

# «Mikhail Sholokhov is an Outstanding Writer»

I was born on the DON

“Great Russian Writers”

Regional Boarding school Rostov -on-Don  
English teachers  
Yablokova T.N.





Sholokhov  
was born in the Kamensk  
region of Russia, in the 'land  
of the Cossacks' — in stanitsa  
Veshenskaya. His father was at  
times a farmer, cattle trader.  
His mother was illiterate but  
learned to read and write in  
order to correspond with her  
son.



The house in which he was born.

Sholokhov began writing at 17. The Birthmark, Sholokhov's first story, appeared when he was 19. In 1922 Sholokhov moved to Moscow to become a journalist, but he had to support himself through manual labour. From 1922 to 1924 he changed many jobs, but he also participated in writers' seminars/ In 1924 Sholokhov returned to Veshenskaya and devoted himself entirely to writing. In the same year he got married and had two daughters and two sons.





His first published book being Donskie rasskazy (1926; Tales of the Don), a collection of short stories.



His book *Tales from the Don* (1926), a volume of stories about the Cossacks of his native region during World War I and the Russian Civil War, won him the 1965 Nobel Prize for Literature.

In the same year Sholokhov began writing *And Quiet Flows the Don*, which earned the Stalin Prize and took him fourteen years to complete (1928—1940). It became the most read work of Soviet fiction and was a powerful example of socialist realism. *Virgin Soil Uplifted*, which took 28 years to complete, reflects life during collectivization in the Don area.














Sholokhov's best-known work, *Tikhy Don*, is remarkable for the objectivity of its portrayal of the heroic and tragic struggle of the Don Cossacks against the Bolsheviks for independence. It became the most widely read novel in the Soviet Union and was heralded as a powerful example of Socialist Realism, winning the Stalin Prize in 1941.



The slow evolution of Sholokhov's work is remarkable: it took 12 years to publish *Tikhyy Don* (4 vol., 1928-40; translated in two parts as *And Quiet Flows the Don* and *The Don Flows Home to the Sea*) and 28 years to complete another major novel, *Podnyataya tselina* (1932-60; translated in two parts as *Virgin Soil Upturned* and *Harvest on the Don*).



The short story *The Fate of a Man* (1957) was made into a popular Russian film and his unfinished novel *They Fought for Their Country* is about the Great Patriotic War. During World War II Sholokhov wrote for various journals. His collected works was published in eight volumes between 1956 and 1960.



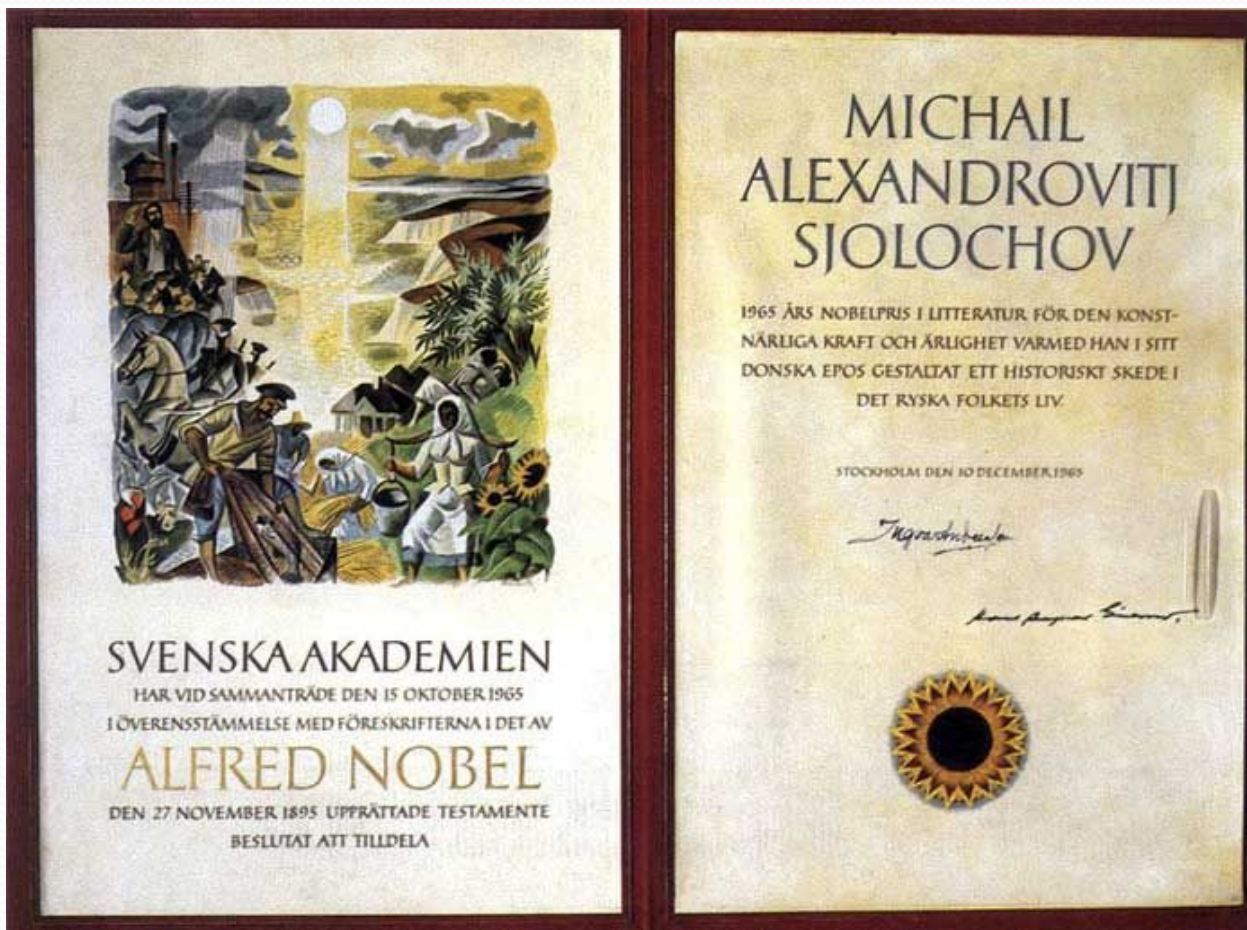




In 1937 he was elected to the Soviet Parliament. In 1959 he accompanied Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on a trip to Europe and the United States. He became a member of the CPSU Central Committee in 1961, Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1939, and was a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was twice awarded Hero of Socialist Labour, and later became vice president of the Association of Soviet Writers.



And Quiet Flows the Don  
became the most-read work of Soviet fiction and was  
heralded as a powerful example of socialist realism, and  
won him the 1965 Nobel Prize in Literature.



It was composed of two parts: Seeds of Tomorrow (1932) and Harvest on the Don (1960), and reflects life during collectivization in the Don area. The short story The Fate of a Man (1957) was made into a popular Russian film and his unfinished novel They Fought for Their Country is about the Great Patriotic War.





Sholokhov's life and work are discussed in Michael Klimenko, *The World of Young Sholokhov: Vision of Violence* (1972); and Herman Ermolaev, *Mikhail Sholokhov and His Art* (1982). Roy A. Medvedev, *Problems in the Literary Biography of Mikhail Sholokhov*, trans. from Russian (1977), examines questions on Sholokhov's authorship of *And Quiet Flows the Don*.



**M.A. Sholokhov died in 1984 in Veshenskaia, where he was buried.**

**Now there is a museum-reserve M.A. Sholokhov.**





## **Translate the following sentences into English.**

1. Шолохов был знаменитым русским советским романистом, чей первый рассказ появился, когда ему было 19 лет.
2. Он переехал в Москву, чтобы стать журналистом, но ему пришлось зарабатывать на жизнь физическим трудом.
3. Он вернулся в Вешенскую, чтобы целиком посвятить себя писательскому труду.
4. Его первый сборник рассказов завоевал Нобелевскую премию в области литературы.
5. Его роман «Тихий Дон», наиболее читаемая книга советской художественной литературы и яркий пример социалистического реализма, писался в течение 14 лет и завоевал Сталинскую премию.
6. Рассказ «Судьба человека» был положен в основу популярного фильма.
7. Во время второй мировой войны Шолохов писал для различных журналов.
8. Его собрание сочинений было издано в 8 томах.
9. Его обвиняли в плагиате «Тихого Дона», но затем были найдены заметки и наброски произведения, была установлена их подлинность, и было доказано, что он автор книги.
10. Он был избран в Советский парламент, стал членом ЦК КПСС, академиком Академии наук СССР, и был Дважды Героем Социалистического труда.

1. Sholokhov was an outstanding Russian Soviet novelist whose first story appeared when he was 19.
2. He moved to Moscow to become a journalist but had to support himself through manual labour.
3. He returned to Veshenskaya to devote himself entirely to writing.
4. His first volume of stories won him the Nobel Prize for Literature.
5. His novel *And Quiet Flows the Don*, the most read work of Soviet fiction and a powerful example of socialist realism, took him 14 years to complete and earned the Stalin Prize.
6. The short story *The Fate of a Man* was made into a popular film.
7. During world War II Sholokhov wrote for different journals.
8. His collected works was published in 8 volumes.
9. He has been accused of plagiarizing *And Quiet flows the Don*, but later the notes and drafts of the work were discovered and authenticated, and it was proved he was the author of the book.
10. He was elected to the Soviet Parliament, became a member of the CPSU Central Committee, Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and was twice awarded Hero of Socialist Labour.