

2. Alexander Pushkin – The Father of Russian Literature

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: June 6, 1799, Moscow. • From a noble family with African roots (his great-grandfather, Abram Gannibal, was an African prince). • Elite education at the Tsarskoye Selo Lyceum. • Exceptional literary talent from a young age. • Involved in liberal intellectual circles in conflict with the authorities. • Was exiled several times. • Remained loyal to his artistic mission. • Death: 1837, at the age of 37, from wounds in a duel for his wife's honor.
Main Literary Works	<p>Most renowned works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eugene Onegin” – a novel in verse - a cornerstone of Russian literary style. • “The Bronze Horseman” – a poetic reflection on Peter the Great and fate. • “Boris Godunov” – a historical tragedy that prefigured modern Russian drama. • Short stories and fairy tales, such as “The Queen of Spades,” “The Captain’s Daughter,” and “The Tale of the Golden Cockerel.”
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Countless adaptations worldwide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Eugene Onegin”, transformed into opera (by Tchaikovsky), ballets, and films. • “Boris Godunov” - an opera by Mussorgsky, later performed at the Metropolitan Opera. • Russian theatres stage dramatizations of his tales and historical works highlight their timeless relevance. • His fairy tales, with magical and moral themes, adapted into animated films, educate and entertain children.
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founder of modern Russian literature and the Russian literary language (rich, flexible, capable of conveying deep emotion and complex thought). • Freed Russian verse from artificial constraints. • His works reflect national history, folklore, human psychology, and moral values. • Through his poetry, prose, and drama Russian literature was brought to the world stage.