

Dr Zhivago

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While reading

Chapters 1–3

1 Answer these questions.

- a In what way is Yury Zhivago unlucky? In what way is he lucky?
.....

- b Explain Komarovsky's importance in the lives of both Yury Zhivago and Lara Guishar. What kind of man is he? Do you blame Lara for what happens to her with Komarovsky? Give reasons for your opinion.
.....
.....

- c What do we learn about the revolution in these chapters? Which characters are involved in it?
.....

2 Write an entry in Lara's diary after one of the parties reflecting how she feels about her double life with Komarovsky.

Chapters 4–5

3 Complete these sentences.

- a Amalia Guishar tries to kill herself because
.....
- b Yury and Misha Gordon go to Lara's house because
.....
- c Yury and Misha are shocked by what they see in Lara's house because
.....
- d Anna Gromeko speaks to Yury alone because
.....
- e Lara becomes a teacher with a friend's family because
.....
- f Lara's brother, Rodya, goes to Komarovsky because
.....
- g Lara tries to shoot Komarovsky because
.....
- h Yury and Tonya's relationship changes because
.....
- i Yury and Tonya have to leave the party because
.....
- j Komarovsky decides to help Lara and never go near her because
.....

4 Describe Lara from ...

- a Yury's point of view
b your point of view.
Can you understand and forgive her for trying to kill Komarovsky? Say why/why not.

- 5 Amalia Guishar tried to poison herself. Write the letter she might have left her friend Tishkevich explaining the reasons that led her to such a tragic decision.

Chapters 6–8

6 Explain how these sentences are wrong.

- a Tonya has a baby daughter in the winter of 1915.
.....
- b Lara teaches Latin and American History at the girl's high school in Yuryatin.
.....
- c Pasha admires the people of Yuryatin.
.....
- d Pasha and Lara's relationship is perfect.
.....
- e Pasha joins the army because he wants to fight for Russia.
.....
- f Lara leaves her daughter, Lipa, with a friend and becomes a nurse because she is broken-hearted.
.....
- g Pasha is killed while leading an attack against the Germans.
.....
- h Yury is killed in the hospital building by a bomb.
.....

7 Write a letter from Pasha to Lara explaining why he has left her.

8 Who says or writes these words? To whom? Explain the situation.

- a 'Thank you for your help. I am a doctor. I can look after myself.'
.....
- b 'How could you imagine such a thing? Don't you feel my love for you?'
.....
- c 'But, of course, then I'd knock him down ...'
.....
- d 'There really was something unhealthy in the way rich people used to live.'
.....
- e 'Sasha, what will Daddy think?'
.....

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- f 'This new history must begin now, today, without any concern about what is already here.'
- g 'He came every day while you were ill. He took care of all of us.'
- h 'We could grow vegetables and hunt for food.'

Chapters 9–10

- 9 Say what you know about these people or things and their part in the Zhivago family story.
- a cooked duck
Vassya Brykin
a special train
Strelnikov
Mikulitsin
- 10 Imagine that you are one of the people on the train – you can choose to be anyone you want. Write one or two paragraphs about your experiences, your hopes and fears.
- 11 In Chapter 10, Yury experiences both great problems and great happiness. Explain this statement.
- 12 Who is Liberius Forester? What kind of life do you think Yury will lead from now on? Why?

Chapter 11

- 13 Read to the middle of page 54 (the end of Tonya's letter). Give an example of:
- a The kind of people who join the Forest Brotherhood.
- b Liberius's success as a leader.
- c Yury's opposition to Liberius.
- d the terrible, cruel things that the armies do to each other.
- 14 Complete these sentences.
- a Yury escapes from the Brotherhood by
- b After Yury has eaten potatoes at Lara's house he

- c While Yury is ill, Lara
- d At first Yury can't go to Moscow because
- e Yury finds a job
- f Officials think that Yury
- g Lara is in danger because
- h In her letter, Tonya tells Yury that

- 15 What is your opinion of Yury after reading these pages? Has it changed? Say why (not).
- 16 Put these events in the right order numbered 1–5.
- a ☐ Pasha kills himself.
- b ☐ Yury and Lara live together in Varykino.
- c ☐ Komarovsky tells Yury that Strelnikov has been shot.
- d ☐ Pasha and Yury talk about Lara.
- e ☐ Lara and Komarovsky leave for Vladivostok.

- 17 Pasha wanted to be judged for all the things he felt guilty about from the last ten years. Write a list of the things about his family and his political career that Pasha might regret.

Chapters 12–14

- 18 Answer these questions.
- a How does Yury help people once he returns to Moscow?
- b How do people help him?
- c How has Yury changed?
- d How do you think the story will end?

After reading

- 19 *Dr Zhivago* is considered a very important Russian novel. Why do you think this is so? Write your opinion in one paragraph.
- 20 Write a review.
Imagine your school is holding a writing competition for free tickets to the film of your choice. Your entry in the competition is a review of the book you have read for your English course. You decide to write about *Dr Zhivago*. Remember to include a brief description of the plot, and your opinion on the story.

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1 What happened first in the story? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a ☐ Yury's father jumped off a train to Duplyanka and killed himself.
- b ☐ Yury's mother died.
- c ☐ Yury was sent to Moscow to live with the Gromekos, a rich family distantly related to him.
- d ☐ Yury and Uncle Kolya travelled to the farm in Duplyanka.
- e ☐ Yury lived in a beautiful estate with a park listening to his uncle discuss agricultural changes.
- f ☐ Yury's father left home and went to Siberia. This was the last time the boy saw him.
- g ☐ Yury was taken up by Uncle Kolya, his mother's brother.
- h ☐ Yury's mother enjoyed nature and took him on long walks in the countryside.
- i ☐ Yury adopted Christian philosophy.
- j ☐ Tonya became Yury's close friend.

2 Read this information about the people in the story. Who are they? Write the names in each sentence.

Pasha Yury Lara Tonya Misha

- a studied medicine because he wanted to do something useful but he loved writing poems too.
- b was born in a rich family who loved literature and music.
- c was a well-read teacher who later became a very important leader of the revolutionary forces.
- d took a job as a private teacher and saved the money for her education.
- e studied philosophy and enjoyed having long talks with Yury about the political situation.

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Yury spoke to Lara for the first time when he was recovering from his wounds in hospital. ☐
- b Pasha joined the army at Omsk because he wanted to be away from Lara. ☐
- c Once recovered, Yury arrived in peaceful Moscow. ☐
- d Yury and Uncle Kolya opposed the Revolution and the Bolsheviks from the start. ☐
- e After the Revolution, life for the Gromekos was difficult and Yury was ill. ☐

4 Choose the correct answer.

- a Yury started going to the library in Yuryatin
 - 1) because his heart disease did not allow him to work.
 - 2) because he knew Lara would be there.
 - 3) to find material for the important book he wanted to write.
- b Before he could tell Lara that they should not see each other again, Yury
 - 1) was captured by the Forest Brotherhood to become their doctor.
 - 2) realised she was going to have his child.
 - 3) learnt that Uncle Kolya had died.
- c Lara believed the evil of the revolution appeared when people
 - 1) created the labour gangs and the Forest Brotherhood.
 - 2) stopped listening to the voices of individuals.
 - 3) followed the new rules.
- d Lara left for the east with Komarovsky because
 - 1) he threatened her with telling Yury the truth about her past.
 - 2) her child needed medical care.
 - 3) she believed Yury was soon going to join her.
- e Yury tells Strelnikov that his wife
 - 1) would have done anything to go back to their happy old days.
 - 2) had left with Komarovsky.
 - 3) had taken up her old job as a teacher.

5 Complete these sentences.

- a When he got back to Moscow, Yury learnt that his family
- b Yury's books about his philosophy of life, his views on medicine, his ideas on history and religion, and his poems became
- c Yury lived with Markel, an old servant of the Gromekos'. They felt lucky because their house
- d When Yury did not come home for three days, his wife Marina asked
- e Lara gave up the child she had by Yury soon after she was born but Yevgraf