

Dr Zhivago

Book key

- 1 1890: Boris Pasternak was born in Moscow.
1904: strikes and street-fighting.
1905: citizens over twenty-five given the vote, but the new parliament had little power.
1914: Russia joined the First World War.
1917: the Russian Revolution.
1922: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was set up.
1957: the book, *Dr Zhivago*, appeared in Italy.
1958: Boris Pasternak won the Nobel Prize for Literature.
1960: Boris Pasternak died.
1965: the film, *Doctor Zhivago*, appeared.
- 2 a commit suicide b country estate c elegant dress
d determined effort e slap face f grey wolf
g railway carriage h Russian revolution
i sensational story j wept tears
- 3 Open answer
- 4 a Yury Andreyevich Zhivago
b Nikolay Nikolayevich Vedenyapin
c Misha Gordon
d Victor Ippolitovich Komarovsky
e Tonya Gromeko
f Larissa Fyodorovna Guishar
g Pavel Pavlovich Antipov
h Tishkevich
- 5 1 c 2 g 3 a 4 e 5 d 6 b 7 f
- 6–8 Open answers
- 9 a Amalia Guishar b Komarovsky c Lara
d Yury e Yevgraf f Nadya's parents g Rodya
- 10 a Amalia Guishar has tried to poison herself.
b Lara and Komarovsky.
c Lara tries to shoot Komarovsky.
d After she shoots him, he tries to avoid her.
e Anna Ivanova dies.
- 11–13 Open answers
- 14 a leave > find b German > Jewish
c escaped > died d Moscow > Petersburg
e happy > embarrassed f soldiers > peasants
g philosophy > politics h happy > depressed
i soldiers > Bolsheviks j Kolya > Yevgraf
- 15 a Join the army / go to the army school in Omsk
b He is knocked down by an explosion.
c 'young and serious, not exactly handsome but intelligent, with a very attractive character.'
d New ideas in philosophy, art and politics.
e The family can only use three rooms now.
f He has never seen him before.
g He helps and protects them.
h They are cold and hungry.
- 16 The October Revolution.
The Bolsheviks are fighting against the soldiers from the Provisional Government.
- 17–18 Open answers
- 19 a exchanges b sends c hear d meets e gives
f sees g come
- 20 a tickets, permission papers, information
b He asked the guard to let Vassya take his place on the train while he kissed his wife. Then he left.
c As insurance, to prevent any more trouble in the district.
d They clear snow and look for wood.
e The guards think that he's a spy.
f He feels shy and doesn't want to interrupt her work.
g He feels like a criminal and that he is putting his family's happiness and safety at risk.
h He is taken away by Liberius's men.
- 21 1 b 2 e 3 a 4 f 5 c 6 d
- 22 Open answer
- 23 a The Reds
b Open answer
- 24 a F b T c F d T e F f T g T h F
i F j T
- 25 Open answer
- 26 a Lara to Yury b Yury to Komarovsky
c Pasha to Yury
- 27 Open answer
- 28 a 7 b 5 c 4 d 6 e 2 f 1 g 3
- 29–40 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 Communism is a political system of belief that says that no one should own private property. It began with the theories of Karl Marx (1818–83) who believed that everyone should be 'equal', with no great differences in position or money. The Russian Revolution established Communism as the political system of Russian.
- a) This was the year of the first Russian Revolution, which was a battle between the government of Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia and groups of workers, peasants and soldiers who wanted a fairer system of government.
- b) Tsar Nicholas II's government ended and a new government was put in place.
- c) The Tsar and his family were murdered.

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- d) The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, took over the government.
- 2 a) Because Russia's ruling family was murdered and an entirely new political system replaced it.
b) Uncertainty about the future, poverty, loss of jobs, the possibility of imprisonment and even death.
- 3–4 Open answers
- 5 Suggested answer:
He might have been in great financial trouble. Perhaps he could not repay his gambling debts.
- 6–11 Open answers
- 12 Suggested answer:
Yury is intrigued by beautiful Lara and evil Komarovsky.
- 13 Open answer
- 14 Suggested answer:
First World War broke out in 1914 after Duke Francis Ferdinand was killed in Sarajevo. It lasted four years, until 1918. Russia fought the Axis powers (Italy and Germany) alongside Britain and France, but the Communist government signed a treaty with the Germans before the end of the War.
- 15–37 Open answer
- 38 Lara had a child by Yury called Tanya. But because Komarovsky did not want children around, Lara asked a young couple to look after Tanya for a while. The child never saw her mother again – she ran away from home and became homeless. Eventually, in 1929, Lara came to Moscow looking for her daughter. She did not find her but was able to visit Yury's coffin and say goodbye to him. After that, Lara disappeared or died, probably in prison. In 1943, Tanya was discovered by Yury's half brother Yevgraf, in an army camp doing the laundry. We know that Yevgraf will look after her now.
- 39–44 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- I a Yury is unlucky because he loses his mother when he is ten years old and his father is a drunkard who loses all his wealth and commits suicide, leaving Yury an orphan. Yury is lucky because his uncle, who looks after him at first, is a very good and loving man. Yury goes to live with the Gromeko family where he is very happy. They live the kind of life that is 'proper' for a Zhivago – in other words they are wealthy and mix with high society.
b The lawyer Komarovsky encourages Zhivago,

- Yury's father, to drink because 'it is in some way to his advantage'. In other words, when Zhivago is drunk, he is more likely to do what Komarovsky says (Zhivago probably pays Komarovsky more than he should). On the train to Duplyanka, Komarovsky encourages Zhivago to drink and this leads to Zhivago's suicide. So, we can say that Komarovsky is in some way responsible for Yury's father's death. Komarovsky seduces (= persuades someone to have sex) Lara when she is only sixteen. This is a wicked thing for an older man to do to a young girl. In those days this kind of thing had a terrible effect on a young woman's life and possibility of marriage.
- c In 1905 many groups of workers in Moscow went on strike and marched in the street. On October 17th, the Tsar agreed to give land to the Russian peasants. But this did not happen and conditions for farmers and workers grew worse. Pasha Antipov wanted change in his country and was willing to fight on the streets for it. Yuri's Uncle Kolya wrote several important revolutionary books.
- 2 Open answer
- 3 a ... she suspects that Lara and Komarovsky are sleeping together.
b ... Amalia Guishar has tried to poison herself. A message is sent to her violinist friend, Tishkevich, who is playing in a concert at Mr Gromeko's house. Mr Gromeko goes with Tishkevich to Amalia Guishar's house and Yury and Misha with him.
c ... they see Lara and Komarovsky together and it is obvious that something forbidden is happening between them, something wrong.
d ... she wants Yury to think carefully about his future. She knows that he will get nothing from his father's estate.
e ... she wants to live away from her mother and in this way get away from Komarovsky. She can only do this by earning enough money to live independently.
f ... he has gambling debts he needs to repay.
g ... she feels that once again he has destroyed her life. He told her brother that if she would speak to him he would help him. What he really means is that if she returns to him he will help her brother. Lara has to borrow money from Mr. Kologrivov to help her brother. But she has no money to pay them back. She decides to demand money

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from Komarovsky and shoot him if he refuses. But instead she just shoots him, probably because she is so angry.

- h ... Tonya's mother, Anna Ivanova, asks them to stay together if she dies. For the first time Yuri and Tonya look at each other as a man and woman and realise they are in love with each other.
- i ... they hear that Tonya's mother is dying or dead. When they get back home she is dead.
- j ... he does not want gossip to link him with Lara or the shooting. He wants to keep her quiet and out of the way.

4-5 Open answers

- 6 a Tonya has a son in the autumn of 1915.
- b We are not told what Lara teaches at the high school.
- c Not true. Pasha is very critical of them. He thinks their political ideas are very simple. He studies and educates himself to a high degree and misses the big city.
- d Pasha and Lara love each other deeply but are unable to be completely natural with each other. Pasha knows about Komarovsky, he questions Lara's love for him and even his love for her.
- e Pasha joins the army because he wants to be away from Lara.
- f Laura leaves her daughter Katya with an old student, Lipa, and becomes a nurse in order to look for Pasha.
- g Pasha is believed to be killed while leading an attack against the Austrians.
- h Yuri is knocked unconscious just before he reaches the hospital building.

7 Open answer

- 8 a Yuri says this to Lara when he talks to her for the first time in the army hospital where he is a patient.
- b Yuri writes these words to Tonya, who has written to him begging him to leave her for Lara.
- c Yuri says these words to Lara. He did not intend to say them as they show how much he cares about her. He intended to tell her he was worried about her.
- d Tonya says this to Yuri on his return to Moscow. People in Moscow are now very poor and the Zhivagos only have the use of three rooms in their house.
- e Tonya says this to her son Sasha who has slapped

his father's face. The child has never seen his father before.

- f Yuri says this to Tonya late one night as they discuss the fact that a new government, 'the Dictatorship of the Proletariat' has been formed.
 - g Tonya says this to Yuri as he recovers from typhus, an illness which nearly killed him. Tonya is talking about Yuri's half brother, Yevgraf, who visited the family and brought them food.
 - h Tonya says this to Yuri. They have decided, at Yevgraf's suggestion, to leave Moscow and go to Tonya's grandfather's estate near Yuryatin.
- 9 a cooked duck: An old peasant gives Tonya the duck in exchange for a beautifully decorated towel.
- Vassya Brykin: This is a sixteen-year-old boy belonging to one of the labour gangs travelling on the train. He is attractive and innocent. He is in the labour gang because his uncle cruelly allowed him to take his place in the labour gang.
- A special train: Yuri is taken to this train because he is asking questions and some guards think he is a spy. The train is being used as the offices of the Red Army Commissar Strelnikov.
- Strelnikov: He is the leader of the Red Army in that region and has done terrible things, destroying and burning villages. He is brilliant and original. He talks to Yuri and allows him to go free. In fact, he is Pasha, Lara's husband.
- Mikulitsin: He worked for the Krueger's, who were Tonya's grandparents. Now he lives in what used to be the estate manager's house. He gives the Zhivago's two rooms at the back of the big house and helps them in many ways.
- 10 Open answers
 - 11 Yuri lives happily with the family, feeling very close to them and contented. But then he realises that he has the same heart disease as his mother had. Then he meets Lara again in the library at Yuryatin and is unfaithful to Tonya with her. This causes him both happiness and pain, as he hates to be unfaithful to Tonya. Finally, he is kidnapped by three men on horseback who take him off to join their Bolshevik army.
 - 12 He is the son of Avercius Mikulitsin, who has allowed the Zhivagos to live on the Krueger estate. Although Liberius is very young, he is an important Bolshevik leader.
 - 13 a Peasants, soldiers from the German army,

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churchmen, students, disappointed politicians and true revolutionaries.

- b** Liberius get results. The Forest Brotherhood helped to drive the Whites towards the East. During Yury's time in the Brotherhood, the Brotherhood grows to ten times its original size.
- c** Yury can't accept the extreme acts of cruelty. He can't agree with the ideas that people like Liberius wish to force on all Russians. He hates Liberius for kidnapping him.
- d** Soldiers in the White Army cut off a man's arm and leg and tie them to his back as a warning to the Brotherhood.
- 14 a** ... walking out of the camp using the Brotherhood's secret words. He has hidden food, heavy clothes and boots near the edge of the camp. He walks from Siberia to Yuryatin.
- b** ... becomes very ill.
- c** ... looks after him.
- d** ... he is too weak.
- e** ... at a hospital.
- f** ... is too independent in his ideas.
- g** ... the leaders know that Strelnikov is her husband. He has never been a member of the Bolshevik Party and is no longer considered a hero.
- h** ... her family and children, including Uncle Kolya and her father, have had to leave Russia. She tells him that she loves him and knows he doesn't love her.

15 Open answers

16 a 5 **b** 1 **c** 2 **d** 4 **e** 3

17 Open answers

- 18 a** Yury helps the young peasant boy, Vassya, to get a place at the Stroganov Institute.
- b** Vassya puts together the books that Yury writes. Markel, who had been chief servant at the Gromeko's home, helps Yury and allows him to use the hot water in his rooms. Markel's elder daughter sews Yury's clothes, cleans his room and takes food to him.
- c** Yury writes short books 'on a variety of subjects and these become very popular. However, in some ways he seems to be a broken man. He wants to close himself off from the world and does not work as a doctor any more. After Vassya leaves, Yury stops seeing his friends and becomes quite strange and helpless.'

d Open answer

19–20 Open answer

Progress test key

1 a 7 **b** 3 **c** 9 **d** 6 **e** 8 **f** 2 **g** 4 **h** 1 **i** 5
j 10

2 a Yury **b** Tonya **c** Pasha **d** Lara **e** Misha

3 a ✓ **b** ✓ **c** ✗ **d** ✗ **e** ✓

4 a 3 **b** 1 **c** 2 **d** 3 **e** 1

5 a ... had left the city/had gone away from Moscow.

b very popular.

c was dry and warm, and they had a lot of hot water.

d Misha for help.

e found her and looked after her.