

1. Leo Tolstoy – A Moral Voice of World Literature

<p>Biography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: September 9, 1828, Yasnaya Polyana estate. • Orphaned, raised by relatives. • Received a home education. • Entered Kazan University: studied law and oriental languages, did not complete his degree. • A soldier in the Crimean War. • Life of introspection and transformation. • A Christian anarchist and moral philosopher. • Rejected wealth and status. • Advocated for simplicity, non-violence, and spiritual awakening. • Died: 1910 • Left behind a literary and philosophical legacy influencing global thought.
<p>Main Literary Works</p>	<p>The most influential novels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “War and Peace” – a narrative blending history, philosophy, and human drama. • “Anna Karenina” – a psychological novel on love, betrayal, and the role of women in Russian society. • “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”, “Resurrection”, and “The Kreutzer Sonata” – shorter works on mortality, guilt, and the search for truth. • Essays on education, religion, and ethics reflect his own moral philosophy.
<p>Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions</p>	<p>Numerous screen and stage adaptations:"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “War and Peace” - a Soviet-era film epic (Sergei Bondarchuk’s 1960s version won an Oscar) and later adapted into international films and series. • “Anna Karenina” adapted by directors around the world. • His stories, dramatized in theatre, highlight the complexity of human choices and moral dilemmas. • Tolstoy's themes are relevant to global audiences.
<p>The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the greatest novelists in world history; • shaped Russian national consciousness; • influenced political and spiritual movements worldwide; • realistic style and psychological insight transformed the novel as a literary form ; • deeply impacted figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.; • teachings on education contributed to pedagogical reforms.