**Essay workshop —Contemporary Russian Short Stories**

**Connectors: the following were all used to start paragraphs**

**Rate them strongest 5/weakest 5, explain what is good/bad about them**

1. To begin with,
2. Overall,
3. Finally,
4. To conclude,
5. To summate,
6. In conjunction to the unstable identity, the author develops this concept by
7. Extending the ludic reading,
8. Another reason why this short story falls under postmodernism is because
9. Now moving onto the idea of a disintegrated social order,
10. I think that when one considers how important gender is to the understanding of Pelevin’s “Mid-Game”, it is important to look at
11. I must acknowledge that
12. The antithetical relationship between the two genders is shown through…
13. If one looks at the name of the short story,
14. The allegory of this short story reflects upon the larger issue of
15. Identifying symbolism can break down the complexity of literature,
16. Another way that Starobinets establishes this extract as a work of science fiction
17. We can also emphasize on the fact that
18. ‘The Icarus Gland’ (2013) is written solely from a woman’s perspective,

**The number of sources used and grades (essays only, in addition to the primary text):**

**What conclusions can you draw from this data?**

**What is the right/optimal number of sources?**

Level 4

B – 3 sources

Level 5

A – 6 sources; 4 sources; 4 sources

B – 1 source; 3 sources; 7 sources

C – 0 sources; 4 sources

F – 0 sources

**Referencing and introducing quotes: which are the right and wrong ways of introducing critics’ ideas?**

Furthermore, this is further reflected in *Dystopias and catastrophe tales after Chernobyl* by Borenstein,

What Pelevin does is that he ‘explor[es] alternative individually experienced worlds through the multiple ontologies’ (Chernetsky, 2007, p. 107).

The story therefore refutes the absolute framework of this dialectic, and the Soviet frame of thinking that this represents[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2).

In *‘Russian Politics and Society’ (2002)*, Sakwa states

Feminism in Russia is described by Ferris-Rotman (2018) as a ‘complicated history laden with paradoxes’ as the struggle between the voices of women and the overbearing masculine dominant policy result in false promises and an unsafe environment for women.

**Good/Bad Sources: what could be the advantages/disadvantages of using the following sources (which are not on the reading list)?**

*New Eastern Europe - A Bimonthly News Magazine Dedicated to Central and Eastern European Affairs*,

*The Moscow Times*.

*Chick Lit: The Stylistics of Cappuccino Fiction*

**Bibliography: what is wrong with the following citations/Bibliography?**

Chernetsky, V. (2007) *Mapping Postcommunist Cultures Russia and Ukraine in the Context of Globalization*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University PressMcGill-Queens UP, pp. 107-09.

Dobrenko, E. (2011) ‘Utopias of return: notes on (post-)Soviet culture and its frustrated (post-)modernisation’, *Studies in East European Thought,* 63(2), pp. 159-73. Available at: http://www.jstor.org/stable/41477765 (Accessed 6 November 2022)

Goscilo, Helena. *Dehexing Sex: Russian Womanhood during and after Glasnost*. The University of Michigan Press, 1996.

Gomel, E. (2013) ‘*Viktor Pelevin and Literary Postmodernism in Post-Soviet Russia,’* *Narrative.*

1. Vladimir Lenin. On the Question of Dialectics. 1915. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Iosif Stalin. Dialectical and Historical Materialism. 1938. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)