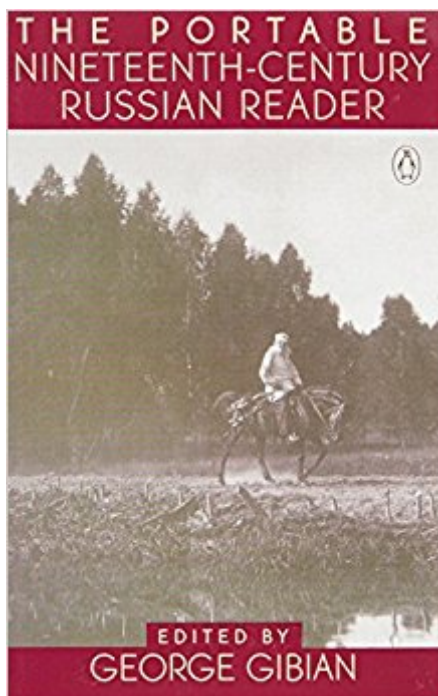


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# The Portable Nineteenth-Century Russian Reader (Portable Library)



## Synopsis

The Portable Nineteenth-Century Russian Reader magnificently represents the great voices of this era. It includes such masterworks of world literature as Pushkin's poem "The Bronze Horseman"; Gogol's "The Overcoat"; Turgenev's novel *First Love*; Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*; Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilych*; and "The Grand Inquisitor" episode from Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*; plus poetry, plays, short stories, novel excerpts, and essays by such writers as Griboyedov, Pavlova, Herzen, Goncharov, Saltykov-Shchedrin, and Maksim Gorky. Distinguished scholar George Gibian provides an introduction, chronology, biographical essays, and a bibliography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This anthology is an excellent reader's companion to any modern Russian work--be it Nabokov's *Invitation of a Bezarious Guest* or Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Not only does it provide excellent autobiographical coverage on all the major Russian authors of the period, but it has characteristic passages from works too big to be included that allow the dilettante and the serious reader alike to investigate Russian literature in as much depth as suits each. The book is comparable to the Norton's *Anthology of English Literature*, but on a smaller scale and less heavily footnoted. Authors covered include of course Pushkin, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Gorky, but also Griboyedov, Lermontov, Gogol, Aksakov, Tyutchev, Karolina Pavlova, Goncharov, Turgenev, Herzen, Prutkov, Saltykov-Shchedrin, Solovyov and some Russian Folk Proverbs. A rare treat it provides is the chance to read some of

Dostoyevsky's political non-fiction, Tolstoy's literary criticism, and eleven Pushkin poems. Plot summaries and brief literary analyses are included with the biographical information. Very readable and complete, though some translations are written in awkwardly formal language (a flaw ubiquitous in Russian translations that does not detract from the diversity of selections or the beauty of included prose)

Nineteenth century Russia Literature is one of the great Literatures of Mankind. Consider 'War and Peace' and 'Karamozov' Tolstoy and Dostoevsky alone, two of the giants. But also in that century Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Turgenev, Chekhov other very major writers. In this anthology there are also included Herzen, Solovoyev, Saltykov-Schedrin, Griboyedov, Goncharov, Tyutchev, and others. The Tolstoy is 'Ivan Ilyich' and the Dostoevsky 'The Grand Inquisitor'. There are clearly written introductions to each of the works. This is an overabundantly rich anthology, an overabundance and richness which reflects the character of nineteenth century Russian Literature as a whole.

My son voiced interest in Russian writing and rather than settling for one particular author, I chose this collection for him as it contained poetry, essays and stories by some of the more famous writers of the 19th century, and it appears to have hit the nail on the head—he is working his way through the book!

I recommend this collection of 19th century Russian literature. It includes classics such as Gogol's 'The Overcoat' and Turgenev's 'First Love' plus selections from a wide range of Russian writers. Each writer is introduced with a short biographical section.

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