

Russian literature is one of the most important parts of Russian culture which has become a cradle to the creative activity of a great number of Russian writers. Its national roots are closely connected with patriotism through which one can get a clear idea of what so-called Russian soul is. That is why I advise those foreigners whose attitude to the Russians is not a stereotype, but who are willing to get to know their nature to start reading Russian literature.

Foreign students are sure to have to read and learn their own literature. I will not be surprised that they, being teenagers, look upon it as something boring. But I believe that everyone in his life has been happy to read a book that arises a great interest and makes him reread it over and over again.

As for me, I have read such a book. It is «Woe from wit» by Alexander Griboedov. The author managed to describe the characters so brightly and vividly that all the rest, for my mind, dwindles as compared with them. It is the only work of literature in which I have met such vivid characters. For me they have become the main phenomenon of this book. Ivan Goncharov in one of his articles wrote that the play depicts a long period of Russian history that «the group of the twenty characters reflects like in a drop of water old Moscow, its portrait, its old spirit, historical moment and temper». So I recommend this book to all those foreigners who wish to learn the Russian history from the position of its morality but not the chronology of its dates.

«Woe from wit» is not the only book which gives a reader a chance to plunge any historic epoch of Russian history. That is why our classical literature will be very useful to those foreigners who are keen to learn Russian history not by reading boring textbooks, but getting acquainted with interesting, intriguing and at the same time serious works of literature of Russian writers.

Reading these books will help a foreigner to have a clear idea of that very Russian soul I have written about at the beginning of my composition and will give him a unique chance to get absorbed into a Russian society of this or that historic period and experience all the troubles and emotions caused by the most acute conflicts shaking the Russian people.