*Pushkin*

Pushkin is the most important Russian writer of all time, like Shakespeare in England or Dante in Italy. Pushkin provided -the standards for Russian arts and literature in the 19th century.

Pushkin was born in Moscow in 1799 into an upper-class family. In 1811 he entered a lyceum at Tsarskoye Selo. The education offered at the lyceum shaped Pushkin's life.

He graduated from the lyceum in 1817 and began to work in the foreign office in St. Petersburg.

In 1820 the foreign office transferred Pushkin to Ekaterinoslav, and later to Odessa for writing anti-tsarist poetry. In 1824, for his letters against the tsar, he was exiled to Mikhailovskoye. In 1824, Tsar Nicholas I allowed Pushkin to return to Moscow.

Pushkin felt in love with Natalya Goncharova,who was 16 then, and in 1830 they got married. His wife was suspected of an affair with Baron Georges d'Antes; this became the subject of gossip. Pushkin challenged d'Antes to a duel. Pushkin was wounded and died two days later.

Pushkin was Russia's greatest poet. In his works he was first influenced by 18th century poets, and then by Lord Byron. Finally he developed his own style, which was realistic but classical in form.

His earliest long poem was romantic «Ruslan and Lyudmila» (1818-1820). A series of verse tales followed- «The Prisoner of the Caucasus», «The Robber Brothers», «The Fountain of Bakhchisarai», and «The Gypsies». They were inspired by Byron's poetry.

In 1823 Pushkin began writing his masterpiece «Eugene Onegin» (a novel in verse. «Eugene Onegin» became the linguistic and literary standard. It is a commentary on the life of the early 19th century Russia. It is noted for brilliant verse.

He also wrote other long poems including «Bronze Horseman» (1833), the finest collection of lyrics in Russian literature.

Pushkin created also a number of masterpieces in drama and prose. «Little Tragedies» and «The Stone Guest» are among thebest works in the world history of drama. Pushkin's love to "Russia's past resulted in his historical drama, «Boris Godunov» (1825). «Tales of the Late I.P.Belkin», «Dubrovsky», «The Captain's Daughter» are the most important of his prose works. Pushkin's use of Russian influenced on the great Russian writers Turgenev, Goncharov, Tolstoy.

Pushkn`s early death shocked the country. Pushkin called by many «the sun of Russian literature», belongs among the foremost poets and writers of the world.

- to provide the standards for стать образцом для

to be born into an upper-class family родиться в аристократической семье

to shape one's life оказать влияние на жизнь, сформировать ее

- to work in the foreign office работать в министерстве иностранных дел

to be exiled to быть сосланным в

- to be suspected of подозреваться в  
to become the subject of gossip стать предметом сплетен  
to challenge smb to a duelвызвать кого-либо на дуэль

to be wounded быть раненым

to be influenced by испытать влияние со стороны  
classical in form классический по форме

* a verse tale сказка в стихах
* a masterpiece шедевр

to become the linguistic and literary standard стать языковым и литературным образцом для подражания

to be noted for brilliant verse быть известным свой блестящим стихом

* to create a number of masterpieces создать ряд шедевров  
  to belong among the foremost poets and writers of принадлежать к лучшим поэтам и писателям

Answer the questions:

1. What part did Pushkin play in the development of the Russian language and literature?
2. What part did Pushkin's education play in his life?
3. Why was Pushkin transferred to Odessa, and later exiled to Moscow?
4. Why did Pushkin challenge D'Antes to the duel?
5. What was Pushkin influenced by in his style?
6. How can you characterize «Eugene Onegin»?
7. What long poems did he write?
8. How can you characterize Pushkin as a dramatist and a prose writer?

Translate into English:

1.Пушкин принадлежит к самым выдающимся писателям России всех времен.

1. Творчество Пушкина было образцом для подражания более поздних российских писателей.
2. Образование, полученное Пушкиным в лицее, оказало влияние на его жизнь.

4 За стихи, направленные против царя, Пушкин был сначала переве­ден в Екатеринослав, затем в Одессу, а позже сослан в Михайловское.

1. Ранний стиль Пушкина сформировался под влиянием (under the influence of) романтизма.
2. К шедеврам Пушкина относятся поэмы «Медный всадник», «Рус­лан и Людмила», «Бахчисарайский фонтан», роман в стихах «Евге­ний Онегин», великолепная лирика, исторические драмы.
3. Стиль прозаических произведений Пушкина послужил основой стиля великих русских романистов 19-20 веков.

*Lermontov*

One of Russia's most celebrated poets of all times, Michael Lermontov was born in Moscow in the family of a nobleman. He spent his childhood and youth at Tarckany, his grandmother's estate in the province of Penza. In 1830 Lermontov entered the Moscow University, but very soon had to leave it. Then he entered St. Petersburg School of Cavalry Cadets. He finished it in 1834 and served in the Hussar Regiment of the Imperial Guard.

In 183 7 the poet was exiled to the Caucasus for his poem on Pushkin's death, in which he put blame for it on the ruling circles of Russia under Nicholas I. Into 1841 Lermontov was exiled to the Caucasus for the second time. As a result of the intrigues by the officers he was provoked into a personal quarrel with a schoolmate of his. The quarrel led to a duel. On July 15,1841 the poet was killed. He was not twenty seven at the time.

Lermontov began writing when he was very young. One of his first writings to be published was his verse tale «Hadji Abrek». But he won fame as a poet after his poem on Pushkin's death was published. Lermontov's poems «Demon», «Mtsyri» and «Lay of the Merchant Kalashnikov», his innumerable lyrics, his great novel «A Hero of Our Time» and his play «Masquerade» are masterpieces of Russian literature. Whether he chose to write poetry, prose or drama, the stamp of his genius was to be found on his works.

The poet was greatly influenced in his writings by the ideas of the Decembrist movement. Lermontov's influence as a poet and a thinker on all Russian writers can't be overestimated.

- Russia's most celebrated poet of all times самый знаменитый поэт России всех времен

in the family of a nobleman в семье аристократа

an estate поместье

the Hussar Regirrtent of the Imperial Guard гусарский гвардейский полк

- to be exiled to быть сосланным в

to put blame for smth on возложить вину за... на...

the ruling circles of правящие круги

to be provoked into a personal quarrel спровоцировать кого-либо на ссору

to lead to a duel привести к дуэли

**a** verse tale сказка в стихах

to win fame as a poet прославиться в качестве поэта

**a** masterpiece of Russian literature шедевр русской литературы

the stamp of one's genius печать гения

- to be greatly influenced by испытать влияние со стороны

the Decembrist movement движение декабристов

to be overestimated быть переоцененным

Answer the questions:

1. What kind of education did Lermontov get?
2. Why was he exiled to the Caucasus?
3. What works by Lermontov do you know?
4. What was he influenced in his writings by?

Translate into English:

1. Лермонтов - один из знаменитейших поэтов России всех времен.
2. Лермонтов окончил Петербургскую школу кавалерийских юнке­ров и служил в гвардии.
3. В стихотворении на смерть Пушкина поэт обвинял в смерти Пуш­кина правящие круги России.
4. Лермонтова дважды ссылали на Кавказ.
5. Ссора Лермонтова с одним из его школьных товарищей окончи­лась дуэлью.
6. Первым опубликованным произведением Лермонтова была сказ­ка в стихах «Хаджи Абрек».
7. Он стал популярен как поэт после публикации стихотворения на смерть Пушкина и поэм.
8. На всех его работах лежит печать гения.
9. На произведения многих писателей оказало влияние творчество(creative work) Лермонтова.