

📖 Topic Page: [Yevtushenko, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich, 1933-](#)

Definition: **Yevtushenko, Yevgeny** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

Russian writer. During the 1960s, he headed a new wave of nonconformist, modern Soviet poetry. Explicitly rejecting socialist realism, Yevtushenko's rhetorical poetry anticipated glasnost in its examination of Soviet history. His most famous work, *Babi Yar* (1961), was a direct indictment of Soviet anti-Semitism. Other works include *Precocious Autobiography* (1963) and *The Bratsk Station* (1965). His *Collected Poems* appeared in 1991.

Summary Article: **Yevtushenko, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(yěv'ˈtōshěng'kō, Rus. yǐvgā'nyē Əlyĭksän'drƏvĭch yĭvtƏshěn'kō), 1933–2017, Russian poet, b. Zima Junction, Siberia. Along with Andrei Voznesensky and several others he helped revive the tradition of Russian lyric poetry. Yevtushenko's first book of poems was published in 1952. He soon became the most popular spokesman of the young generation of poets who refused to adhere to the doctrine of socialist realism; he inspired young Russians to resist Stalinism during the cold war and to cope in the years following Stalin's death. *Yevtushenko: Selected Poems* (1962) contains four of his most famous poems: "Zima Junction," an autobiographical work originally published in 1956, which first brought him to public attention; "Talk," an indictment of Soviet hypocrisy; "Babi Yar," a description of the 1941 German massacre of thousands of Jews in Kiev, Ukraine and a protest against Soviet anti-Semitism, which brought him international acclaim; and "The Heirs of Stalin," a denunciation of the Soviet system. His long poems include *Bratsk Station* (1964–65) and *Kazan University* (1970). The publication in Paris of Yevtushenko's *Precocious Autobiography* (1963) brought him severe official censure, and he was frequently criticized by the Russian government for his nonconformist attitude. Despite this, Yevtushenko, a charismatic public speaker, declaimed his poetry in hundreds of highly popular readings throughout Russia, and made numerous, nearly as popular reading tours abroad during and after the Soviet era. He also wrote novels, notably *Wild Berries* (tr. 1984), essays, and the semiautobiographical, post-Soviet work *Don't Die Before You're Dead* (tr. 1995), an account of the 1991 triumph of Boris Yeltsin (Yevtushenko served in the Soviet parliament from 1988 to 1991), and was an actor, director, and photographer. In later years, Yevtushenko taught at several American universities, notably at the Univ. of Tulsa, a city where he maintained a home. His name is sometimes transliterated Evtushenko.

See his collected poems (tr. 1991).

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Yevtushenko, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich. (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/yevtushenko_yevgeny_1933



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