

GENERAL GLOSSARY

bylina: see folk epic.

chastushka: a four-line rhymed verse, often of topical content. See also the article by Svetlana Adonyeva in the present issue.

children's horror story [*strashilka*]: a short narrative about an eerie-fantastic event, usually with an urban setting. A standard formula is that the protagonist, often a girl, violates a maternal prohibition, and is then horribly punished (her mother tells her not to buy wallpaper with red roses on, and when she does this, hands reach out of the wallpaper at night and strangle her, etc.).

folk epic [*bylina*]: an orally-transmitted text in unrhymed verse (lines commonly have a dactylic ending) dealing with a heroic event from the mythic past, for example the battle of Dobrynya and the Dragon, or Ilya Muromets and Solovei the Robber.

narod: 'the people', 'the nation'; *narodnaya kultura* signifies 'the culture of the people', 'national culture'. It can be used to translate both 'folk culture' and 'popular culture', but the symbolic freight is rather different, because of the greater role played in Russian political and intellectual history than in British or American by *narodnost* (a form of nationalism dependent on a governing construct of the Russian people, *narod*, as the supreme touchstone of authenticity).

skazka: folk tale, a narrative of fantastic or humorous content (well-known examples include 'The Firebird', 'Ivan Tsarevich and the Grey Wolf'). Loosely, 'fairy tale'.

starina: see folk epic (the term *starina*, 'a tale of olden time', was preferred in folk speech to *bylina*).

versta: obsolete Russian length measurement of approx. 1.06 km.

vershok: obsolete Russian length measurement of approx. 4.4 cm.