

МИНОБРНАУКИ РОССИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«РОССИЙСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ИМ. А.Н. КОСЫГИНА (ТЕХНОЛОГИИ. ДИЗАЙН. ИСКУССТВО)»

Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

«Единство в различии»

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Образы и традиции загадок в русской и британской
народной культуре»**



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Москва, 2024

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Individual essay contest

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-
Speaking World. Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Research work (essay)

**«Imagery and traditions in riddles in Russian and British folk
culture»**



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3 course student

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Moscow, 2024

Thesis plan

- 1. Folk wisdom:** A riddle is a special genre of folk art that reflects folk wisdom and promotes the development of logical thinking, imagination and understanding of the world around us.
- 2. Images in Russian and English riddles:** Images of animals, plants, and natural phenomena created in riddles can tell a lot about the life of peoples, about medicine, hunting and the weather, about culture, traditions, and customs of Russia and Britain.
- 3. Riddles in literature:** In the works of S. Yesenin and Shakespeare, you can see the use of riddles that enriched the texts with metaphors and comparisons, forcing readers to think about the deep meaning and purpose of life.
- 4. Riddles in modern times:** Riddles were used in cinematography.
- 5. Special value of riddles:** The language is an invaluable treasure of every nation; riddles play an important role in revealing the ideology of different peoples of the world.

**«Tradition is the part of our past that
helps us to move into the future.»**

A riddle is a special genre of folk art. For a long time, it has been a reflection of folk wisdom and teachers' people to think logically. The images created in riddles develop the imagination and help understand the world better.

The most common images in riddles are images of a human and his body, objects of material culture, the world of animals, the world of plants, the universe and natural phenomena. Riddles, containing the image of man and animals, transfer knowledge and educate. Most often, hands and the components of the head are depicted in riddles. There are many riddles with images of pets and wild animals. The British love to spend time hunting, so dogs and foxes are more common in their riddles.

*I have 4 legs and a tail. I am very smart. I like to play with you. When I
see a cat, I say «Woof, woof». I am (A dog)*

Russian riddles are more related to cattle breeding. In the old days it was vital for every family to have a cow that could feed the family in severe years.

*She lives in our barn, chews hay and grass, and gives us milk to drink. So who's
going to tell me? (Cow)*

Plants in riddles are a special theme. In British riddles, much attention is paid to the use of vegetables and fruits for the purpose of cooking, riddles describe cooking methods and useful properties of a particular product.

*Name a long, thin, orange vegetable that grows under the ground and has a
green top. It is good for your eyesight (A carrot)*

Russian riddles about plants are associated with the theme of folk medicine and medicinal herbs - *A traveler often wounds his leg, so the healer is by the road. (Plantain).*

Natural phenomena play an important role both for English people and in the

lives of Russian people. In the riddles of both languages, natural phenomena such as rain, storm and wind are most often mentioned. However, British riddles often warn people and give advice how to escape bad weather, while Russian riddles often describe the phenomenon itself.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>A waterproof jacket</i> | <i>Wets the field, forest and meadow,</i> |
| <i>You would be glad you wore</i> | <i>The city, the house and everything!</i> |
| <i>If lots of this fell down</i> | <i>He is the leader of clouds,</i> |
| <i>In a major downpour (Rain)</i> | <i>You know it's-... (Rain)</i> |

Riddles about natural phenomena and the universe demonstrate the connection between nature and man. Images of animals, plants, and natural phenomena created in riddles can tell you a lot about the life of peoples, about medicine, hunting and the weather, about culture, traditions, and customs of Russia and Britain.

Russian authors V. Zhukovsky, A. Pushkin, N. Nekrasova, S. Yesenin, S. Marshak often used riddles in their books. Riddles had a great influence on S. Yesenin's creativity. In his first poems, we can see the connection of riddles and poetry through metaphors: "*Желтые поводья месяц уронил*", "*Распоясала зарница в пенных струях поясок*".

A line from the poem - *Гарь в небесном коромысле* – reminds a riddle: *Крашеное коромысло через реку свисло*. In both cases there is the image of a rainbow "*радуга - коромысло*".

In the poem "Mary's Keys" there is a riddle about the rose, in which the dawn has the image of a red maiden:

*Заря-заряница, красная девица,
В церковь ходила, ключи обронила,
Месяц видел, солнце скрало.*

Yesenin realized new possibilities of poetic depiction in riddles. His poems were

filled with metaphors and comparisons.

The interest in riddles in English literature can be traced back to ancient Anglo-Saxon poetry. The impact of riddles on English literature was also evident in the Renaissance. There are many intriguing riddles in Shakespeare's works. One of the most famous is from the play "Hamlet" - "*To be or not to be, that's the question.*" It makes the reader and the characters think about the meaning and purpose of life.

Riddles are also used in cinematography. In the English film "The Hobbit. An unexpected journey", the characters Bilbo and Gollum play riddles. In these riddles John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, an English writer and linguist described the life of the characters and British traditions.

*Thirty white horses on a red hill, first they champ,
Then they stamp, than they stand still.*

The riddle uses the image of white horses. The image is positive and lively. Also it describes the tradition of the British to ride horses. Nowadays, many police officers in central part of London use horses as means of transport.

The cartoon "The Cat Leopold" uses riddles about the main character himself, a kindhearted, hardworking, courageous, attentive cat who believes that friendship will overcome all misfortune and evil.

*He's one of all the cats,
I'm ready to live in peace with mice,
But the mice harm the cat,
What's the cat's name, guys? (Leopold the Cat)*

There is no doubt that, the riddle uses images of peace and kindness, friendship between nations. And it also reveals the long-standing love of Russian people for pets and for the tradition of having them at home.

The language is an invaluable treasure of every nation. For centuries, it contains the best examples of folk experience and human thought, the ideals of morality, enclosed in an amazing form of riddles which reflect all the diversity of folk life: love and hate, truth and lies, hard work and laziness, courage and cowardice, joy and sorrow.

Riddles are folklore genres and in their content the history of the formation and development of folk cultures is reflected. The national culture is unique in many ways, absolute and original. How people imagine different phenomenon or an animal you can get an idea of the way of their life, mentality and peculiar characteristics of different peoples. Riddles play an important role in revealing the ideology of different peoples of the world. This is their special value.

Application

Riddles:

Riddles about humans and body parts: "The barn is full of white sheep" (teeth).

"The whole world is belted; one elder is belted." (sheaves and stacks)

Riddles about the plant theme: "Стоит панья в черном платье; кто разденет, тот заплачет" (лук)

"What is the best way to catch a squirrel?" (Climb a tree and act like a nut).

Riddles about natural phenomena and the universe:

"The field is not measured, the sheep are not counted, the shepherd is horned."

"What often falls and never gets hurt?" (Snow)

"The carpet is spread out; the peas are scattered. No carpet to lift, no peas to collect." (Starry sky)

Riddles about animals: "A little black girl in a dress jumped up, woke up the king"



Picture 1. Sergei Yesenin is a talented Russian poet whose poems reflect deep feelings, nature and the Russian soul.



Picture 2. William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 — 23 April (3 May) 1616) was an English poet and playwright, often considered the greatest English—language writer and one of the best playwrights in the world.



Picture 3. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973)

Riddles from the film "The Hobbit. An unexpected journey.":

1. What has roots as nobody sees,
Is taller than trees,
Up, up it goes,
And yet never grows? (mountains)
2. Voiceless it cries,
Wingless flutters,
Toothless bites,
Mouthless mutters. (wind)
3. Alive without breath,
As cold as death;
Never thirsty, ever drinking,
All in mail never clinking. (fish)



Picture 4. Leopold the cat with mice: Let's live together.

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