



Dear Jack,

I'm sorry I haven't answered earlier but I was really busy with my school.

This week I am going to take part in a very interesting literary contest! I learned an extract from the story "The night before Christmas" by N. Gogol by heart. I like Russian literature and you, Jack? What Russian writers and poets do you know? I would like to tell you about them. Our world-famous writers and poets are I. Turgenev, A. Gaidar, L. Tolstoy, M. Lermontov, A. Pushkin and others.

A. Pushkin is my favourite Russian poet. I enjoy reading his poems and fairy-tales. A lot of them were adapted for the screen and many of his poems are arranged by our famous composers for example by P. Tchaikovsky, S. Rahmaninov and others.

I am fond of reading Russian fairy-tales! They are some of the oldest and richest in the world. Almost all of them have a happy end and the good characters win over the bad ones.

Some of Russian fairy-tales remind German and French ones. That means that in the past Russian fairy-tales influenced folk creation of other countries.

A lot of Russian fairy-tales are translated into many foreign languages. Some of the characters of our tales became favourite for children all over the world. For example our Baba Yaga who is a bad witch, but she also helps those who helps her. Another famous character is Ivan the Fool. Ivan is unlucky and people think he is silly. In the story "Ivan the Fool and the Magic Pony" Ivan gets a magic horse that makes his life better. At the end of the story Ivan becomes a tsar! After this fairy-tale the ballet miniature "Fire bird" was made and it is being performed on many stages of the world theatres.

Another famous story is "The Frog Princess", where a frog becomes a beautiful princess and marries a prince. Some fairy-tales are about animals or objects. "Teremok" is about a lot of animals who build a small house and live there together. This fairy-tale teaches us to be friendly, helpful and hardworking. This fairy-tale is very popular with children in other countries as well as "Kolobok". It is a story of a cake that leaves the house for the forest to have adventures. This story is called "The Gingerbread Man" in English.

So we see that many fairy-tales have got the same plot both in Russian and in foreign literature, don't we? It proves that they have got the same roots. I hope you will read works of Russian writers and poets to learn our culture better!

And who is your favourite writer or poet, Jack? What do you like to read?

Write back soon!

Best wishes,

Danil