

Литературный вечер

«Байрон – Пушкин – Лермонтов»

Вступительное слово учителя:

Today we have gathered here to speak about three outstanding world-famous poets- Byron, Pushkin, Lermontov. At this literary party we'll admire their great talent and we'll see that Pushkin and Lermontov were greatly influenced by the poetry of the great English poet George Byron.

I ведущий (на фоне звучащей музыки)

I invite you to listen and admire the fascinating lines of Pushkin's poetry:

*«Погасло дневное светило,
На море синее вечерний пал туман.
Шуми, шуми, послушное ветрило,
Волнуйся подо мной, огромный океан».*

These lines are very close to the poetry of the famous English poet George Byron.

What attracted Pushkin in his poetry?

First of all, his ability to describe the beauty of nature:

*“And gentle winds, and waters near,
Make music to the lonely ear”.*

Pushkin also admired how brilliantly Byron could express his emotional experience:

*“My soul is dark- Oh! quickly string
The harp I yet can brook to hear...”*

And of course, Pushkin was astonished by his capacity to depict the women images' beauty:

*“She walks in Beauty, like the night
Of cloudness climes and starry skies:
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;*

*Thus, mellowed to that tender light
Which Heaven to gaudy day denies.*

*One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,*

*Of softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, yow dear their dwelling –place.”*

*Она идёт во всей красе-
Светла, как ночь её страны.
Вся глубь небес и звёзды все
В её очах заключены,
Как солнце в утренней росе,
Но только мраком смягчены.
Прибавить луч иль тень
отнять -
И будет уж совсем не та
Волос агатовая прядь
Не те глаза, не те уста
И лоб, где помыслов печать
Так безупречна, так чиста.
И этот взгляд, и цвет ланит,
И лёгкий смех, как всплеск
морской
Всё в ней о мире говорит.
Она в душе хранит покой
И если счастье подарит
То самой щедрою рукой.*

What do we know about Byron's life and fate?

II ведущий

Byron was born in London on the 22nd of January, 1788 in an old aristocratic family. His mother came from a rich Scottish family. The father was a poor army officer, who spent his wife's money very quickly and died when the boy was three years old. George spent his childhood in Scotland. There the boy went to a Grammar School. He liked history and read much about Rome, Greece, Turkey. The boy was born lame, but he liked sports and trained every day. He could ride a horse well, was a swimmer champion

III ведущий

Scotland became his native land. He loved its beautiful nature, rocky coast and mountains of the country. His love to this scenery was expressed in many of his poems:

*«Прощай, прощай! Мой берег родной
В лазури вод поник.
Вздыхает бриз, ревет прибой,
И чайки вьётся крик.
Скрывает солнце воли хребты
У нас одни пути.
Прощай же, солнце, с ним и ты,
Родной мой край, прости!
Недолог срок- и вновь оно
Взойдёт, а я привет
Лишь с небом шлю; давно
Земли родимой нет.
Пуст отчий дом, остыл очаг,
И вихрь золу разнёс;
На гребне стен пророс сорняк,
У входа воеет пёс.»*

II

In 1798 Byron's uncle died and the boy inherited the title of a lord and the family estate, Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire. George was sent to Harrow School where boys from aristocratic families got their education. At first children laughed at him as he was lame, but very soon the boys began to like him, because George read much and knew many interesting stories from ancient history. He wrote poems and read them to his friends.

IV

Do you know when his literary career began?

III

Yes. At 17 Byron entered Cambridge University and his literary career began there.

IV

What do you know about the special features of that time? What events was Byron influenced by?

I

It was the time after the first bourgeois revolution in France, when the reactionary governments in Europe were trying to kill freedom. The peoples of Europe were struggling against Napoleon for their independence. In 1807, when he was a student, he published his first collection of poems "Hours of Idleness". The critics attacked Byron in the leading literary magazine of that time "Edinburgh Review". Byron hated war and wrote about it in his poems admiring the heroism of Russian soldiers:

*Moscow! Thou limit of his long career,
For which rude Charles had wept his frozentear
To see in vain- he saw thee- how? with spire
And palace fuel to one common fire.*

*To this the soldier lent his kindling match
To this the peasant gave his cottage thatch,
To this the vtrchant flung his hoarded store,
The prience his hall- and Moscow was no more!
Sublimets of volcanoes? Enta's flame
Pales before thine, and quenchless Helca's tame....*

*Москва! Рубеж врагом неперейдённый,
Лил слёзы Карл, тобою побеждённый,
Наполеон вступил в тебя, но как? -
Сплошным костром ты озарила мрак.*

I

In 1808 Byron graduated from the University and the next year he inherited the membership in the House of Lords. In 1809 he left England and went for a long journey which took two years. He had visited Portugal, Spain, Greece, Turkey. Byron described his travels in a long poem "Child Harrold's Pilgrims". After publishing the first two parts of the poem he became one of the most popular persons in London. In 1812 he made his first speech in the Parliament. He spoke in defence of justice, freedom, in defense of common people.

II

In 1812 Byron went to Italy. Italy was under Austrian rule at that time. The poet joined the Carbonari, a revolutionary organization, that was struggling for national independence in Italy. After the suppression of the Italian movement for independence he went to Greece and joined the Greek people in their struggle for independence against Turkey

Песня греческих повстанцев.

"Sons of the Greeks, arise!
The glorious hour's gone forth,
And, worthy of such ties,
Display who gave us birth."

О Греция, восстань!
Сиянье древней славы
Борцов зовёт на брань,
На подвиг величавый.

К оружию, к победам!
Героям страх неведом
Пусть за нами следом
Течёт тиранов кровь.

С презреньем сбросьте, греки
Турецкое ярмо,
Кровью вражеской навеки
Смойте рабское клеймо.

The poem was translated into Russian by Marshak.

V

The struggle for national independence was the aim of Byron's life. In that struggle he realized himself as a good military leader. In the Greek town of Missolonghi Byron fell ill with typhus and died in April 1824. Byron's heart was buried in the Greek town of Missolonghi. His friends brought his body to England. They wanted to bury him in Westminster Abbey, but the English government didn't let do it and Byron was buried in his native place Newstead Abbey.

I ведущий

A. S. Pushkin was born in Russia in 1799. Pushkin and Byron were contemporaries. At first Pushkin read Byron's poetry in the French language because he didn't know English. He paid a lot of attention to learning English language. During his exile in Mikhailovskoye he read books in English, wrote out quotations and used them in his works. Byron's lines:

*"The power and glory of the war,
Faithless as their vain votaries, men,
Had pass'd to triumphant Czar."*

became the epigraph to Pushkin's poem "Poltava". In his poem "Eugene Onegin" we read:
"как Чайльд Гарольд, угрюмый, томный в гостиных появлялся он..."

Pushkin admired Byron's poetry very much. He realized that Byron had the ideas of freedom and independence which many his friends had- Chaadayev, Bestuzhev, Vyazemskiy. This poetry had great influence on the advanced people of that time

The great Russian writer F. M. Dostoyevsky wrote about Byron:

« В его звуках зазвучала тогдашняя тоска человечества и мрачное разочарование его в своём назначении и в обманувших его идеалах. Это была новая и неслыханная ещё тогда муза мести, печали, проклятия и отчаяния. Дух байронизма вдруг пронёсся по всему человечеству, всё оно откликнулось ему...! Как было не откликнуться на него и у нас, да ещё такому гениальному, великому уму как Пушкин..?»

II

Pushkin's friends were shocked when they learnt about Byron's death. Pyotr Vyazemsky wrote at that time: "какая поэтическая смерть- смерть Байрона. Завидую певцам, которые достойно воспоют его кончину, надеюсь и на Пушкина."

In his poem "К морю" Pushkin expressed his feelings about Byron's death:

**«Другой от нас умчался гений,
Другой властитель наших душ.**

**Исчез, оплаканный свободой,
Оставя миру свой венец.
Шуми, взволнуйся непогодой
Он был, о море, твой певец.
Твой образ был на нём означен.
Он духом создан был твоим,
Как ты, могуч, глубок и мрачен,
Как ты ничем неукротим.»**

Pushkin and Byron - two genius having similar ideas and ideals. They never met each other, moreover Pushkin had never published any translations of Byron's works, but the atmosphere of the time they lived in was reflected in their works with great skill

III

Byron wrote about himself:

**Но нечто есть во мне, что не умрёт,
Чего ни смерть, ни времени полёт,
Ни клевета врагов не уничтожит,
Что в эхо многократном оживёт.**

Let's remember Pushkin's lines:

**Нет, весь я не умру- душа в заветной лире
Мой прах переживёт и тленья убежит,
И славен буду я, доколь в подлунном мире
Жив будет хоть один пиит.**

IV

Byron's poetry is also very close in its spirit to another Russian poet M. Lermontov. Lermontov dreamt about the same fate as Byron had:

**“Я молод, но кипят на сердце звуки
И Байрона достигнуть я хотел;
У нас одна душа, одни и те же муки,
О, если б одинаков был удел.
Как он, ищу забвенья и свободы,
Как он в ребячестве пылал уж я душой,
Любил закат в горах, пенящиеся воды
И бурь земных, и бурь небесных вой.”**

Lermontov wanted to fight and die for freedom and justice:

“...я рождён, чтоб целый мир был зритель торжества иль гибели моей”

V

If Pushkin didn't publish any translations of Byron's lyrics, Lermontov did.

For example, the poem “My Soul is Dark”

**“Душа моя мрачна.
Скорей, певец, скорей!”**

Though before many of his poems Lermontov wrote: “Подражание Байрону”, he also underlined his own creative personality, independence and unlikeness.

“Нет, я не Байрон, я другой...”

VI

Byron died at the age of 36

Pushkin at the age of 37

Lermontov at the age of 27

36 years old men were considered teachers and examples to follow.

Lermontov, Pushkin, Byron-

they were persons for whom the words “freedom, honour, justice” meant much more than a mere sound and had a deep philosophical significance. Byron’s life and lyrics symbolize the champion of oppressed love of freedom, protest against tyranny. Byron’s genius has been less recognized in England than on the continent, where he has exercised a marked influence on Romantic literature. His views found their expression in “Byronism” an ideological trend in literature. People in Russia, Britain, other countries will always remember the names of these three poets who were the first to speak about freedom, who influenced greatly the genre of Romanticism in literature.

My Soul is Dark

My soul is dark-Oh! Quickly string
The harp I yet can brook to hear;
And let thy gentle fingers fling
Its melting murmurs o’er mine ear.
If in this heart a hope be dear,
That sound shall charm it forth again
If in these eyes there lurk a tear,
Twill flow, and cease to burn my brain.
But bid the strain be wild and deep,
Nor let thy notes of joy be first;
I tell thee, minstrel, I must weep,
Or else this heavy heart will burst;
For it hath been by sorrow nursed,
And ached in sleepless silence long;
And now ‘tis doomed to know the worst,
And break at once-or yield to song.

Душа моя мрачна

Душа моя мрачна. Скорей певец, скорей!
Вот арфа золотая;
Пускай персты твои, промчавшись по ней,
Пробудят в струнах звуки рая.
И если не навек надежды рок унёс, -
Они в груди моей проснутся,
И если есть в очах застывших капля слёз-
Они растают и проснутся.
Пусть будет песнь твоя дика. - Как мой венец.
Мне тягостны веселья звуки!
Я говорю тебе: я слёз хочу, певец,
Иль разорвётся грудь от муки.
Страданиями была упитана она,
Томилась долго и безмолвно;
И грозный час настал- теперь она полна,
Как кубок смерти яда полный.
(Перевод М.Ю. Лермонтова)

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