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)