

Speaking

Set 1 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

GREAT RUSSIAN WRITERS TREASURE TROVE

1. Monologue: Time 3 – 4 minutes

Your School is organizing an international conference dedicated to the great cultural mission of famous Russian writers. You are to deliver a report about one of the most outstanding Russian authors. Present the key points of **Set 1: Leo Tolstoy** to your fellow students, who are interested in organizing a special event to celebrate the genius of the greatest representatives of Russian literature:

Biography	Screen adaptations and theatrical productions based on the works
Main literary works	The significance and contribution of this writer to Russian culture

Explain the impact of the writer's works on you personally. Say what project you could offer to carry out at your school to commemorate his genius and give some advice on how to prepare for the proposed event.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes.

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner – ‘a fellow student’- who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION that you have not mentioned in your presentation about the writer. Make sure your answers are based on the information from the fact file. If there is NO relevant information in the fact file, base your answer on your best guess.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 2: Alexander Pushkin**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the writer to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation. Yes/No questions and questions about the opinion of your partner are NOT accepted.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

1. Leo Tolstoy – A Moral Voice of World Literature

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: September 9, 1828, Yasnaya Polyana estate. • Orphaned, raised by relatives. • Received a home education. • Entered Kazan University: studied law and oriental languages, did not complete his degree. • A soldier in the Crimean War. • Life of introspection and transformation. • A Christian anarchist and moral philosopher. • Rejected wealth and status. • Advocated for simplicity, non-violence, and spiritual awakening. • Died: 1910 • Left behind a literary and philosophical legacy influencing global thought.
Main Literary Works	<p>The most influential novels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “War and Peace” – a narrative blending history, philosophy, and human drama. • “Anna Karenina” – a psychological novel on love, betrayal, and the role of women in Russian society. • “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”, “Resurrection”, and “The Kreutzer Sonata” – shorter works on mortality, guilt, and the search for truth. • Essays on education, religion, and ethics reflect his own moral philosophy.
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Numerous screen and stage adaptations:"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “War and Peace” - a Soviet-era film epic (Sergei Bondarchuk’s 1960s version won an Oscar) and later adapted into international films and series. • “Anna Karenina” adapted by directors around the world. • His stories, dramatized in theatre, highlight the complexity of human choices and moral dilemmas. • Tolstoy's themes are relevant to global audiences.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the greatest novelists in world history; • shaped Russian national consciousness; • influenced political and spiritual movements worldwide; • realistic style and psychological insight transformed the novel as a literary form ; • deeply impacted figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.; • teachings on education contributed to pedagogical reforms.

Speaking

Set 2 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

GREAT RUSSIAN WRITERS TREASURE TROVE

1. *Listen* to the presentation of your partner (**Set 1: Leo Tolstoy**).
2. *Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes*

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the writer to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation. Yes/No questions and questions about the opinion of your partner are NOT accepted.

Task 2

1. *Monologue: Time 3 – 4 minutes*

Your School is organizing an international conference dedicated to the great cultural mission of famous Russian writers. You are to deliver a report about one of the most outstanding Russian authors. Present the key points of **Set 2: Alexander Pushkin** to your fellow students, who are interested in organizing a special event to celebrate the genius of the greatest representatives of Russian literature:

Biography	Screen adaptations and theatrical productions based on the works
Main literary works	The significance and contribution of this writer to Russian culture

Explain the impact of the writer's works on you personally. Say what project you could offer to carry out at your school to commemorate his genius and give some advice on how to prepare for the proposed event.

2. *Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes.*

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner – ‘a fellow student’- who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION that you have not mentioned in your presentation about the writer. Make sure your answers are based on the information from the fact file. If there is NO relevant information in the fact file, base your answer on your best guess.

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YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

2. Alexander Pushkin – The Father of Russian Literature

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: June 6, 1799, Moscow. • From a noble family with African roots (his great-grandfather, Abram Gannibal, was an African prince). • Elite education at the Tsarskoye Selo Lyceum. • Exceptional literary talent from a young age. • Involved in liberal intellectual circles in conflict with the authorities. • Was exiled several times. • Remained loyal to his artistic mission. • Death: 1837, at the age of 37, from wounds in a duel for his wife's honor.
Main Literary Works	<p>Most renowned works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eugene Onegin” – a novel in verse - a cornerstone of Russian literary style. • “The Bronze Horseman” – a poetic reflection on Peter the Great and fate. • “Boris Godunov” – a historical tragedy that prefigured modern Russian drama. • Short stories and fairy tales, such as “The Queen of Spades,” “The Captain’s Daughter,” and “The Tale of the Golden Cockerel.”
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Countless adaptations worldwide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eugene Onegin”, transformed into opera (by Tchaikovsky), ballets, and films. • “Boris Godunov” - an opera by Mussorgsky, later performed at the Metropolitan Opera. • Russian theatres stage dramatizations of his tales and historical works highlight their timeless relevance. • His fairy tales, with magical and moral themes, adapted into animated films, educate and entertain children.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founder of modern Russian literature and the Russian literary language (rich, flexible, capable of conveying deep emotion and complex thought). • Freed Russian verse from artificial constraints. • His works reflect national history, folklore, human psychology, and moral values. • Through his poetry, prose, and drama Russian literature was brought to the world stage.

Speaking

Set 3 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

GREAT RUSSIAN WRITERS TREASURE TROVE

1. Monologue: Time 3 – 4 minutes

Your School is organizing an international conference dedicated to the great cultural mission of famous Russian writers. You are to deliver a report about one of the most outstanding Russian authors. Present the key points of **Set 3: *Fyodor Dostoevsky*** to your fellow students, who are interested in organizing a special event to celebrate the genius of the greatest representatives of Russian literature:

Biography	Screen adaptations and theatrical productions based on the works
Main literary works	The significance and contribution of this writer to Russian culture

Explain the impact of the writer's works on you personally. Say what project you could offer to carry out at your school to commemorate his genius and give some advice on how to prepare for the proposed event.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes.

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner – ‘a fellow student’- who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION that you have not mentioned in your presentation about the writer. Make sure your answers are based on the information from the fact file. If there is NO relevant information in the fact file, base your answer on your best guess.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 4: *Anton Chekhov***).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the writer to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation. Yes/No questions and questions about the opinion of your partner are NOT accepted.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

3. Fyodor Dostoevsky – The Explorer of the Human Soul

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: November 11, 1821, Moscow. • Strict religious upbringing. • Graduated from the Military Engineering Academy in St. Petersburg, pursued a literary career. • “Poor Folk” - debut, then arrested for participating in a radical intellectual group. • Sentenced to death, at the last moment his punishment was changed to a four-year Siberian labor camp. • Exile experience shaped his worldview and writing. • After his release, traveled through Europe, struggling with poverty, epilepsy, and gambling addiction. • Despite hardships created some of the most profound psychological novels in world literature. • Died: 1881, left a legacy to challenge and inspire.
Main Literary Works	<p>Most significant works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor Folk” – a powerful novel, a heartbreaking exploration of love, dignity and survival. • “Crime and Punishment” – the psychological journey of a young man who seeks redemption after committing a murder. • “The Karamazov Brothers” – a philosophical novel about faith, doubt, morality, and family conflict. • “The Idiot” – a portrait of a pure man whose goodness is tested by a corrupt society. • “Demons” (also translated as “The Devils” or “The Possessed”) – a critique of political extremism and nihilism in 19th-century Russia.
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Numerous adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Crime and Punishment” - adapted over 20 times for the screen, including international versions in Japan, France, and Hollywood. • “The Karamazov Brothers” - a Broadway play and an Oscar-nominated film. • His stories regularly performed in Russian and international theaters for their deep psychological drama and philosophical weight. • Directors like Akira Kurosawa and Andrei Tarkovsky were influenced by Dostoevsky’s themes in their work.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the greatest figures in Russian and world literature. • Wrote about the spiritual and ethical struggles of humanity. • Elevated the Russian novel to global prominence. • Influenced psychology, theology, and philosophy. • Writers like Kafka, Camus, Sartre, and Freud acknowledged their debt to his insights into the human condition. • Shaped Russian national identity by exploring its moral and existential dilemmas.

Speaking

Set 4 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

GREAT RUSSIAN WRITERS TREASURE TROVE

1. *Listen* to the presentation of your partner (**Set 3: *Fyodor Dostoevsky***).
2. *Questions/ Answers: Time: 2 - 3 minutes*

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the writer to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation. Yes/No questions and questions about the opinion of your partner are NOT accepted.

Task 2

1. *Monologue: Time 3 – 4 minutes*

Your School is organizing an international conference dedicated to the great cultural mission of famous Russian writers. You are to deliver a report about one of the most outstanding Russian authors. Present the key points of **Set 4: *Anton Chekhov*** to your fellow students, who are interested in organizing a special event to celebrate the genius of the greatest representatives of Russian literature:

Biography	Screen adaptations and theatrical productions based on the works
Main literary works	The significance and contribution of this writer to Russian culture

Explain the impact of the writer's works on you personally. Say what project you could offer to carry out at your school to commemorate his genius and give some advice on how to prepare for the proposed event.

2. *Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes.*

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner – ‘a fellow student’- who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION that you have not mentioned in your presentation about the writer. Make sure your answers are based on the information from the fact file. If there is NO relevant information in the fact file, base your answer on your best guess.

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YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

4. Anton Chekhov – The Master of Subtle Drama and Human Truth

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: January 29, 1860, Taganrog. • From a modest background - supported his family from a young age. • Studied medicine at Moscow University. • Worked as a doctor throughout his life, writing some of the most important literary works. • Medical profession provided deep insight into human suffering and psychology. • Suffering from tuberculosis, remained committed to both healing and writing about people with compassion and clarity. • Died: 1904, at the age of 44.
Main Literary Works	<p>Plays: 1) “The Seagull”, 2) “Uncle Vanya”, 3) “Three Sisters”, 4) “The Cherry Orchard” – introduced a new kind of drama based on mood, character, and subtext rather than action.</p> <p>Short Stories: 1) “The Lady with the Dog,” 2) “Ward No. 6,” 3) “The Bet,” 4) “The Darling” – revealed the complexities of ordinary people with profound empathy and subtle irony.</p>
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors - Konstantin Stanislavski, Lee Strasberg and Peter Brook used Chekhov’s works for new acting methods. • Film adaptations range from faithful versions like “The Cherry Orchard” (1999) to modern reinterpretations. • Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi’s Oscar-winning “Drive My Car” is based on Chekhovian storytelling techniques.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The father of the modern short story. • Changed Russian and global literature focusing on the inner lives of characters rather than dramatic events. • His plays introduced a new type of realism in theatre: dialogue, silence, and what’s left unsaid reveal the deepest emotions. • Portrayed rural life, social change, and the emotional struggles of individuals with compassion. • His influence is seen in writers like Hemingway, Raymond Carver, and many modern screenwriters.