back home. The best part about the story is the last bit, about how the police officers give peasant some money and a beer, and then he sets off happily. The two officials basically knew nothing, the peasant had to do everything for them, and he felt grateful for the little amount of money that he got! The Shades, a Phantasy by Vladimir G. It was about Socrates in Athens, and it raised quite a few thought-provoking points though. That is all I can say. However, she becomes a widow a few times. Finally, she falls in love with a little boy who treats as her own son. The story is somewhat an allegory to capital punishment, which is the subject matter in the beginning of the story. I thought it was a nice story because it shows how life is worth living - the end is particularly intense. Vanka by Anton Pavlovich Chekhov - A young boy who works as an apprentice sends a letter to his grandfather, saying that he wants to escape. Hide and Seek by Fiodor Sologub - A little girl named Lelechka loves to play hide-and-seek with her mom, who loves her very much. One of the women who works at the house makes up a lie and says that the fact that Lelechka hides is a very bad omen. Soon afterwards, Lelechka slowly dies of a fever, and her mom goes mad. Potapenko - A story for two woman as they try to get the latest style of dress to show off at the annual ball. The two woman are extremely shallow, but I thought it made many connections to real life. The Servant by S. Semyonov - A story of Gerasim, a poor man looking for a job. One of his friends finds a job for him, but when Gerasim realizes that in the process of getting a new job, someone else is going to get fired and be left with nothing, he decides not to take the job. One Autumn Night by Maxim Gorky - A man, cold and alone, is comforted by the hugs and kisses of an abused woman. Her Lover by Maxim Gorky - A woman has people write letters between her and her imaginary lover because she is really lonely. The Revolutionist by Mikhail Artsybashev - A guy watches a bunch of people get executed. The story is very clever because at one moment you start to feel like you can trust the thieves, and then The collection is available to read online for free thanks to Project Gutenberg. I will admit that loving the Russian novel is rather difficult, for it is a commitment that many are not willing to make; you enter into a contract to learn of excruciating detail of each character; some that are of great significance, and some that are merely a trifle and make no effect on the novel. They are long and require a sharp memory, and very very rich vocabulary. The Russian short story though, is so very easy to fall in love with and dedicate a lifelong commitment to. Each story is original, organic, and extremely painfully honest to a point that your tears may be jerked out of your sockets. What you will find here, my friend, you will not anywhere else. These stories are sincere and will touch your heart. I must get my hands on a Gogol and Chekhov short story collections! The Germans invented them in order to make more money. The sky

scintillates with bright twinkling stars, and the Milky Way stands out so clearly that it looks as if it had been polished and rubber over with snow for the holidays

Chapter 2 : Read and listen in Russian - Practice Russian with short texts and audio

This is a new lesson of the series "Read and listen in Russian" designed for reading and listening practice, and today we offer you a collection of funny and serious survival tips for foreigners in Russia which we collected all over the internet.

His mother descended from Leonty Kosyarovsky, an officer of the Lubny Regiment in As was typical of the left-bank Ukrainian gentry of the early nineteenth century, the family spoke Ukrainian as well as Russian. It was there that he began writing. He was not popular among his schoolmates, who called him their "mysterious dwarf", but with two or three of them he formed lasting friendships. Very early he developed a dark and secretive disposition, marked by a painful self-consciousness and boundless ambition. Equally early he developed a talent for mimicry, which later made him a matchless reader of his own works and induced him to toy with the idea of becoming an actor. In , on leaving school, Gogol came to Saint Petersburg , full of vague but glowingly ambitious hopes. He had it published, at his own expense, under the name of "V. He bought all the copies and destroyed them, swearing never to write poetry again. Literary development[edit] Cover of the first edition of The Government Inspector In Gogol brought out the first volume of his Ukrainian stories Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka , which met with immediate success. At this time Russian editors and critics such as Nikolai Polevoy and Nikolai Nadezhdin saw in Gogol the emergence of a Ukrainian, rather than Russian, writer, using his works to illustrate supposed differences between Russian and Ukrainian national characters. Despite the support of Pushkin and Sergey Uvarov , the Russian minister of education, his appointment was blocked by a Kyivan bureaucrat on the grounds that Gogol was unqualified. During this time he also developed a close and lifelong friendship with another Ukrainian, the historian and naturalist Mykhaylo Maksymovych. Petersburg , a job for which he had no qualifications. He turned in a performance ludicrous enough to warrant satiric treatment in one of his own stories. At the final examination, he sat in utter silence with a black handkerchief wrapped around his head, simulating a toothache, while another professor interrogated the students. Commemorative plaque on his house in Rome Between and Gogol worked with great energy, and though almost all his work has in one way or another its sources in these four years of contact with Pushkin, he had not yet decided that his ambitions were to be fulfilled by success in literature. During this time, the Russian critics Stepan Shevryev and Vissarion Belinsky , contradicting earlier critics, reclassified Gogol from a Ukrainian to a Russian writer. The comedy, a violent satire of Russian provincial bureaucracy, was staged thanks only to the intervention of the emperor, Nicholas I. From to Gogol lived abroad, travelling through Germany and Switzerland. Gogol spent the winter of 1837 in Paris , [22] among Russian expatriates and Polish exiles , frequently meeting the Polish poets Adam Mickiewicz and Bohdan Zaleski. He eventually settled in Rome. For much of the twelve years from Gogol was in Italy developing an adoration for Rome. He studied art, read Italian literature and developed a passion for opera. Vielhorsky was travelling in hopes of curing his tuberculosis. Gogol and Vielhorsky fell in love, a relationship which was soon severed as Vielhorsky died in Gogol left an account of this time in his Nights at the Villa: Concurrently, he worked at other tasks 1838 recast Taras Bulba and The Portrait , completed his second comedy, Marriage Zhenitba , wrote the fragment Rome and his most famous short story, " The Overcoat ". In the first part of Dead Souls was ready, and Gogol took it to Russia to supervise its printing. It appeared in Moscow in , under the title, imposed by the censorship, of The Adventures of Chichikov. The book instantly established his reputation as the greatest prose writer in the language. Little did they know that Dead Souls was but the first part of a planned modern-day counterpart to the Divine Comedy of Dante. While visiting the capitals, he stayed with friends such as Mikhail Pogodin and Sergey Aksakov. During this period, he also spent much time with his old Ukrainian friends, Maksymovych and Osyp Bodiansky. He intensified his relationship with a starets or spiritual elder, Matvey Konstantinovsky, whom he had known for several years. Konstantinovsky seems to have strengthened in Gogol the fear of perdition by insisting on the sinfulness of all his imaginative work. Exaggerated ascetic practices undermined his health and he fell into a state of deep depression. On the night of 24 February he burned some of his manuscripts, which contained most of the second part of Dead Souls. He explained this as a mistake, a practical joke played on him by the Devil. Soon thereafter, he took to

bed, refused all food, and died in great pain nine days later. Gogol was mourned in the Saint Tatiana church at the Moscow University before his burial and then buried at the Danilov Monastery, close to his fellow Slavophile Aleksey Khomyakov. His grave was marked by a large stone Golgotha, topped by a Russian Orthodox cross. The authorities moved the Golgotha stone to the new gravesite, but removed the cross; in the Soviets replaced the stone with a bust of Gogol. Joseph Stalin did not like it, however, and the statue was replaced by a more orthodox Socialist Realism monument in 1955. His pictures of nature are strange mounds of detail heaped on detail, resulting in an unconnected chaos of things. His people are caricatures, drawn with the method of the caricaturist "which is to exaggerate salient features and to reduce them to geometrical pattern. But these cartoons have a convincingness, a truthfulness, and inevitability" attained as a rule by slight but definitive strokes of unexpected reality "that seems to beggar the visible world itself. Like Sterne before him, Gogol was a great destroyer of prohibitions and of romantic illusions. He undermined Russian Romanticism by making vulgarity reign where only the sublime and the beautiful had reigned. A more conventional statue of Gogol at the Villa Borghese gardens, Rome. Gogol himself, an adherent of the Slavophile movement, believed in a divinely inspired mission for both the House of Romanov and the Russian Orthodox Church. Similar to Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Gogol sharply disagreed with those Russians who preached constitutional monarchy and the disestablishment of the Orthodox Church. After defending autocracy, serfdom, and the Orthodox Church in his book *Selected Passages from Correspondence with his Friends*, Gogol came under attack from his former patron Vissarion Belinsky. The first Russian intellectual to publicly preach the economic theories of Karl Marx, Belinsky accused Gogol of betraying his readership by defending the status quo. Gogol himself seemed to be skeptical about the existence of such a literary movement. Although he recognized "several young writers" who "have shown a particular desire to observe real life", he upbraided the deficient composition and style of their works. In the 1840s, a group of Russian short story writers, known as the Serapion Brothers, placed Gogol among their precursors and consciously sought to imitate his techniques. The leading novelists of the period "notably Yevgeny Zamyatin and Mikhail Bulgakov" also admired Gogol and followed in his footsteps. In 1926, Vsevolod Meyerhold staged *The Government Inspector* as a "comedy of the absurd situation", revealing to his fascinated spectators a corrupt world of endless self-deception. The house in Moscow where Gogol died. The building contains the fireplace where he burned the manuscript of the second part of *Dead Souls*. Belinsky, for instance, berated his horror stories as "moribund, monstrous works", while Andrei Bely counted them among his most stylistically daring creations. Mirsky declared it "a piece of sheer play, almost sheer nonsense". Russian Composer Alfred Schnittke wrote the eight part *Gogol Suite* as incidental music to *The Government Inspector* performed as a play, and composer Dmitri Shostakovich set "The Nose" as his first opera in 1971, despite the peculiar choice of subject for what was meant to initiate the great tradition of Soviet opera. Gogol painted him as supremely exploitative, cowardly, and repulsive, albeit capable of gratitude. But it seems perfectly natural in the story that he and his cohorts be drowned in the Dniiper by the Cossack lords. Above all, Yankel is ridiculous, and the image of the plucked chicken that Gogol used has made the rounds of great Russian authors. What Sholem Aleichem was borrowing from Gogol was a rural East European landscape that may have been dangerous, but could unite readers through the power of collective memory. *The Story Retold* *The Beginning* features Nikolai Gogol as a lead character and presents a fictionalized version of his life that mixes his history with elements from his various stories. The film was released theatrically in August 1988. A sequel entitled *Gogol Viy* was released in April 1991. Legacy[edit] Gogol has been featured many times on Russian and Soviet postage stamps; he is also well represented on stamps worldwide. In 2005, the National Bank of Ukraine issued a commemorative coin dedicated to Gogol.

Chapter 3 : Russian Stories/ : A Dual-Language Book by Gleb Struve

Russian short stories on-line Reading is one of the effective learning activities that help to broaden and improve one's vocabulary in a new language. In fact reading also helps to master rules of grammar in a natural way.

She makes a personal selection of some of the most exhilarating Russian short fiction. What first got you interested in Russian literature? I was lucky enough to learn Russian at school, with encouragement from my father, who visited the Soviet Union in , and my grandfather, who had joined the Communist Party while a student at Cambridge. He became disillusioned when he visited Moscow in the early s and was told there were no telephones in England, but retained his interest in Russian culture. So I began reading Turgenev and Chekhov in the original when I was 16 years old. I found it all dreadfully difficult to begin with, but then became inspired when I spent time in Leningrad as an undergraduate in the early s. It is hard not to be swept up by the passion and serious engagement of Russian writers, and it was exhilarating to discover that they were revered in the Soviet Union as national heroes, as they had been in the despotic days of the Tsarist regime. It frequently fell to writers to be bearers of the truth. Your five book choices focus on short stories. How would you define them as a genre, as opposed to the big Russian novels like War and Peace? And considering their profound influence on Russian novels and also operas, those short stories are sometimes unjustly overlooked. He rebelled by only writing short prose, and it is typical of his subversive style that his stories are so deceptively simple – he challenged convention by posing questions rather than giving answers. And if Chekhov was able to tear up and rewrite the rulebook for writing a short story, it is a credit to all the earlier Russian writers whose short stories inspired him. The short story form is certainly a lot easier to assimilate – many of the great Russian short stories are real page-turners, and fun to read. They can provide an ideal introduction to Russian literature for anyone intimidated by the big novels, and tend to cover a far wider social and geographical spectrum, so are just as valuable as sources of insight into the Russian mentality, past and present. My selection of these five individual works has been based on artistic merit. But I also want to convey something of the stylistic range and thematic diversity of the Russian short story. Inevitably, that means making some invidious choices and leaving out superlative stories by writers such as Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Nabokov, Bulgakov and Solzhenitsyn. Pushkin was a protean genius who moulded the cumbersome Russian of the 18th century into the supple and beautiful literary language used today. Apart from being a gripping read, The Queen of Spades is the quintessential St Petersburg tale and an astonishingly modern work. He was sent into exile for his rebellious ideas, and then had to endure submitting his manuscripts to Nicholas I for his personal approval. Pushkin was a gambler himself, of course, and even gambled away his own poetry on occasion. And he went out of his way to fight duels. He was killed in a duel four years after completing The Queen of Spades, at the age of . You say that The Queen of Spades, written in the autumn of , is a modern work – in what way? So many later Russian writers took their cue from him. He also pulls off a spellbinding conjuring trick in managing to exemplify and simultaneously parody a variety of literary genres popular at the time he was writing. His irony and the endless games he plays with his reader make him a kind of post-modern writer avant la lettre. On another level, it is a romantic tale of the supernatural. They both have to contend with an old woman and a young girl called Liza, and they both have a Napoleon complex and an obsession with money. A lot of people will be familiar with The Queen of Spades from having seen the opera. This is the most celebrated story by a writer who is not quite so well known in English. It was written in . It is a story which shows us a different section of Russian society. He grew up in Oryol, south of Moscow, and Mtsensk is a town in the Oryol region. This is what gave Leskov the idea for his story. Here we move from the aristocratic milieu of westernised St Petersburg in the s to the oriental world of provincial Russian merchants in the s. Leskov was actually one of the first Russian writers to write about merchants, who were then still a separate social class. They dressed differently, tended to be conservative and pious, and kept their business and their wives behind closed doors. The other writer who also focused on the corrupt and autocratic ways of the Russian merchantry was Alexander Ostrovsky. The claustrophobia which both Leskov and Ostrovsky depict is a comment on Russian provincial life, but there are political overtones.

Ostrovsky somewhat idealised his heroine Katerina, who nobly throws herself into the Volga when her infidelity is discovered, and some radical critics viewed her suicide as a symbol of social protest. Leskov is more of a hard-headed realist. His Katerina is not a heroine with many redeeming qualities, and she ends up becoming a serial murderer in the name of her sexual liberation. It sounds like a parody of the Shakespearean tragedy. Turgenev came from the same neck of the woods as Leskov, but he was of quite different stock and of a much older generation. Whereas Turgenev writes in the elegant, slightly archaic Russian which suits his gentry background, Leskov opts for the demotic. As well as the great novels, Tolstoy also wrote some very fine short stories. Many people would regard *The Death of Ivan Ilych* or *Hadji Murad* as his best short prose work, or maybe even *Strider*, an extraordinary tale narrated by a horse. I am very fond of this story though, because it is charming, the moral is worn lightly and I know what it meant to Tolstoy. Mikhail is sent to earth to discover what men live by. A humble peasant shoemaker takes pity on the naked man he stumbles across, slumped up against a chapel wall one cold autumn afternoon, and brings him home. After Mikhail has worked for a while as a cobbler and discovered that men live by love, he springs new wings and is allowed to return to heaven. In the years in between, Tolstoy underwent a spiritual crisis which led to him rejecting the Russian Orthodox Church. It is prefaced by no fewer than eight epigraphs about love taken from St John in his new translation. So how does it differ from a work like *Anna Karenina*? *Anna Karenina* is a novel written about upper-class society in which peasants are part of the background. The story is a model of clarity, but with Tolstoy it is always the art which conceals the art. He had wanted to simplify his literary language ever since working on his ABC [educational] book in the early s, just before he began *Anna Karenina*, but he was an inveterate craftsman. It is not actually a story Tolstoy thought up himself. He had been entranced by the rhythms and cadences of the Russian language since putting together medieval epics for his ABC book, and would often go out to the main highway near Yasnaya Polyana [his home in western Russia] to chat to the pilgrims and write down some of their sayings. When he learned that in the remote far north of Russia there were still a few peasants who maintained the oral tradition of reciting epic poems and fables by heart, he invited one of them to stay with him. This is not what one expects from a writer who usually uses a humdrum provincial Russian town as a backdrop. He had just completed an epic overland journey to study the notorious penal colony on the island of Sakhalin, in the days before there was a train. He is a peasant conscript returning from a brutal period of service in the Far East, and is already dying of tuberculosis when put on board the ship. What is surprising about this story is the extraordinary flight of imagination which brings it to an end. You talk about it being lyrical – how do you make the best translation you can to keep to the lyrical feel of that language? It is not a coincidence that Chekhov uses this musical form of punctuation an astonishing 75 times during the course of this brief story. Chekhov was a very deliberate writer – detail was paramount for him – so the translator needs to understand what he was doing with his punctuation as much as with the way he constructed his sentences. Your final author sounds like a very interesting character – can you tell me something about Isaac Babel? Babel is one of a number of great writers from a Jewish background who started appearing on the Russian literary scene in the early 20th century. It was in Odessa that Babel published this story in , when he was at the start of his career. The heroine is Arina, an illiterate Moscow chambermaid who is six months pregnant. Despite the references to Forgiveness Sunday, a time for penitence and chastity which falls at the beginning of Russian Lent, Jesus gives Arina an angel to keep her company. Arina brings Alfred down the silken stairway to Tverskaya Street. She dresses him and cooks him a nice supper, but then they start drinking vodka, with inevitable consequences. When Arina goes back to Jesus he curses her for being such a slut, but she later raises her swollen belly to the heavens and complains. This is another story narrated by an uneducated local who makes no distinction between the fantastical and the everyday. There is a delightful parody of Biblical language when Arina suddenly arrives in heaven and Jesus talks in slang. It would be hard to imagine a story more profane. Is there something which unites and defines Russian short-story writers? Probably the same thing which defines Russian writers in general – a creative genius which led them to forge their own tradition. When Russian writers started writing novels they refused to adhere to the traditional European format, and I think that is true for short stories as well. How could we learn about other cultures and civilizations without reading their literature? And how could we do that without translation, the most vital and

underappreciated art? Read more about Read Russia Online.

Chapter 4 : Text in Russian: Russian bear - Learn Russian for free

This item: Short Stories in Russian for Beginners (Short Stories for Beginners-multiple Languages) by Olly Richards Paperback \$ This title will be released on November 13, Ships from and sold by theinnatdunvilla.com

Those who had won, ate with a good appetite; the others sat staring absently at their empty plates. When the champagne appeared, however, the conversation became more animated, and all took a part in it. I must confess that I am unlucky: I play mirandole, I always keep cool, I never allow anything to put me out, and yet I always lose! Your firmness astonishes me. About sixty years ago, my grandmother went to Paris, where she created quite a sensation. At that time ladies used to play at faro. On one occasion at the Court, she lost a very considerable sum to the Duke of Orleans. On returning home, my grandmother removed the patches from her face, took off her hoops, informed my grandfather of her loss at the gaming-table, and ordered him to pay the money. My deceased grandfather, as far as I remember, was a sort of house-steward to my grandmother. He dreaded her like fire; but, on hearing of such a heavy loss, he almost went out of his mind; he calculated the various sums she had lost, and pointed out to her that in six months she had spent half a million francs, that neither their Moscow nor Saratov estates were in Paris, and finally refused point blank to pay the debt. My grandmother gave him a box on the ear and slept by herself as a sign of her displeasure. The next day she sent for her husband, hoping that this domestic punishment had produced an effect upon him, but she found him inflexible. For the first time in her life, she entered into reasonings and explanations with him, thinking to be able to convince him by pointing out to him that there are debts and debts, and that there is a great difference between a Prince and a coachmaker. But it was all in vain, my grandfather still remained obdurate. But the matter did not rest there. My grandmother did not know what to do. She had shortly before become acquainted with a very remarkable man. You have heard of Count St. Germain, about whom so many marvellous stories are told. Some laughed at him as a charlatan; but Casanova, in his memoirs, says that he was a spy. But be that as it may, St. Germain, in spite of the mystery surrounding him, was a very fascinating person, and was much sought after in the best circles of society. Even to this day my grandmother retains an affectionate recollection of him, and becomes quite angry if any one speaks disrespectfully of him. My grandmother knew that St. Germain had large sums of money at his disposal. She resolved to have recourse to him, and she wrote a letter to him asking him to come to her without delay. The queer old man immediately waited upon her and found her overwhelmed with grief. She described to him in the blackest colours the barbarity of her husband, and ended by declaring that her whole hope depended upon his friendship and amiability. But there is another way of getting out of your difficulty: Tomsy lit his pipe, puffed away for a moment and then continued: The Duke of Orleans kept the bank; my grandmother excused herself in an off-hand manner for not having yet paid her debt, by inventing some little story, and then began to play against him. She chose three cards and played them one after the other: But this is what I heard from my uncle, Count Ivan Ilyich, and he assured me, on his honour, that it was true. The late Chaplitzkyâ€”the same who died in poverty after having squandered millionsâ€”once lost, in his youth, about three hundred thousand roublesâ€”to Zorich, if I remember rightly. He was in despair. My grandmother, who was always very severe upon the extravagance of young men, took pity, however, upon Chaplitzky. She gave him three cards, telling him to play them one after the other, at the same time exacting from him a solemn promise that he would never play at cards again as long as he lived. Chaplitzky then went to his victorious opponent, and they began a fresh game. On the first card he staked fifty thousand rubles and won sonika; he doubled the stake and won again, till at last, by pursuing the same tactics, he won back more than he had lost. Three waiting maids stood around her. One held a small pot of rouge, another a box of hair-pins, and the third a tall can with bright red ribbons. The Countess had no longer the slightest pretensions to beauty, but she still preserved the habits of her youth, dressed in strict accordance with the fashion of seventy years before, and made as long and as careful a toilette as she would have done sixty years previously. Near the window, at an embroidery frame, sat a young lady, her ward. Grandmamma, I want to ask you something. How charming Yeletzkaya was! By the way, she must be very old, the Princess Daria Petrovna. He then remembered that the old Countess was never to be informed of the death of any of her

contemporaries, and he bit his lips. But the old Countess heard the news with the greatest indifference. We were appointed maids of honour at the same time, and when we were presented to the Empress. Lizanka, where is my snuff-box? Tomsky was left alone with the young lady. Do you know him? Is he a soldier or a civilian? What made you think that he was in the Engineers? I have a great horror of drowned persons. Would you like a Russian one? Send me one, my dear, pray send me one! I am in a hurry. What made you think that Narumov was in the Engineers? Lizaveta Ivanovna was left alone: A few moments afterwards, at a corner house on the other side of the street, a young officer appeared. A deep blush covered her cheeks; she took up her work again and bent her head down over the frame. At the same moment the Countess returned completely dressed. A servant entered and gave the Countess some books from Prince Paul Aleksandrovich. Open the first volume and read to me aloud. Have you lost your voice? Wait—“give me that footstool—“a little nearer—“that will do. Send it back to Prince Paul with my thanks. But where is the carriage? It is intolerable, my dear! She had not been there two minutes, before the Countess began to ring with all her might. The three waiting-maids came running in at one door and the valet at another. Whom do you intend to captivate? What sort of weather is it? It seems rather windy. And, in truth, Lizaveta Ivanovna was a very unfortunate creature. The Countess “—“ had by no means a bad heart, but she was capricious, like a woman who had been spoiled by the world, as well as being avaricious and egotistical, like all old people who have seen their best days, and whose thoughts are with the past and not the present. She participated in all the vanities of the great world, went to balls, where she sat in a corner, painted and dressed in old-fashioned style, like a deformed but indispensable ornament of the ball-room; all the guests on entering approached her and made a profound bow, as if in accordance with a set ceremony, but after that nobody took any further notice of her. She received the whole town at her house, and observed the strictest etiquette, although she could no longer recognise the faces of people. Lizaveta Ivanovna was the martyr of the household. She made tea, and was reproached with using too much sugar; she read novels aloud to the Countess, and the faults of the author were visited upon her head; she accompanied the Countess in her walks, and was held answerable for the weather or the state of the pavement. A salary was attached to the post, but she very rarely received it, although she was expected to dress like everybody else, that is to say, like very few indeed. Everybody knew her, and nobody paid her any attention. At balls she danced only when a partner was wanted, and ladies would only take hold of her arm when it was necessary to lead her out of the room to attend to their dresses. She was very self-conscious, and felt her position keenly, and she looked about her with impatience for a deliverer to come to her rescue; but the young men, calculating in their giddiness, honoured her with but very little attention, although Lizaveta Ivanovna was a hundred times prettier than the bare-faced and cold-hearted marriageable girls around whom they hovered. Many a time did she quietly slink away from the glittering but wearisome drawing-room, to go and cry in her own poor little room, in which stood a screen, a chest of drawers, a looking-glass and a painted bedstead, and where a tallow candle burnt feebly in a copper candle-stick. One morning—“this was about two days after the evening party described at the beginning of this story, and a week previous to the scene at which we have just assisted—“Lizaveta Ivanova was seated near the window at her embroidery frame, when, happening to look out into the street, she caught sight of a young Engineer officer, standing motionless with his eyes fixed upon her window. She lowered her head and went on again with her work. About five minutes afterwards she looked out again—“the young officer was still standing in the same place. Not being in the habit of coquetting with passing officers, she did not continue to gaze out into the street, but went on sewing for a couple of hours, without raising her head. She rose up and began to put her embroidery away, but glancing casually out of the window, she perceived the officer again. This seemed to her very strange. After dinner she went to the window with a certain feeling of uneasiness, but the officer was no longer there—“and she thought no more about him. A couple of days afterwards, just as she was stepping into the carriage with the Countess, she saw him again. He was standing close behind the door, with his face half-concealed by his fur collar, but his dark eyes sparkled beneath his cap. Lizaveta felt alarmed, though she knew not why, and she trembled as she seated herself in the carriage. On returning home, she hastened to the window—“the officer was standing in his accustomed place, with his eyes fixed upon her. She drew back, a prey to curiosity and agitated by a feeling which was quite new to her.

Chapter 5 : List of Russian-language writers - Wikipedia

It has a number of excellent short stories, but what I really like is that in addition to classic Russian short stories by Chekov (Чехов), Gogol (Гоголь), etc., some of them are translations of stories written originally in English.

This post contains affiliate links. Being able to understand others is the key to effective communication and to getting the feel of a language. Watching videos helps you understand body language and provides valuable visual cues for your listening practice. This media gives you full immersion into the Russian speaking world. It is helpful to listen to Russian in a structured environment, especially when you are first starting out. Lessons and courses provide this. Lectures show a more formal, standard use of Russian, combined with the opportunity to learn something new. Listening to music gives you a look at the creative side of Russian. These are the best way to learn on the go and make use of downtime. Russian spoken in a formal way. Fiction demonstrates the poetic side of Russian. Russian YouTube Channels This is : The host of this channel shares and comments on hilarious videos found on the internet. One of the most popular YouTube channels in Russia. The host asks embarrassing, funny, stupid and serious questions in public places. The best way to see all sorts of people and ways of speaking Russian. Make voice and video calls with this user-friendly programme. The most popular way to make video calls. Every second Russian has got Viber on their phone. A very convenient way to make voice and video calls. Of course, all this assumes you have someone to speak with in Russian. If you need a language conversation partner, be sure to check out iTalki , where you can find amazing native Russian speaking teachers and tutors. Russian Television and Radio Note: A list of the main Russian TV channels. Click on the title of any channel to start watching. A collection of links to a huge number of Russian channels divided by topic and location. A collection of the best Russian TV series that you can watch online for free. Another source of series that can be streamed for free. Choose from almost Russian series. A Reddit thread that provides links to Russian films with English subtitles. A minimalistic webpage with a number of Russian radio stations that you can listen to online. A much bigger list of radio stations grouped by topic and region. Tunein connects you with hundreds of Russian radio stations, as well as various podcast channels. These short video lessons are a great add-on to the podcast of the same name. They are especially useful for beginners. A channel created by a very funny woman teaching vocabulary and grammar in an entertaining way. Russian lessons for beginners. Learning Russian from the Streets: Short videos of people in the street being asked different questions. Each video has subtitles with an English translation. This is real spoken Russian. Mini-Videos for Learners of Intermediate Russian: Short clips from a comedy serial accompanied by a transcript and vocabulary notes. Laugh and learn at the same time. Online Russian Lectures Universarium: Taking a course designed for native speakers is an opportunity to progress to a higher level in a natural way the way we did it in college through studying subjects like maths, literature and science. Currently there are 84 courses available. A good collection of lectures on academic subjects. Russian Music Lyrics Gaps: Listen to a song and fill the gaps in the song lyrics. Songs with Lyrics and Translation: Head over to YouTube to sing-along to some well known Russian songs.

Chapter 6 : Texts in Russian with audio – Learn Russian for free

If the story was adapted specifically for your level of Russian, that's a pretty obvious indicator that you've found an "easy" Russian short story. If you still find yourself struggling, try reading a story one level down to build your confidence.

Chapter 7 : Best Russian Short Stories by Thomas Seltzer

Russian texts with audio: We have created this collection of texts, all of them recorded, so you can read and listen at the same time. Topics chosen include aspects of the Russian culture but you will also read about food, sports, animals.

Chapter 8 : Short Stories in Russian | Learning Russian

Short stories by Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Gogol, and many others appear in the original Russian with English translations on the opposite page. There is a small introduction before each story, giving a brief background of the author and where he fits within the history of Russian literature.

Chapter 9 : Nikolai Gogol - Wikipedia

Russian author is more ardently devoted to a cause than an American short- story writer to a plot. This, in turn, is but a reï-,ection of the spirit of the Russian.