

📖 Topic Page: [Lermontov, Mikhail \(1814 - 1841\)](#)

Definition: **Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich** from *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

Russian Romantic poet and novelist. In 1837 he was sent into active military service in the Caucasus for writing a revolutionary poem on the death of Pushkin, which criticized court values, and for participating in a duel. Among his works are the psychological novel *A Hero of Our Time* (1840) and a volume of poems *October* (1840).

quotations

Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich

weblinks

Hero of Our Time, A

Summary Article: **Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(mĕkhəyĕl' yōr'yivich lyĕr'mĕntŭf), 1814–41, Russian poet and novelist. Given an extensive private education by his wealthy grandmother, Lermontov began writing poetry when he was 14. He first attracted public attention in 1837 with the inflammatory poem “On the Death of the Poet,” written to protest the death of Pushkin in a duel. A cavalry officer in the czar's army, he was temporarily banished to the Caucasus, where he had recuperated from illness as a child, and the area's stirring landscape became a prevailing element in his work. Of his early verse, which, like his life, was greatly influenced by Byron, only the lyric “The Angel” (1830) is equal to his later work.

Lermontov's poetic reputation, second in Russia only to Pushkin's, rests upon the lyric and narrative works of his last five years. *The Demon* (1829–41, tr. 1930), his narrative poem about the love of a fallen angel for a mortal, was used by Anton Rubinstein as the basis of an opera. *Mtsyri* (1833; tr. *The Circassian Boy*, 1875) reflects Lermontov's antireligious feeling and idealization of primitive life. His heroic poems include “The Song of the Merchant Kalashnikov” (1837, tr. 1929). Lermontov's partially autobiographical novel *A Hero of Our Time* (1840, tr. 1958, 1966, 2005) consists of five tales describing aspects of the life of Pechorin, a disenchanting, bored, and doomed young nobleman. The novel is considered a pioneering classic of Russian psychological realism. Lermontov, who had once sought a position in fashionable society, became enormously critical of it. His caustic wit made him numerous enemies, and, like Pushkin, he was killed in a duel.

See biography by J. Lavrin (1959);

studies by J. Mersereau (1962), L. Kelly (1977, repr. 1983), B. M. Eikhenbaum (1981), J. G. Garrard (1982), E. Etkind, ed. (1992), R. Reid (1997), V. Golstein (1998), I. Kutik (2004), and D. Powelstock (2005).

APA

Chicago

Harvard

MLA

Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/lermontov_mikhail_1814_1841



The Columbia Encyclopedia, © Columbia University Press 2018



The Columbia Encyclopedia, © Columbia University Press 2018

APA

Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/lermontov_mikhail_1814_1841

Chicago

"Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich." In *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, by Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University. 8th ed. Columbia University Press, 2018. https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/lermontov_mikhail_1814_1841

Harvard

Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich. (2018). In P. Lagasse & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia*. (8th ed.). [Online]. New York: Columbia University Press. Available from: https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/lermontov_mikhail_1814_1841 [Accessed 15 November 2019].

MLA

"Lermontov, Mikhail Yurevich." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/lermontov_mikhail_1814_1841. Accessed 15 Nov. 2019.