

- 0. LIFE in ST. PETERSBURG Story Preface
- 1. WHO WAS DOSTOEVSKY?
- 2. ST. PETERSBURG BEGINNINGS
- 3. LIFE in ST. PETERSBURG

4. ARRESTED

- 5. DEATH SENTENCE
- 6. DOSTOEVSKY in LOVE
- 7. DOSTOEVSKY the GAMBLER
- 8. TRAGEDIES in DOSTOEVSKY'S LIFE
- 9. SAVED BY STENOGRAPHY
- 10. FALLING IN LOVE
- 11. FROM SECRETARY to WIFE
- 12. TIMELY WRITING; UNTIMELY DEATH





St. Petersburg became a mainstay of Dostoevsky's stories when he was a writer. During the time of his youth, while Dostoevsky was living in Moscow, St. Petersburg was impacted by the worst flood in the city's history. This image depicts a painting of that event by Fyodor Yakovlevich Alekseyev (1753-1824). It is called "The Flood of 1824 in the Square at the Bolshoi Kamenny Theatre." Online via Wikimedia Commons.

Despite its <u>tendency</u> to <u>flood</u>, St. Petersburg thrived. What did this place - the setting for so many scenes in Dostoevsky's novels - look like as the writer penned his stories?

Nevsky Prospect (Nevski Prospekt) was then - as it is now - the city's main avenue. Describing it, in 1835, the famous author <u>Nikolai Gogol</u> said:

There is nothing finer than Nevsky Prospect, not in St. Petersburg at any rate; for in St. Petersburg it is everything. And indeed, is there anything more gay, more brilliant, more resplendent than this beautiful street of our capital?

With the help of vintage postcards - thanks to Nevsky-Prospekt.com and the Library of Congress - let's step back in time to view the city as Dostoevsky knew it:

- The first residence ever built in St. Petersburg Peter the Great's cabin as it appeared in the 1890s;
- A horse-drawn tram travels along the English Quay;
- <u>18 Nevsky Prospekt</u>, in the mid-1880s, was a bustling part of town;
- <u>Nevsky Prospekt</u>, near the Znamenskaya Church, in the 1890s;
- The St. Petersburg Stock Exchange as it appeared in the 1890s is now a museum;
- <u>St. Nicholas Bridge</u>, in the 1890s;
- Monument to Catherine II, sculpted in 1873;

• Raskolnikov - who climbed a set of steep stairs to murder the old pawn broker in *Crime and Punishment* - is one of Dostoevsky's most important <u>creations</u>. This is <u>the real address</u> of the fictional character, while a flat in this building is the <u>scene of the crime</u>.

The royal family had a different kind of home - a summer palace called Peterhof - which remains one of the

city's main attractions. The stunning <u>grounds</u> have dozens of beautiful <u>gold</u> <u>fountains</u> and a canal <u>to the sea</u>. For anyone traveling to St. Petersburg, especially in the summer months, it is a "must-see."

Life in St. Petersburg, especially for the privileged class, could be luxurious. But it was also in <u>St. Petersburg</u>, that <u>city</u> of <u>palaces</u> and <u>cathedrals</u>, where Dostoevsky found himself in <u>prison</u>. Not long thereafter, he experienced an event so traumatic that it haunted him forever.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LIFE-in-ST.-PETERSBURG-Dostoevsky

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LIFE-in-ST.-PETERSBURG-Dostoevsky

Flooding in St. Petersburg

Media Stream



Image depicted above from The Bronze Horseman, by Alexander Pushkin. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flooding-in-St.-Petersburg



<u>High Water in St. Petersburg</u> Image online, courtesy <u>citywalls.ru</u> a Russian language website. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/High-Water-in-St.-Petersburg

Nikolai Gogol Online, courtesy the Princeton University website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nikolai-Gogol</u>



<u>Peter the Great's Cabin</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>nevsky-prospekt.com</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peter-the-Great-s-Cabin</u>













<u>Horse-Drawn Tram</u> Image online, courtesy the nevskyprospekt.com website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Horse-Drawn-Tram</u>

<u>Nevsky Prospekt in the 19th Century</u> Image online, courtesy Capitu, a Portuguese language website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nevsky-Prospekt-in-the-19th-Century</u>

<u>Nevsky Prospekt</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nevsky-Prospekt</u>

<u>St. Petersburg Stock Exchange</u> Image online, courtesy the Russian language Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/St.-Petersburg-Stock-Exchange

<u>Blagoveshchensky Bridge</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Blagoveshchensky-Bridge

Monument to Catherine II

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 2.0 DE. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Monument-to-Catherine-II











<u>Cathedral in St. Petersburg</u> Image online, courtesy the Slouching Somewhere blog site. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cathedral-in-St.-Petersburg

City View of St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/City-View-of-St.-Petersburg

Crime and Punishment - Scene of the Crime

In Dostoevsky's famous novel, Crime and Punishment, a young man by the name of Raskolnikov commits murder in a St. Petersburg flat. This vintage-postcard image depicts a view of the real building in which the fictional murder takes place. Vintage postcard image online via Nevsky-Prospekt.com. Public Domain. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Crime-and-Punishment-Scene-of-the-Crime

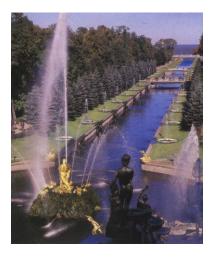
Fountains of Peterhof

Image online, courtesy the tristarmedia.com website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fountains-of-Peterhof</u>

<u>Gold Fountain</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>Tickets of Russia</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gold-Fountain</u>













<u>Grounds of Peterhof</u> Image online, courtesy the St. Petersburg State University website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grounds-of-Peterhof</u>

Palaces of St. Petersburg Image online, courtesy the <u>russianadventure.com</u> travel website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Palaces-of-St.-Petersburg

<u>Peterhof - Canal to the Sea</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>Tickets of Russia</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Canal-to-the-Sea1</u>

<u>Peterhof - Summer Palace</u> Image online, courtesy Hermitage Foundation. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Summer-Palace</u>

<u>St. Petersburg on the Neva River</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>avisenta.ru</u> travel website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/St.-Petersburg-on-the-Neva-River</u>

<u>Summer Palace - Peterhof</u> Image online, courtesy the St. Petersburg With Anna website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Summer-Palace-Peterhof</u>