



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 tendency to flood, 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 Prospekt (Nevski Prospekt) was then - as it is now - the city's main avenue. Describing it, in 1835, the famous author Nikolai Gogol said:

*There is nothing finer than Nevsky Prospekt, 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;
  - 18 Nevsky Prospekt, in the mid-1880s, was a bustling part of town;
  - Nevsky Prospekt, near the Znamenskaya Church, in the 1890s;
  - The St. Petersburg Stock Exchange - as it appeared in the 1890s - is now a museum;
  - St. Nicholas Bridge, 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 creations. This is the real address of the fictional character, while a flat in this building is the scene of the crime.
- 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 grounds have dozens of beautiful gold fountains and a canal to the sea. 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 St. Petersburg, that city of palaces and cathedrals, where Dostoevsky found himself in prison. 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>

## Media Stream



### Flooding in St. Petersburg

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>

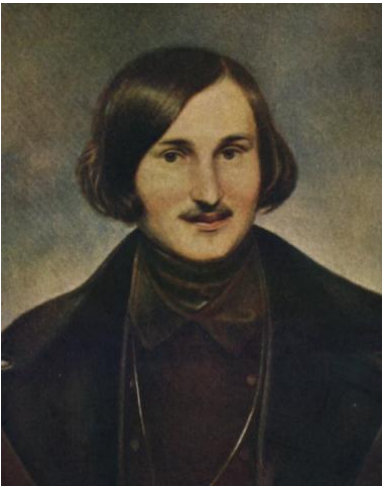


### High Water in St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy [citywalls.ru](http://citywalls.ru) 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: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nikolai-Gogol>



### Peter the Great's Cabin

Image online, courtesy the [nevsky-prospekt.com](http://nevsky-prospekt.com) website.

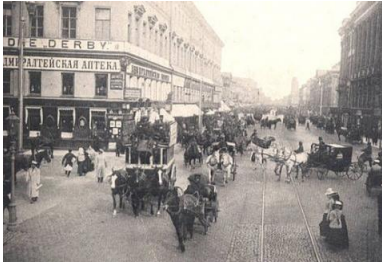
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peter-the-Great-s-Cabin>



### Horse-Drawn Tram

Image online, courtesy the nevsyprospekt.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Horse-Drawn-Tram>



### Nevsky Prospekt in the 19th Century

Image online, courtesy Capitu, a Portuguese language website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nevsky-Prospekt-in-the-19th-Century>



### Nevsky Prospekt

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nevsky-Prospekt>



### St. Petersburg Stock Exchange

Image online, courtesy the Russian language Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/St.-Petersburg-Stock-Exchange>



### Blagoveshchensky Bridge

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>

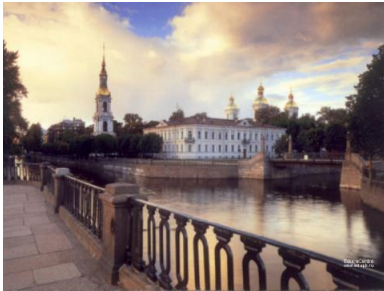


### Cathedral in St. Petersburg

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: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fountains-of-Peterhof>



### Gold Fountain

Image online, courtesy the Tickets of Russia website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gold-Fountain>



### Grounds of Peterhof

Image online, courtesy the St. Petersburg State University website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grounds-of-Peterhof>



### Palaces of St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy the [russianadventure.com](http://www.russianadventure.com) travel website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Palaces-of-St.-Petersburg>



### Peterhof - Canal to the Sea

Image online, courtesy the [Tickets of Russia](http://www.ticketsofrussia.com) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Canal-to-the-Sea1>



### Peterhof - Summer Palace

Image online, courtesy Hermitage Foundation.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Summer-Palace>



### St. Petersburg on the Neva River

Image online, courtesy the [avisenta.ru](http://www.avisenta.ru) travel website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/St.-Petersburg-on-the-Neva-River>



### Summer Palace - Peterhof

Image online, courtesy the St. Petersburg With Anna website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Summer-Palace-Peterhof>