

*Tasks 1 and 2 are meant for students in their sixth-ninth years at school. For this reason, they will not be taken into account for those in their 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> years. The rest of the tasks are addressed to all contestants. It is advisable to do thoroughly at least one task or answer the questions that do not seem very difficult. A contestant is not expected to do every task.*

**Task 1.**

*Read an extract from the book “Pressnic and Nardog”, by Anton Tilipman, translated into English. You must have noticed that the author offers readers a certain game: some words look unusual and you should guess what they mean. Find such words and “translate” them. Describe the rules of this cipher.*

There was a pressnic. Of course, she didn't live in a peasant's tuh or a lamls nedoow suoeh, and certainly, not in an eno-dromoeb tlaf – she had her own big and fiubuatel tacles. Weltev slelev, wytnet dargn lahls and fahl a zoden jigh sertow – that was how the pressnic was nutorfate!

And what amount of different sethoel and doof!

**Task 2.**

*The authors of these two poems are John Foster (b.1941) and Jack Prelutsky (b.1940). Do the poems have anything in common? How different are they? Pay attention to the style and the content and mention as many differences as you can.*

**The Morning Rush**

Rush Into the bathroom,  
Turn on the tap.  
Wash away the sleepiness  
— Splish! Splosh! Splash!  
Into the bedroom,  
Pull on your vest.  
Quickly! Quickly!  
Get yourself dressed.  
Down to the kitchen.  
No time to lose.  
Gobble up your breakfast.  
Put on your shoes.  
Back to the bathroom.

Squeeze out the paste.  
Brush, brush, brush your teeth.  
No time to waste.  
Look in the mirror.  
Comb your hair.  
Hurry, scurry, hurry, scurry  
Down the stairs.  
Pick your school bag  
Up off the floor.  
Grab your coat  
And out through the door.

*John Foster (b.1941)*

I built a fabulous machine  
to keep my room completely clean.  
It swept it up in nothing flat —  
has anybody seen the cat?

*Jack Prelutsky (b.1940)*

**Task 3.**

*Read an extract from “A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy by Mr. Yorick”. The novel was extremely popular and influential and helped establish travel writing as the dominant genre of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Do you remember the author's name? What literary school does this work belong to? What makes you think so? Try to name as many as possible other works of Russian and world literature that describe a character's journey?*

— Where then, my dear countrymen, are you going? - We are only looking at this chaise, said they. - Your most obedient servant, said I, skipping out of it, and pulling off my hat. - We were wondering, said one of them, who, I found was an Inquisitive Traveller, - what could occasion its motion. - 'Twas the agitation, said I, coolly, of writing a preface. - I never heard, said the other, who was a Simple Traveller, of a preface wrote in a d?sobligeant. - It would have been better, said I, in a vis-a-vis.

— As an Englishman does not travel to see Englishmen, I retired to my room.

**Task 4.**

*The authors of these poems, translated into Russian, are Marina Tsvetaeva (1892-1941) and Arseniy Tarkovskiy (1907-1989). Find the common features and differences giving as many arguments as possible. Which poem belongs to which poet?*

On long un-Russian legs he stands,  
grinning irrelevantly and the fur on his flanks  
is a bathrobe from a previous century.  
And surely those too-cunning nomads  
who lay down and prayed to the east  
rubbed sand in the undermost layers of wool  
and fed rusty thorns to the beast.  
This hunchback with royal demeanour,  
for the poor and the patient a throne,

was shaped by a miserly wilderness-god  
from the dregs when creation was done.  
From his nose hung a ring like a padlock,  
in his soul was both greatness and pain  
and surely the little bells  
dangled from a neck  
long as that of a crane.  
Over black sand, over red sand  
in the blistering desert heat  
growing old without earning a kopek  
he tramped on his tireless feet.  
To deserts and burdens and beatings  
long accustomed, the camel's soul  
was contented and felt that life was good.  
He felt he'd fulfilled his role.  
(Translated by Peter Oram)

And now, loading the camel's hump  
With worldly troubles, heavy as a rock,  
We leave – the camel's humble and plump –  
To finish the 'unfinishable' work:

In herds of camels – to enjoy a pool,  
In Hell of sands – to see Blue Nile in thoughts,  
As camel's lord and Lord installed a rule –  
To bear his cross in Camel's way and God's.

And when the desert shifts to red from black  
The humps will ache, and salesmen try to list  
The kinds of ailments able to attack  
This very kind and manageable beast.

But never looking for a helping hand,  
Ahead, ahead with burning lips to lump  
To Holy day in which the Holy Land –  
A giant hump – will rise above the humps.  
(Translated by Yevgeny Bonver)

**Task 5.**

*Read the last lines of the novel "Gift" by Vladimir Nabokov.*

Good-by, my book! Like mortal eyes, imagined ones must close some day.  
Onegin from his knees will rise—but his creator strolls away. And yet the  
ear cannot right now part with the music and allow the tale to fade; the  
chords of fate itself continue to vibrate; and no obstruction for the sage  
exists where I have put The End: the shadows of my world extend beyond  
the skyline of the page, blue as tomorrow's morning haze—nor does this  
terminate the phrase.

*What famous work from Russian literature does this passage refer to? What  
makes you think so?*

*If you have guessed that this extract as be written as a poem, define the  
number of lines (verses) and the rhyme pattern.*

*Write your own poem using this stanza that might conclude some well-  
known work from Russian or world literature.*

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Don't forget to **sign** your work (please, write the card number, your last  
name, school and grade) before **submitting** the work. You do not have to  
submit the sheet with the tasks. The tasks, their solutions and the results  
of the competition will be published at <http://turlom.olimpiada.ru> after  
November 20.