

CHRONOLOGY OF TOLSTOY'S LIFE

- 1828 Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy was born on the family estate of Yasnaya Polyana. His parents died when he was young. (mother when he was 2 and father when he was a youth.) He was raised by aunts and taught by private tutors.
- 1844 Attended Kazan University. Was disappointed in this education and so returned home.
- 1844 - 1850 Frequent visits to sample the social life of Moscow and at home in Yasnaya Polyana.
- 1850 - 1 Started a school for peasants and their children on his estate. Started his diary writing, which was to continue throughout life.
- 1852 Joined his brother in the Caucasus: obtains a commission in the army; participates in skirmishes with mountain tribesmen. Completes a short story in the form of a memoir. Childhood.
- 1854 Is transferred to Sevastopol and participates in the Crimean War.
- 1855 - 6 Writes and has published the Sevastopol Sketches.
- 1855 Leaves army: goes to Petersburg; is famous as a result of the success of Sevastopol Sketches: returns home to Yasnaya Polyana.
- 1857 Visits Western Europe: returns and builds school for peasant children at Yasnaya Polyana.
- 1860 - 1 Again visits Western Europe to explore all its cultural opportunities - is recalled.
- 1861 Tolstoy's brother Nikolai dies of tuberculosis.
- 1862 Marries Sonya Andreyevna Bers and aristocrat young noblewoman, daughter of a neighbour (They will have 13 children) Sonya is 17, he is 34.
- 1863 Administrator of a large estate and fortune, he becomes also a fully professional writer. The Cossacks is published.
- 1863 - 69 War and Peace
- 1873 - 76 Anna Karenina
- 1880 - 82 A Confession, describing his religious doubt, despair and finally conversion to something that is perhaps best described as Christian communism.
- 1870's - 1880's Much religious and moral writing but little artistic work.

- 1886 The Death of Ivan Ilych.
- 1890 The Kreutzer Sonata.
- 1891 Organizes famine relief in rural areas; attempts at identifying with the peasants (the muzhiks)
- 1896 - 1904 Hadji Murad
- 1897 What is Art? (Essay)
- 1901 Excommunicated from the Orthodox Church - family openly hostile to him. Influenced by Chertkov he renounces title lands and estates - supported only by his youngest daughter.
- 1901 - 1910 Domestic friction, and some considerable political misunderstanding make him a saint to the peasants and an anathema to the gentry. Never the less he is acclaimed the greatest of the Russian writers.
- 1910 Trying to find peace and freedom Tolstoy leaves his wife and family on November 20th. November 22nd he is carried into a railway station master's house, stricken. He intended to find refuge in a monastery and was travelling there - he dies aged 82.
- His wife lived on for several years and after his death the family scattered some to European countries and some to America. Only one child a son, lived on and died in Russia.
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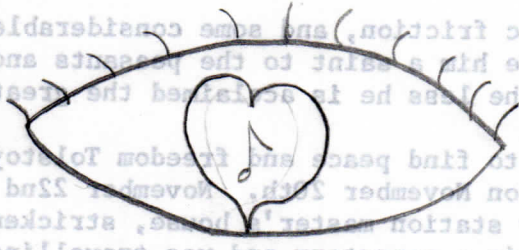
Hadji Murad

What is Art? (Essay)

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I love music

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To Robin
From Scott

