

Tolstoy and Dostoevsky.
010830 — Tolstoy stories

What to think about.

A central preoccupation is the *moral ethos* vs. the *aesthetic drive*. Look at the ‘ethical ending’ of *Master and Man*, for example. Does it fit with the psychological realism of the fabric of the tale? How about the ethical ending of *Ivan Ilich*? Is the reader put off, amused, disconcerted, distracted, or, on the other hand, is the intended moral illumination a natural climax that enhances the whole? Would the story stand, or stand better, without the moral punch? This goes for all the stories, including even *Hadji Murad*.

- metonymy and synecdoche vs. metaphor
- universal psychological realism, shifting central point of view
- portrayal of Russia and her institutions
- politics and morality
- psychological chronology (esp. *Ivan Ilich*)
- (other)