

“The best-known *anekdoty* are most directly based not on unmediated, abstract sociopolitical and historical concepts, or on real-life personalities or groups, or even on current events, but rather on the representations of these things in the mass media and especially in the output of the Soviet culture industry.” (Graham 6)

Pushkin:

1. В связи с юбилеем А.С. Пушкина был объявлен конкурс на проект памятника великому поэту. Третью премию получил памятник: Пушкин, читающий книгу Брежнева.

As part of the Pushkin jubilee, there was announced a competition for a new memorial devoted to the great poet. Third prize was awarded to the monument: “Pushkin, reading Brezhnev”

2. —Как ты здесь? — спросил М.Ф. Орлов у Пушкина, встретясь с ним в Киеве.
—Язык и до Киева доведет, — отвечал Пушкин.

—Берегись! Берегись, Пушкин, чтобы не услали тебя за Дунай!
—А может быть, и за *Прут*.

—How are you faring here?— M.F. Orlov once asked Pushkin, running into the poet in Kiev.
—A tongue will lead you to Kiev, — answered Pushkin

[a proverb meaning, roughly, *ask and ye shall receive*]

—Take care! Take care Pushkin, that they don’t send you away past the Danube!
—Or maybe even past ^[za] the Prut river / Or maybe they’ll just put me away.

Grammar:

1. Посадили репку. Дедку—за Репку. Бабку—за Дедку. Дочку—за Бабку. Внучку—за Дочку. Жучку—за Внучку. Кошку—за Жучку. Мышку—за Кошку...Так вот, Мышку реабилитировали.

They planted [imprisoned] a turnip. The grandfather—[takes hold] of the turnip. Grandmother —[takes hold] of the grandfather. The daughter—[takes hold] of the grandmother. The granddaughter—[takes hold] of the daughter. Zhuchka the dog—[takes hold] of granddaughter. The cat—[takes hold] of Zhuchka. The mouse—[takes hold] of the cat...Well, anyway, they rehabilitated the Mouse.

2. Как-то на правительственном приеме Сталин спросил известную актрису кино Любовь Орлову:
—Тебя муж не обижает?
—Иногда обижает, но редко.
—Скажи ему, что если он будет тебя обижать, мы его повесим.
—За что повесите, товарищ Сталин?
—За шею, — мрачно и серьезно ответил вождь

Once at a government function Stalin asked a famous film actress Liubov Orlova:

—Does your husband ever abuse you?

—Sometimes, but rarely.

—Well tell him, that if he abuses you, we will hang him

—Hang him for what ^[za shto], comrade Stalin?

—By ^[za] the neck, — bleakly and sincerely answered the chief.

3. Два новых русских на пляже:
—Ты за сколько стометровку проплывешь?

—Да тыщ за 10 могу.

Two New Russians at the beach:

—How fast ^[za skol'ko] do you think you'd swim 100 meters?

—I'd do it for ^[za] 'bout ten thou.

4. Изрядно подгулявший новый русский вываливается из ресторана и сталкивается с мужчиной в расшитой золотой форме.

—Швейцар, такси!

—Простите, я не швейцар, я—адмирал!

—Тогда лодку!..

A rather sloshed New Russian tumbles out of a restaurant straight into a man wearing a gold embroidered uniform.

—Porter, a taxi!

—I beg your pardon, I'm no porter—I'm an admiral!

—A boat then!

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