

## Villains

Baba Yaga  
Koshchei the Deathless

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## Outline

- Villains
  - Baba Yaga
  - Koshchei the Deathless
- Musorgskii, *Pictures at an Exhibition*

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## Baba Yaga and Koshchei Tales

- For Lecture
  - “Baba Yaga and the Brave Youth” 76–79
  - “Baba Yaga” 194–95
  - “Koshchei the Deathless” 485–94
- For Recitation on Thursday, 10-28 and Friday, 10-29
  - “Maria Morevna” 553–62
  - “Vasilisa the Beautiful” 439–47 (review)
  - “The Maiden Tsar” 229–34 (review)
  - “Taboos” (von Franz, course pack)

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Bilibin: Koshchei the Deathless



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Maria Morevna

Ivan Bilibin, 1876–1942  
Prince Ivan and the Defeated Forces (1901)



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Maria Morevna

Boris Zvorykin (b. 1872)  
Koshchei the Deathless and Maria Morevna (1920s?)



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## The Death of Koshchei



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## “Baba Yaga and the Brave Youth”

- Attributes of Baba Yaga
  - Counting (spoons)
  - Mortar, pestle, and broom
  - Cannibalistic
  - Three daughters
  - Can be outwitted
- Who are the animal roommates?
- What would Bettelheim say? Propp? Lüthi? Feminist critics?

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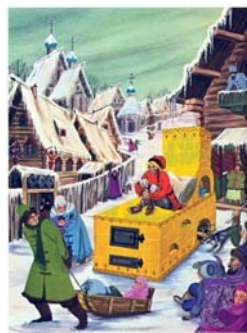
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## A Russian Stove



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## “Baba Yaga”

- Attributes of Baba Yaga
  - What is her house like?
  - How is her physical appearance described?
  - What odor does Baba Yaga smell?
  - How evil is Baba Yaga?
- Reflections of other tales you have read
  - “Daughter and Stepdaughter”
  - “Jack Frost”
  - “Vasilisa the Beautiful”
- What would Bettelheim say? Propp? Lüthi? Feminist critics?

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## Modest Musorgskii (1839–81)

- Operas
  - *Boris Godunov* (1874)
  - *Khovanshchina* (1880, completed by Rimskii-Korsakov)
- Orchestral
  - “Night on Bald Mountain” (symphonic poem, 1867)
  - “Pictures at an Exhibition” (piano suite, 1874)



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## Pictures at an Exhibition

- Viktor Aleksandrovich Hartmann, 1834–73
  - Architect, illustrator, painter
  - Russian national and folk themes
  - Exhibition of illustrations, 1874
- Ten-part piano suite first written 1874
  - Published 1886 (after Musorgskii’s death)
  - Orchestrated by Maurice Ravel 1922 (premier 1923)

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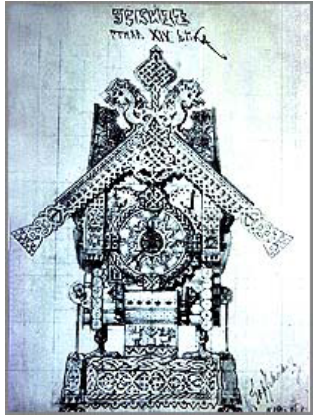
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## The Hut on Chicken Legs



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## What to Listen For

- Depiction of Baba Yaga's nocturnal ride
- Structure: Part 1 (A), Part 2 (B), Reprise of Part 1 (A)
  - A: Assertive opening (low instruments, vigorous beat, 2/4 time), merging into trumpet theme joined by other instruments (1:20)
  - B: Very quiet, mysterious, edgy middle theme (Baba Yaga rests) (1:15)
  - A: Return to first theme (the ride continues) (1:00)
  - (Segue into "Great Gates of Kiev")

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## The Many Faces of Baba Yaga (1)

- What is her physical appearance like?
- Where does she live?
- Does she resemble any character from western fairy tales?
- What is her family situation?

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## The Many Faces of Baba Yaga (2)

- How does she detect the presence of Russians?
- What does she do with them?
- How does she travel?
- Does she work alone?
- How villainous is she?
- How smart is she?
- Is she mortal?
- What's with the spoons?

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## "Koshchei the Deathless"

- (May be spelled "Koshchei" or "Koshchey")
- What is Koshchei's reputation?
- What is Koshchei's family situation?
- What act of villainy does Koshchei perform?
- When Koshchei is not at home with Vasilisa Kirbitievna, where is he?
- How does Prince Ivan manage to prevail over Koshchei?

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## The Many Faces of Koshchei the Deathless

- What is his physical appearance like?
- How does he detect Russians?
- Which Russians interest him? What does he do with them? How is this different from Baba Yaga?
- How does he spend his leisure time?
- Does he know Baba Yaga?
- How villainous is he?
- How smart is he?
- Is he mortal?

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