

# Alexander Pushkin



# Early Life

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- Was of african descent
- Born into upper class literary family
- Actual mother took little interest in him, so had nurses / French tutors



# Early Life

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- Loved his nanny **Arina Rodionovna**
- Entered an elite school called the **Lyceum** at the age of 12
- Began working in the **foreign office** of St. Petersburg, Russia

# Early Life

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**Arina Rodionovna**



**Lyceum**

# Education

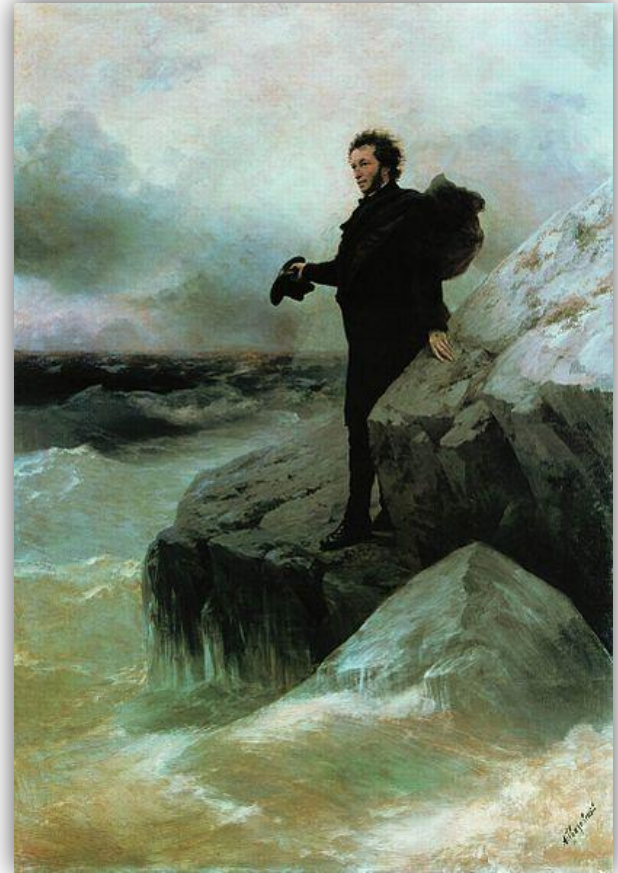
- Entered the Lyceum in **1811** which was only open for the sons of 'select' noblemen
- Graduated from the Lyceum in **1817**
- Taught by the great poet **Vasily Zhukovsky**



Self-portrait, 1820s

# Writing Style

- Russian poet, novelist, playwright of the Romantic era
- Pushkin's work in short stories shows simplicity, versatility and clarity
- In short stories showed satire, romance, and drama which later influenced Russian writers



**"Pushkin's Farewell to the Sea"  
by Ivan Aivazovsky and Ilya  
Repin (1877)**

# Writing Style



**Pushkin's writing table**

# Influences

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- Zhukovsky
- Voltaire
- Schiller
- Goethe
- Derzhavin
- Fonvizin
- Karamzin
- Byron



Vasily Zhukovsky

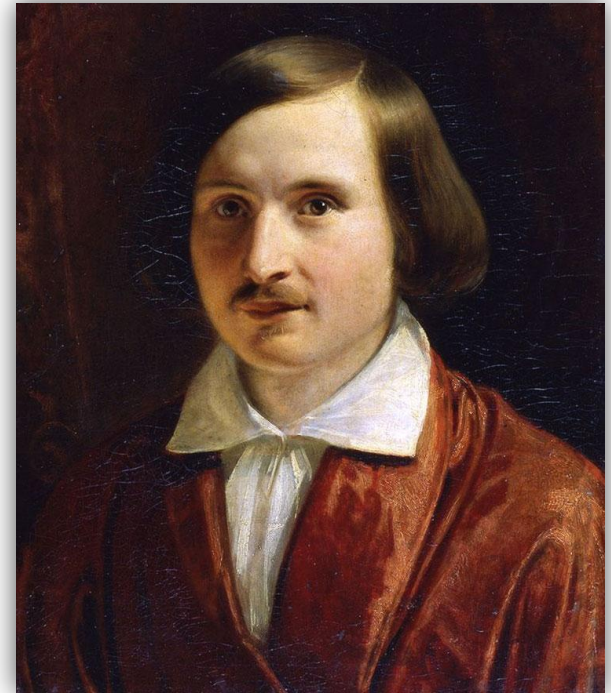


# Influenced

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Alexander Pushkin influenced most of Russian literature:

- Akhmatova
- Blok
- Brodsky
- Bulgakov
- Bunin
- Chekhov
- Dostoevsky
- Gogol & many more...



**Nikolai Gogol**

# Natalya Goncharova

- Around 1828, Pushkin met Natalya Goncharova.
- They got married on 18 February 1831 in Moscow.



# Achievements

- Wrote his first published poem, **To a Poet Friend** at the age of 14
- Wrote **Freedom** in 1817, but wasn't published until his death
- **Ruslan and Ludmila**, written in 1820 was his first major poem



Ruslan confronts the head,  
by Nikolai Ge

# Achievements

- Wrote several dramas including **Boris Godunov** in 1831
- Wrote his masterpiece, **Eugene Onegin**, in 1823-31 which later became a Tchaikovsky opera



Onegin proposes to Tatiana, late 19th century illustration by Pavel Sokolov

# Death

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By 1837, Pushkin was falling into greater and greater debt and faced scandalous rumors that his wife had embarked on a love affair.

In response, the poet challenged Natalya's alleged lover, her brother in-law Georges d'Anthès, to a duel which left both men injured.

Shot in the right lower abdomen, Pushkin died two days later.

# Death



**Duel of Alexander Pushkin and Georges d'Anthès**

# Pushkin Prize

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- Russian literary prize established in **1881- Present**
- Awarded by the Russian Academy of Sciences to Russian authors (who achieved the highest standard of literary excellence)
- Winners include: (Anton Chekhov & Ivan Bunin)



# Quotes

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**Ecstasy is a glassful of tea and a piece of sugar  
in the mouth.**

**I've lived to bury my desires  
And see my dreams corrode with rust  
Now all that's left are fruitless fires  
That burn my empty heart to dust.**



**Thanks  
For  
Attention**