

I am so happy that we are friends with you, John. Trough, you are a far-away country, understand me so well. And so do I. I understand you as if you were from Russia.

I adore English. It is a very beautiful language. I enjoy getting to know it better and better. I am rasher fluent in it now. Of course, English is an international language, which allows people to communicate and understand each other better. I have even begun reading English books in the original. Though, it is difficult sometimes, so I have to look up words in the dictionary. But how fascinating the language of many writers is I am reading “The picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde now. Before that I read “Alice in Wonderland” by Lewes Carroll and detective stories by Agatha Christie, the world’s most famous detective writer. Now I must confess that I can’t live without English books.

I told you many times that I am a book-worm. Don’t we have much in common with you here? I with you could love Russian literature like I adore British literature. Russian literature is not only the pride of Russia, it is pride of the whole world and the basis of classical literature. In my opinion Russian literature has started many new literary friends and directions.

We are studying Russian classical writers at school now. Russian literature is so rich. I personally prefer stories by Chekhov and novels by Leo Tolstoy, especially “War and peace”. How much we can learn about the time and the people, described by the writers? It my help us understand the unique and mysterious Russian character. Chekhov’s stories are sometimes funny and so full of irony like stories by O. Henry and Stephen Leacock. But the humour is different in English books and in Russian ones.

Russian poets are also great such as Pushkin, Lermontov, Esenin or Achmatova or Evtushenko and others. But even a very good translation of magnificent pieces of literature cannot give you so much satisfaction as reading in the original. You might be surprised, but I compared the literary translation of “The picture of Dorian Grey” in Russian with its original. The English variant is much more attractive, impressive and appealing to me. I am sure the fame will happen you read Russian books in the original. I know how interested you in my country, its history and culture, and I do want to offer my help to you in studying Russian. I am looking forward to speaking about literature in both English and Russian on Skype.

There are contemporary Russian writers whose works are worth reading too if you want to understand what Russian people are like I could recommend you to read “The dawns are quiet here” or “Don’t shoot the white swans” by Boris Vasiliev. “The red sails” by Alexander Greene, “A wild Dingo dog or the first love story” by Frierman and “A scarecrow” by Zhelesnikov. So all these books way show how young people behaved during World War II, what makes them fall in love, what problems young people face nowadays, what aims they put in life, what makes a difference to them nowadays.

You understand of course your life and everybody’s life may become much brighter and colorful. We as representatives of our countries, can become closer respectful friends and the world will become better if we learn to enjoy other countries’ culture.

I am so keen on living in a peaceful world when everybody understands and respects each other. When there is freedom and peace in the world, when people admire beauty and nobody wants a war and destruction. Our world is so small, but we have so many wide opportunities to preserve it. Getting acquainted with other nations’ literature is one of the possible ways of doing it. Enjoy it and love it!!!