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#### A KEY AUTHOR OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE

It is difficult to choose a single favorite Russia author. Perhaps one of these great writers could serve as an example of all those great Russian writers. Perhaps his talents and the characteristic of his work are traits also common to the others. Perhaps the anonymous author of “Song of Igor’s Campaign” exemplifies the characteristics of these great pieces of literature.

This bard sings a song. Tells a lay, writes an epic much like his contemporaries. Other bards tell tales like France’s “Song of Roland”. But this Russ is a uniquely Russian bard. He introduces themes in his Epic that are contained throughout Russian literature by these other great writers.

His work includes an element of nationalism much like epics like Roland’s. But it is a long suffering patriotism undaunted by defeat and unadorned by denouement.

His hero is Russ and is human with all the strength and courage of the Russian people but with all the vanity and frailty of all humanity. There is a theme of love and fidelity. Igor struggles to return to his waiting wife. There is an element of social commentary. Our hero Igor likes his own prestige and power at the risk of jeopardizing his people. The princes are disunited rivals.

The bard sets the tone for Russian literature. And since he first uses these Russian literary traits, he must be my favorite.