

About the Authors

Andrew Kaufman, PhD, is a Russian literature and culture scholar who has spent the last 15 years bringing alive the Russian classics to Americans young and old. An innovative, award-winning teacher of Russian language, literature, and culture, Dr. Kaufman holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Stanford University and currently lectures at the University of Virginia.

Author of *Understanding Tolstoy*, Dr. Kaufman has discussed Russian literature and culture on national and international TV and radio programs. Known as a passionate, down-to-earth, and inspirational speaker and workshop facilitator, he was a featured Tolstoy expert for Oprah's Book Club in 2004 and cowrote the Reader's Guide to Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* for the National Endowment for the Arts' "Big Read" program. He is currently at work on *Give War and Peace a Chance*, to be published by Free Press.

Fluent in Russian, Dr. Kaufman has lectured at the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences and at the Leo Tolstoy Museum and Estate at Yasnaya Polyana. Having lived and studied extensively in Russia, he has also worked as an interpreter, translator, and management consultant.

Dr. Kaufman also trained and worked as a professional actor for close to a decade. He helps people appreciate the rich tradition of Russian literature and draws on his acting skills to create captivating and enlightening talks, as well as inspirational readings from the Russian classics. He is currently a Lecturer and an ACE Faculty Fellow at the University of Virginia, where he created and teaches a community-based literature course, "Books Behind Bars: Life, Literature, and Community Leadership," in which students lead discussions about Russian literature with incarcerated youth at juvenile correctional and treatment centers in Virginia.

Serafima Gettys, PhD, earned her doctorate degree in Foreign Language Education from A.I. Herten State Pedagogical University, Leningrad, USSR. Before coming to the U.S. in 1990, Dr. Gettys taught English, American Studies, and Methodology of Teaching Foreign Language at A.I. Herten University of Education. In the U.S., she taught Russian at Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. She is currently a Director of the Foreign Language Program at Lewis University, where she also teaches Russian. Dr. Gettys is also a member of a number of professional language associations. She is the author of more than 30 publications in the area of foreign language education.

The second edition of *Russian For Foreigners для чайников* was prepared by Dr. Gettys.