

Gogol'

Outline

- Exam essay advice
- Gogol'
- "Viy"
 - Fairy Tales and Folklore
 - *Viy* (Film, 1967)
 - What is the story about? What isn't it about?
 - Features
- "Viy" and Fairy Tales

Exam Essay Advice

- Write approximately one page (average size handwriting)
- Answer the question

Wise Maiden Tales

- What would feminist critics say about wise maiden tales? Discuss specific examples from at least three Russian wise maiden tales, addressing as many features from the feminist articles we have read as you can.
 - Don't think: Oh, this is the feminism question. I'll tell everything I know about feminism.
 - Do write about *what feminist critics would say about wise maiden tales*
 - Don't start by summarizing the critical articles
 - Do discuss *only* wise maiden tales
 - Do *give examples* from *at least three* wise maiden tales
 - Do *explain* how each example supports your analysis

Byliny

- How are *byliny* like "Ilya Muromets and Nightingale the Robber" similar to and different from tales like "Foma Berennikov," "Ilya Muromets and the Dragon," and "Ivan the Simpleton"? Provide specific examples from the *bylina* and the tales.
 - Don't think: Oh, this is the *bylina* question. I'll tell everything I know about *byliny*.
 - Do write about *how tales based on byliny are similar to and different from actual byliny*.
 - Do provide *specific examples*
 - Do *explain* how each example supports your analysis

Gogol'

- Nikolai Vasil'evich Gogol' (1809–52)
- Born in Ukraine, lived in St. Petersburg and abroad
- Prose (short stories, novel), drama
 - *The Inspector General* (1836)
 - *Dead Souls* (1842)
- Satire, the fantastic, the grotesque



The Nose
(St. Petersburg)



Gogol'

Ol'ga Bulgakova (b.
1951)



“Viy” and Fairy Tales

- Story from collection *Mirgorod* (1835)
- Parallels with tales
 - “The Sorceress” (Afanas’ev 567–68)
 - “The Enchanted Princess” (Afanas’ev 600–11)
- Church setting and demonism
 - “The Vampire” (Afanas’ev 593–98)

Viy (Film)

- 1967
- Directors
 - Georgi Kropachyov (b. 1930)
 - Aleksandr Ptushko (1900–73)
- Viewing guide
 - Circle
 - Demons
 - Viy
 - Who looks at whom?
- New version coming October 2009



Issues

- What is the story about? What isn't it about?
- What are the key events in the story? Which features are important and which are unimportant?
- What does the story ultimately tell us about the world and the place of humans in it?
- What is the dominant atmosphere in the story?

Features

- Power of gaze and word
- Religion vs folkloric evil
 - Witch
 - Rusalka
 - Petty demons
 - Viy
- Fairy-tale motifs include:
 - Riding
 - Three-night vigil
 - Witch
 - Rusalka
 - Vampire
 - Circle as prophylaxis
- Sexual initiation
