

The Dovecote and Dolgushov's Death

Stories by Isaac Babel

What makes these stories “Russian”?

1. The historical context because ...
2. The ...
3. The ...
4. The ...
5. The ...

With the person seated next to you, find 5 reasons these stories could be considered examples of Russian literature.

Tone/Mood

1. Identify **Tone** (The way feelings are expressed- author's attitude)
2. Identify **Mood** (The overall feeling of the work)
3. What are some sample sentences from the stories that have **context clues** showing tone and mood?

Write down 5 examples from the stories.

Relating to an historical event

- **Pogrom**: an organized massacre of a particular ethnic group, in particular that of Jews in Russia or eastern Europe.
- **Quota System**: A system that allowed a certain number of Jews to attend school.
- **Ghetto**: A specific place where only certain ethnic groups were allowed to live.
- **Genocide**: the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

Pogroms in Eastern Europe



**Relatives view
bodies of jews
murdered in
pogroms in
odessa,
russia,
october 22,
1905, Jewish
cemetery,
odessa, 1905
revolt.**





photo: Printed caricature by painter Henryk Nowodworski, depicting pogrom białostocki of 1906. Note the assailant wearing a Tsarist army hat with a cockade sideways. From Wikipedia



Supporters of the Black Hundreds marching during the 1905 Russian Revolution in Odessa

120 - THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, APR. 14, 1905 - 121



"THE 'LITTLE FATHER IS WITH US': REVOLUTIONARIES BEARING THE TSAR'S PORTRAIT THROUGH THE STREETS OF ODESSA.

ILLUSTRATED FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

On the first procession of the Tsar's portrait from Odessa to Russia, the people were almost frantic with joy, and revolutionaries paraded the streets with flags and music. For two hours, the revolutionaries carried the head of the dynasty on the street, and the people sang in Odessa, and in a number of other towns in the Ukraine.

Isaac Babel's Dovecote

- Babel was Russian/Jewish/Ukrainian
- Who does Babel identify with in the story?
- What is his attitude towards the subject?
- What is the tone/mood of the story?
- Can you determine Babel's point of view or purpose in writing this text?

Themes of Dovecote/Dolgushov

Dovecote

- Overcoming illusion
- Eye-opening experiences.
- Violence
- Persecution

Dolgushov's Death

- War
- Hopelessness
- Fear
- Futility
- Indifference
- Friendship

“My world was tiny, and it was awful. I closed my eyes so as not to see it, and pressed myself tight into the ground that lay beneath me in soothing dumbness. This trampled earth in no way resembled real life, waiting for exams in real life. Somewhere far away Woe rode across it on a great steed, but the noise of the hoofbeats grew weaker and died away, and silence, the bitter silence that sometimes overwhelms children in their sorrow, suddenly deleted the boundary between body and the earth that was moving nowhither. The earth smelled of raw depths, of the tomb, of flowers. I smelled its smell and started crying, unafraid. I was walking along an unknown street set on either side with white boxes, walking in a getup of bloodstained feathers, alone between the pavements swept clean as on Sunday, weeping bitterly, fully and happily as I never wept again in all my life.” Dovecote

Polish-Russian War



History's Influence on Literature?

- How do the historical events depicted in Babel's stories influence his writing?
- What **rhetorical devices** does he use to persuade the reader of his point of view?

Rhetorical Device: a technique that an author or speaker uses to convey to the listener or reader a meaning with the goal of persuading him or her towards considering a topic from a different perspective, using sentences designed to encourage or provoke a rational argument from an emotional display of a given perspective or action

Eye-opening experiences...