






Five Russian Fairytale Characters to Inspire Creative Writing

<p>Koschei The Deathless's soul is hidden inside a needle, which is inside an egg, which is inside a duck, which is inside a hare, which is inside an iron chest buried under a great oak tree on the mythical Island of Buyan.</p> <p>What led Koschei to hide his soul?</p>	 <p><i>Koschei The Deathless by Ivan Bilibin (1900)</i></p>
<p>Kikimora are female spirits that travel through keyholes and are often blamed for giving people nightmares.</p> <p>Why do Kikimora bring nightmares?</p>	 <p><i>Kikimora by Ivan Bilibin (1934)</i></p>
<p>Leshy are forest spirits that are sometimes blamed for leading travellers astray.</p> <p>What happens to the travellers who become lost in the forest?</p>	 <p><i>Leshy by H. H. Bpym (1906)</i></p>
<p>Snegurochka the Snow Maiden is the daughter of Mother Spring and Father Frost. In some tales, if she falls in love her heart will melt and she will die.</p> <p>How can the Snow Maiden have a happily ever after?</p>	 <p><i>The Snow Maiden by Viktor M. Vasnetsov (1899)</i></p>
<p>Rusalka are spirits that haunt rivers and lakes. They emerge at night to give water to fields and forests, but sometimes they lure people into the depths.</p> <p>What happens to the people Rusulka lure into the water?</p>	 <p><i>Rusalka by Ivan Bilibin (1934)</i></p>