

Tolstoy and Gogol Banned as ‘Too Adult’ for Elementary Students

August 07, 2018



Children at the school library/ Alexei Smyshlyayev/ TASS

Prosecutors in northern Russia have announced in a public statement that reading Leo Tolstoy and Nikolai Gogol is not suitable for primary school-aged children.

The case echoes prosecutors' [orders](#) in the Urals summer camp to ban Mikhail Bulgakov's "Heart of a Dog" for children under the age of 12 in 2015, and for schools in southern Russia to [dispose of](#) Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita" in 2013.

Prosecutors in the Arkhangelsk region said they launched an inspection into educational content at a local music college at the request of the [All-Russia People's Front](#) (ONF), a political movement started by President Vladimir Putin.

Students at the Arkhangelsk College of Music read fragments of Gogol's "Nevsky Prospekt" and Tolstoy's "Kreutzer Sonata," among other "adult-themed" literature at an April 2018 event, prosecutors said.

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“The inspection showed that these performances were not suitable for the primary school students’ age, interests or needs,” the Arkhangelsk prosecutors [said](#) in a statement on Monday.

They added that, in violation of Russian law, an age rating system was not placed on a billboard advertising the master class.

The college and the city’s education department were reprimanded for failing to hold an “age-sensitive” lesson.

Original url:

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