

















Guest Hosts: Dana Sachs and Andrew D. Kaufman













The following is the #litchat conversation held through Twitter on November 5, 2014.













#LitChat was founded in 2009 by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com













This session of #LitChat was moderated by Robyn McIntyre (@RobynMcIntyre).













16:00	@LitChat		Welcome to # LitChat with special guests @ DanaSachs and @ AndrewDKaufman , moderated by @ RobynMcIntyre .
16:00	@andrewdkaufman		Yeah, politics is a good place to begin, since # Tolstoy believed that humility, not hubris, is the mark of a genuine leader. # LitChat
16:01	@DanaSachs		I'd like to think of something besides politics, so it's a perfect thing to do right now. # LitChat
16:01	@robynmcintyre		@ andrewdkaufman I'd agree with that, but it's not a mindset one sees in politics for the most part. # LitChat
16:01	@DanaSachs		@ AndrewDKaufman thanks for joining us, and @ RobynMcIntyre thanks for hosting. # LitChat
16:02	@DanaSachs		Literature is more uplifting than politics. # LitChat
16:02	@robynmcintyre		Welcome, @ DanaSachs and @ AndrewKaufman ! Dana, how about introducing yourself and your guest? # LitChat
16:02	@DanaSachs		But, Talking about # WarAndPeace on Twitter is a bit like trying to measure Russia with a ruler. Let's give it a shot. # LitChat
16:03			@ soniawrite has entered the channel
16:03	@andrewdkaufman		Nice metaphor..The famous Russian poet # Tiutchev said you can't understand Russia with your mind, only your soul # LitChat
16:03	@DanaSachs		@ andrewdkaufman wrote GIVE WAR AND PEACE A CHANCE: TOLSTOYAN WISDOM FOR TROUBLED TIMES. http://andrewdkaufman.com # LitChat













16:03	@DanaSachs		And I'm a writer who loves reading. #LitChat
16:03	@soniawrite		hello #LitChat
16:03	@DanaSachs		That makes sense. How do you see that "Soul" part as being true in Russian lit?#LitChat
16:03	@andrewdkaufman		And you enjoy leading book discussions, too, apparently #LitChat
16:04	@DanaSachs		Hello, @soniawrite. Welcome! #LitChat
16:04	@andrewdkaufman		I think there's a dimension to Russian culture, any culture, which is non-rational, spiritual, almost indefinable in words #LitChat
16:04	@andrewdkaufman		But #Tolstoy came about as close as anyone to capturing that spirit in his prose, in #WarnandPeace #LitChat
16:04	@DanaSachs		Would you say that Tolstoy really typifies that thinking about Russia? #LitChat
16:05	@LitChat		While your regular moderator is away (this is an auto message) #LitChat is in the capable hands of the fabulous @RobynMcIntyre.
16:05	@andrewdkaufman		The Russian soul is a strange mixture of humility, kindness, abandon, and spiritual daring #LitChat
16:05	@DanaSachs		I can see those aspects in the novel, but it's incredibly earthy, too. #LitChat
16:05	@andrewdkaufman		Yeah, #Tolstoy is a typical #Russian writer in that sense #LitChat













16:05	@ andrewdkaufman		Ah, yes, I forgot earthiness # LitChat
16:06	@ DanaSachs		I really love that mix of high and low, heaven and earth, etc. # LitChat
16:06	@ andrewdkaufman		In fact, it's that combination of intense spirituality with intense earthiness that is a hallmark of # Russianlit # LitChat
16:06	@ DanaSachs		welcome @ JLovesAStory ! # LitChat
16:06	@ andrewdkaufman		Welcome! # LitChat
16:07	@ DanaSachs		Maybe we should start with this issue of why people feel nervous about # WarandPeace . It's so big! # LitChat
16:07	@ DanaSachs		@ andrewdkaufman your book offers some great advice about tackling the novel. # LitChat
16:08	@ DanaSachs		A lot of people are afraid of it. # LitChat
16:08	@ andrewdkaufman		For one, it's a long book, nearly 1500 pages. Secondly, all those characters names, third, it seems at first to be so foreign # LitChat
16:08	@ andrewdkaufman		But what I try to show in # GiveWarandPeace aChance is just how personal and relevant of a novel it is # LitChat
16:08	@ DanaSachs		I found all of those things to be challenging in the beginning, to be honest.# LitChat
16:08	@ JLovesAStory		I was never afraid to pick up # WarandPeace but I was worried about how evoking the narrative might become & if timing was right :) # LitChat













16:08	@ andrewdkaufman		And reading #WarandPeace is like taking a journey. It requires a bit of time up front to prepare, but then... #LitChat
16:09	@ DanaSachs		The first scene is utterly confusing and mostly in French. #LitChat
16:09	@ JLovesAStory		Honestly -- I wanted to start #amreading #WarandPeace w/ the RAL via LitChat earlier in the year but hours flew out the window :(#LitChat
16:09	@ andrewdkaufman		Ah, then, as with any powerful journey, you are changed by it #LitChat
16:09	@ DanaSachs		I started the book club because I didn't think I'd finish otherwise. #LitChat
16:09	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, reading #WarandPeace with others is a good idea #LitChat
16:10	@ andrewdkaufman		I recommend the Pevear and Volokhonsky translation #LitChat
16:10	@ DanaSachs		Why do you tend to recommend that one? #LitChat
16:10	@ andrewdkaufman		I recommend that one because... #LitChat
16:10	@ andrewdkaufman		But any translation that will make you want to stay with the book would work, too #LitChat
16:11	@ andrewdkaufman		I think it's extremely readable, and beautifully captures the combination and elegance and awkwardness at the core of the novel #LitChat
16:11	@ JLovesAStory		The one your suggesting was difficult for me to handle (big, heavy); my #library gave me a paperback w/o deadline to read *thankful #LitChat













16:11	@ andrewdkaufman		Other translations tend to focus only on the elegance, making # Tolstoy sound too Victorian # LitChat
16:11	@ DanaSachs		Getting back to earthiness, I think this translation gets at that aspect of the novel wonderfully well. # LitChat
16:11	@ JLovesAStory		I am going to use that translation for my re-reading of # WarandPeace towards the end of my first term in the # theclassicsclub :) # LitChat
16:12	@ andrewdkaufman		# Tolstoy was a bold, masculine writer--a rebel of sorts, and most translations make him play too nice # LitChat
16:12	@ JLovesAStory		The beauty of my participation in the # theclassicsclub ; you get to modify your # amreading choices & talk to enthused readers :) # LitChat
16:12	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, talking to other readers is key when tackling big books like # WarandPeace # LitChat
16:13	@ DanaSachs		In terms of structure, there really is "War" and "Peace." I found Peace much easier to read, but War became very compelling. # LitChat
16:13	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman I agree w/you; the canon of a writer's work should be consistent to the voice & the embodiment of his vision # LitChat
16:13	@ andrewdkaufman		And having the perfect guide to the novel. :) # LitChat
16:13	@ DanaSachs		@ AndrewDKaufman can you give us some background on the structure? # LitChat
16:13	@ soniawrite		@ DanaSachs thanks! # LitChat
16:13	@ andrewdkaufman		The structure of # WarandPeace ... # LitChat













16:14	@ andrewdkaufman		It has nearly 600 characters, coming in and out of the storyline. In fact, early reviewers of the novel couldn't identify the hero # LitChat
16:14	@ DanaSachs		I wouldn't have read a book about Russian History, but Tolstoy made it fascinating. # LitChat
16:14	@ andrewdkaufman		It takes you back and forth between ballrooms and battlefields, marriages and massacres # LitChat
16:14	@ DanaSachs		I feel like I understand the Napoleonic Wars a little better # LitChat
16:14	@ andrewdkaufman		And everything in between--all in short, 2-3 page chapters, of which there are 365 in total # LitChat
16:15	@ DanaSachs		As for a hero, I would say that there are two--Pierre and Prince Andrei. Would you agree? # LitChat
16:15	@ andrewdkaufman		And then later in the book # Tolstoy starts adding essays about history, leadership, etc, right smack in the midst of the story! # LitChat
16:15	@ JLovesAStory		@ DanaSachs Yes, I agree -- I have my own keen interest in the Napoleonic War era; & following the thread of time & history is easy # LitChat
16:15	@ andrewdkaufman		I would agree that Pierre and Andrei are two heroes. So are Natasha, Princess Marya, and Nikolai # LitChat
16:16	@ DanaSachs		I like that you include the women! If we're going to do that, can I add Sonya? She deserves it. # LitChat
16:16	@ andrewdkaufman		But the thing about # WarandPeace is # Tolstoy lets you see the full humanity of every character, even minor ones # LitChat
16:16	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, you may add Sonya, Dana! I know you have some opinions about how # Tolstoy handles her, too! # LitChat













16:16	@DanaSachs		I feel very protective of Sonya. It's true. #LitChat
16:17	@andrewdkaufman		#Sonya is, in many ways, a tragic figure, never finding a chance at fulfillment#LitChat
16:17	@JLovesAStory		Did any other author take as bold as of as step as #Tolstoy to carve out the breadth of what he gave in his novel? #LitChat
16:17	@andrewdkaufman		Danas question: Nope, Tolstoy revolutionized the European novel as people knew it #LitChat
16:17	@andrewdkaufman		JLovesAStory question: I fell in love in college.. #LitChat
16:18	@andrewdkaufman		I could identify with the characters, especially Pierre, and I was mesmerized by the lifelikeness of #Tolstoy's prose #LitChat
16:19	@DanaSachs		Talking about vivid characters,pink post-its mark so many spots in my copy, most too long for Twitter. One short example: (1 of 3) #LitChat
16:19	@DanaSachs		His thin, drawn yellowish face was all covered in deep wrinkles, which always looked..." (2 of 3) #LitChat
16:19	@andrewdkaufman		The power and uniqueness of #WarandPeace is that it doesn't fit perfectly into any genre, like life itself! #LitChat
16:19	@DanaSachs		"...as neatly and thoroughly washed as one's fingertips after a bath." (3 of 3) (p. 154) #LitChat
16:19	@JLovesAStory		@andrewdkaufman I *love!* genrebenders -- the books that are so dynamically individualistic they demand your full heart & attention #LitChat
16:19	@DanaSachs		I just had to get one quote in this discussion, so we could see his extraordinary prose. #LitChat








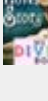



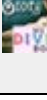
16:20	@ andrewdkaufman		Talking about postits--check out my copy of #WarandPeace , which is on the cover of my book. http://andrewdkaufman.com/books/ #LitChat
16:20	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Mind you, the genrebenders are the ones people have trouble classifying; to me they are novels I end up cherishing #LitChat
16:20	@ DanaSachs		I think we can call it a novel, even if Tolstoy didn't. But it's history, too. #LitChat
16:20	@ DanaSachs		I had no idea that was your real copy, @ AndrewDKaufman . Looks like mine! #LitChat
16:21	@ andrewdkaufman		#Tolstoy bent genres, but not life, in contrast to other genre benders whose depiction of life doesn't often feel real #LitChat
16:21	@ andrewdkaufman		Yep, that's my actual copy of #WarandPeace , which I bring to every book talk #LitChat
16:21	@ DanaSachs		A well-annotated, underlined, and post-it covered book is a treasure and an heirloom for your family. #LitChat
16:21	@ andrewdkaufman		So if you see me at a book talk, please don't spill the beans #LitChat
16:21	@ DanaSachs		Maybe you need some duct tape, too. #LitChat
16:21	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, it would be a shame to lose it, right? #LitChat
16:22	@ andrewdkaufman		@ JLovesAStory you still there? #LitChat
16:22	@ DanaSachs		Someone brought up the question of novels. Is this typical of 19th C in some way? #LitChat













16:22	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Hmm,.. the ones I gravitate towards write on the vein of #Tolstoy ; to carve out a (non-genre) niche of uniqueness,. #LitChat
16:22	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Yes, I'm here -- I'm a bit behind on the tweets today, but I'm here! 😊 #LitChat
16:22	@ andrewdkaufman		Yeah, I do think this is characteristic of 19th c #Russianliterature #LitChat
16:23	@ andrewdkaufman		Russians took the European novel and developed along their own unique lines #LitChat
16:23	@ andrewdkaufman		#WarandPeace is probably the most classic and extreme example of this phenomenon #LitChat
16:23	@ DanaSachs		I was thinking of other great epic novel-histories. VANITY FAIR is one. Also, in the 20th C, MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN. Any others? #LitChat
16:23	@ DanaSachs		That covers a lot of territory in time and space. #LitChat
16:24	@ andrewdkaufman		The Odyssey, Remembrance of Things Past... #LitChat
16:24	@ andrewdkaufman		Anything by James Joyce #LitChat
16:24	@ DanaSachs		That covers even more territory in time and space. #LitChat
16:24	@ JLovesAStory		Would North & South qualify or Wives & Daughters? My allergies are preventing me from bringing more titles forward 🙄 #LitChat
16:24	@ andrewdkaufman		But in nineteenth century that sort of experimentation was less widespread #LitChat


16:24	@ DanaSachs		I think of MIDDLEMARCH, too, which is smaller in scope (a village) but epic in terms of character and sense of the times. # LitChat
16:25	@ andrewdkaufman		Even Greek epics offered something new # LitChat
16:25	@ DanaSachs		North and South would qualify, too. The British industrial era. # LitChat
16:25	@ andrewdkaufman		in their time. I don't think any classic piece of literature became so without breaking rules that were established before it # LitChat
16:25	@ JLovesAStory		I agree -- love finding stories transitioning us to a specific time, place & setting; to where we are transformed through the text # LitChat
16:26	@ DanaSachs		Back to character. Some of my favorite characters are secondary: the Count, Prince Vassily, even the vile Helena. Which are yours? # LitChat
16:26	@ andrewdkaufman		And # Russianliterature NEEDED to be extra creative and bold, in order to catch up to Europe, who often looked down on.. # LitChat
16:26	@ andrewdkaufman		# Russian backwardness. # Russians more than compensated in their art and literature # LitChat
16:26	@ DanaSachs		What was the European reaction to WAR AND PEACE at the time? # LitChat
16:27	@ JLovesAStory		Speaking of the evolution of Russian Lit, Culture, & Art -- did everyone get to see the Olympic Opening Ceremony? I was mesmerised! # LitChat
16:27	@ andrewdkaufman		# HenryJames called # WarandPeace a "loose baggy monster" and # Tolstoy a monster harness to his great subject--all of human life" # LitChat
16:27	@ JLovesAStory		I do agree @ DanaSachs -- I oft find I am hugged close to secondary characters who might become overlooked by readers # LitChat


16:27	@DanaSachs		Welcome, @Angela_Anglais! #LitChat
16:28	@andrewdkaufman		the French and British at the time immediately saw the power of #WarandPeace, but also thought it embodied Russia's strangeness #LitChat
16:28	@DanaSachs		That's funny, coming from #HenryJames, who was pretty loose and baggy himself. #LitChat
16:28	@JLovesAStory		I apologise I can only talk in generalities today - I haven't yet broached #WarandPeace, but I am this month & next; love the convo #LitChat
16:28	@andrewdkaufman		On other hand, #MatthewArnold said of #AnnaKarenina that it's not literature, but a slice of life #LitChat
16:29	@DanaSachs		But it sounds like James did like Tolstoy, sort of? #LitChat
16:29	@andrewdkaufman		yes, not like them! God Forbid... #LitChat
16:29	@JLovesAStory		Speaking on writers not liking &/or respecting other writers' works - I am uncovering this a heap lately & always surprised a bit #LitChat
16:29	@DanaSachs		Is #MatthewArnold's quote a compliment? Who wouldn't want to hear that about their work? #LitChat
16:30	@andrewdkaufman		Yes, a huge compliment.. Every writer of fiction wants to create life on the page. Few do it as well as #Tolstoy #LitChat
16:30	@DanaSachs		So, let's get back to characters. @AndrewDKaufman do you have a sense of how he constructed characters? #LitChat
16:31	@andrewdkaufman		Great question, Dana... #LitChat


16:31	@ JLovesAStory		What did #Tolstoy do differently in regards of character dimensions that differ from other works of it's breadth? (lol) @ DanaSachs ! #LitChat
16:31	@ andrewdkaufman		Almost every male character in #WarandPeace was created from some aspect of Tolstoy's own personality #LitChat
16:31	@ DanaSachs		They feel very real because they have so many different sides to them, such complexity. #LitChat
16:31	@ andrewdkaufman		To Nikolai #Tolstoy gave him gambling addiction, to Andrei his overweening pride and iciness, to Pierre his earthiness.. #LitChat
16:32	@ DanaSachs		I think of Pierre being simultaneously uncertain and arrogant, spacey and focused, everything at once. So human. #LitChat
16:32	@ andrewdkaufman		Many of the female characters were inspired by actual women in his life, albeit distilled through an artistic lens #LitChat
16:32	@ DanaSachs		And Natasha. As I read, I felt like I was watching this young woman grow up. It's amazing. #LitChat
16:32	@ JLovesAStory		He grounded them w/in their flaws & lit inside a yearning to uncover how their character might affect their life as it progressed? #LitChat
16:33	@ DanaSachs		Characters don't move in one clear trajectory, either. They backtrack a lot. That's very human,t oo. #LitChat
16:33	@ andrewdkaufman		And, in general, he let the characters live on their own. He often commented how he was surprised when his character did x #LitChat
16:33	@ DanaSachs		I love that he let them do whatever they did. They were real to him, too. #LitChat
16:33	@ andrewdkaufman		His ability to create real people on the page is astounding #LitChat


16:33	@ JLovesAStory		@ DanaSachs Almost as if # Tolstoy used the canvas of the printed page to emote a direct transparency on a lived life # LitChat
16:34	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, a slice of life, not literature, is what # MatthewArnold called Tolstoy's prose# LitChat
16:34	@ DanaSachs		@ JLovesAStory Exactly. Amazing. # LitChat
16:35	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, how DID he do it? # LitChat
16:35	@ DanaSachs		It takes control and also the ability to just let things happen. That's how the humanity comes out in his characters, I think. # LitChat
16:35	@ andrewdkaufman		It's the mystery of art, artistic genius # LitChat
16:35	@ andrewdkaufman		His wife helped, too. She copied out the manuscript of # WarandPeace 7 times!# LitChat
16:35	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman sounds to me he was an intuitive organic writer - he wrote as the words & characters alighted inside his mind's eye # LitChat
16:35	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, control and freedom, structure and freedom--the secret of creativity# LitChat
16:36	@ DanaSachs		His wife was his personal computer. Lucky man. and he didn't always appreciate her, according to your book. # LitChat
16:36	@ andrewdkaufman		He was also extremely disciplined and constantly revising. # LitChat
16:36	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Ooh I love trivia like this! Esp in re: to husbands/wives! I learnt a bit about Einstein & his wife too recently :) # LitChat


16:36	@ andrewdkaufman		The way #WarandPeace happens reminds me of the quote by #Eisenhower : "Plans are useless but planning is essential." #LitChat
16:37	@ DanaSachs		Tolstoy's last few weeks were, according to @AndrewDKaufman , a big drama. #LitChat
16:37	@ JLovesAStory		@DanaSachs Speaking of unappreciating wives/husbands, did you read <i>Girl in a Blue Dress</i> by Gaynor Arnonld about Dickens? #LitChat
16:37	@ andrewdkaufman		Yeah, #Tolstoy initially set out to write a novel about a Decembrist returning from 25-year exile in the 1850's... #LitChat
16:38	@ andrewdkaufman		That was the early incarnation of Pierre Bezukhov. Then, he realized that in order to describe that person he'd have to go back #LitChat
16:38	@ DanaSachs		@JLovesAStory No, but must be interesting. #LitChat
16:38	@ andrewdkaufman		to the formative year of 1825, the Decembrist revolution in Russia. But wait, how could he talk about that event without ... #LitChat
16:38	@ JLovesAStory		@DanaSachs I was surprised throughout the story to the level in which Dickens did not understand the beauty of art inside his wife #LitChat
16:38	@ andrewdkaufman		talking about the year that triggered it all, the 1812, Napoleon's failed invasion of Russia. #LitChat
16:39	@ JLovesAStory		@DanaSachs Of course, this is a biographical fiction account - I haven't yet explored it in historical accounts but still. Powerful #LitChat
16:39	@ andrewdkaufman		But wait again, in order to talk about 1812, he needed to describe the bears leading up to it, 1805-1812. #LitChat
16:39	@ DanaSachs		@AndrewDKaufman I love how the book evolved. He didn't know what he was going to do and then, slowly, he did it. #LitChat


16:39 @andrewdkaufman  And so #[WarandPeace](#) actually takes place between 1805-1813, and Tolstoy never got to the novel about the returning revolutionary #[LitChat](#)


16:40 @DanaSachs  @ [AndrewDKaufman](#) Do you know how long it was before the book, in its finished form, began to come to light for him? #[LitChat](#)


16:40 @andrewdkaufman  Yep. "Plans are useless, but planning is essential." #[LitChat](#)


16:40 @JLovesAStory  @ [DanaSachs](#) @ [AndrewDKaufman](#) Sometimes the trajectory of a story knits into the writer's mind whilst he/she are writing it down :) #[LitChat](#)


16:40 @robynmcintyre  @ [andrewdkaufman](#) I understand that better, now. #[LitChat](#)


16:40 @DanaSachs  The writer has to be okay with this whole evolution, while it's happening, and be able to let go of expectations. #[LitChat](#)


16:41 @authorwritis  All of that history is behind Pierre gives "backstory" a new meaning. #[litchat](#)










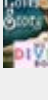


16:41 @andrewdkaufman  Absolutely. Any writer knows this--whether you write fiction or nonfiction#[LitChat](#)

16:41 @andrewdkaufman  I learned a lot about the craft of writing from #[Tolstoy](#) #[LitChat](#)













16:41 @andrewdkaufman  Yes, it should be backbackbackbackstory.... #[LitChat](#)













16:41 @DanaSachs  I think it's wonderful that almost the entire book he PLANNED to write isn't on the page until the very end of the book, right? #[LitChat](#)












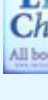
16:41 @robynmcintyre  @ [DanaSachs](#) is interviewing @ [andrewdkaufman](#) about his book #[GiveWarAndPeace](#)AChance. For the next 20 minutes at #[LitChat](#)













16:42	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, @ DanaSachs , you're exactly right, however... # LitChat
16:42	@ JLovesAStory		@ DanaSachs Exactly! :) find that the best gift of all as a creative -- allowing the genesis of what your creating to be evolving # LitChat
16:42	@ DanaSachs		I learned a lot about the craft of writing from Tolstoy, too. It's really a primer for writers in every way. # LitChat
16:42	@ andrewdkaufman		All of those lost threads and plans end up in the novel in some shape or fashion. For instance, # LitChat
16:42	@ andrewdkaufman		well, the Pierre story is a good example. # LitChat
16:42	@ DanaSachs		how? # LitChat
16:42	@ andrewdkaufman		OK, I'll say more about that then.. # LitChat
16:43	@ andrewdkaufman		Tolstoy went through 6 potential titles for # WarandPeace , including titles like "All's Well that Ends Well" (sorry # Shakespeare).. # LitChat
16:43	@ DanaSachs		But it seems like the whole Prince Andrei story had nothing to do with Tolstoy's early plans. True? # LitChat
16:44	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman That title would have limited the scope of what he wanted to convey, I think (works better for Shakespeare!) # LitChat
16:44	@ DanaSachs		I mean, there's so much more here than Pierre. # LitChat
16:44	@ andrewdkaufman		Another title: 1805. Another title: War. Another title: The Decembrists. Though he ended up with # WarandPeace , which he "borrowed" # LitChat













16:44	@ andrewdkaufman		from a French writer, the spirit contained in all those titles are in the book. The optimism of "All's Well that Ends Well" infuses # LitChat
16:44	@ DanaSachs		The title # WarandPeace covers everything. It's perfect. I'm glad he stole it.# LitChat
16:45	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Isn't the title a bit of a play on the different seasons of life inasmuch as the human soul? Not limited to story? # LitChat
16:45	@ DanaSachs		So, I have to say that, even though I love the book, I did think he needed an editor, especially at the end. # LitChat
16:45	@ andrewdkaufman		the novel, the book opens in the year 1805, and the Decembrist theme is alive and well near the end... # LitChat
16:45	@ LitChat		Only 15 more minutes of WAR & PEACE with authors @ DanaSachs and @ AndrewDKaufman in # LitChat . Ask your questions now. http://t.co/5uq9fwj4Jg
16:45	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes @ JLovesAStory , good observation. In Russian, too, the word for peace is the same word as "world," "cosmos"... # LitChat
16:46	@ authorwritis		Have you discussed yet Pierre's involvement with Freemasonry? # litchat
16:46	@ andrewdkaufman		So when a # Russian hears # WarandPeace they're also hearing subconsciously War and the World. Opens up a whole new set of meanings # LitChat
16:46	@ DanaSachs		@ authorwritis Not yet. Do you have a question on that topic? # LitChat
16:46	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman I had a sense about this when I first decided to broach into reading the book this year,... cosmos came to mind # LitChat
16:47	@ andrewdkaufman		Pierre and Freemasonry, is that the question? # LitChat









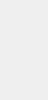


16:47	@DanaSachs		yes. #LitChat
16:47	@JLovesAStory		@andrewdkaufman I had a feeling I'd dig into #Tolstoy as much as I love unearthing the duality of meanings in other writers works #LitChat
16:47	@andrewdkaufman		Freemasonry was one of many belief systems Pierre tried out on his way to self-understanding #LitChat
16:48	@Angela_Anglais		Yes. Thanks. RT @andrewdkaufman Pierre and Freemasonry, is that the question? #LitChat
16:48	@andrewdkaufman		#Freemasonry was very popular in early 19th century Russia, but #Tolstoy viewed it as a cult, not unlike #scientology today #LitChat
16:48	@soniawrite		@DanaSachs that's not something I've heard before #LitChat
16:49	@DanaSachs		@AndrewDKaufman , I want to get back to this: What about #WarandPeace captured your attention and held it for all these years? #LitChat
16:49	@andrewdkaufman		In other words, #Tolstoy was skeptical of all ideological systems, and he describes Pierre's involvement with #Freemasonry ... #LitChat
16:49	@andrewdkaufman		ironically #LitChat
16:49	@JLovesAStory		@andrewdkaufman This is one reason I appreciated this threaded connection in National Treasure; it had a larger purpose in the end #LitChat
16:49	@andrewdkaufman		#WarandPeace has continually grown and evolved. It has spoken to me in a new way every time I read it over the past 25 years... #LitChat
16:50	@DanaSachs		Tolstoy didn't make #Freemasonry seem ridiculous, though. He made us see it as Pierre saw it from the first. #LitChat


16:50	@ andrewdkaufman		And it's the breadth of humanity, the optimism rooted in reality, # Tolstoy 's belief that yes, life is full of hardship # LitChat
16:50	@ DanaSachs		Talk a bit about how your reading of it has changed, please. # LitChat
16:50	@ andrewdkaufman		But it is also full of magic and meaning, too... # LitChat
16:50	@ robynmcintyre		@ andrewdkaufman Maybe it isn't the novel that's grown and evolved... # LitChat
16:51	@ DanaSachs		@ RobynMcIntyre Yes, I think that's true. We change. # LitChat
16:51	@ andrewdkaufman		In my most recent reading of the novel, on which my book # GiveWarandPeace is based, I saw something that I never really noticed... # LitChat
16:51	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman I have the tendency to root out the same observation whilst I blog about books; w/o hope & light we have nothing # LitChat
16:51	@ andrewdkaufman		before, that # WarandPeace is a book about a society going through a time of crisis, about people whose lives are being turned.. # LitChat
16:51	@ DanaSachs		I wish you could say that to Jodi Picoult, who doesn't seem to think the book has merit, but hasn't read it. # LitChat
16:51	@ andrewdkaufman		upside down by the forces of war and chaos and change. And characters grapple with how to find meaning in such a troubled world.. # LitChat
16:52	@ authorwritis		It's been eons since I read War & Peace, but Pierre's dabbling with Freemasons has always struck with me. Strange. # litchat
16:52	@ andrewdkaufman		Well, that was a deeply personal theme to me when I first started writing the book in 2008, because I and my family, like many # LitChat


16:52	@robynmcintyre		@ andrewdkaufman Very appropriate to these times, as well. # LitChat
16:52	@andrewdkaufman		Americans, was victim to the financial crisis. All of sudden, # WarandPeace came alive for me in a whole new way # LitChat
16:52	@JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman The adage being that we each can elect to choose our attitude on how we approach the changes that upset our lives # LitChat
16:53	@Angela_Anglais		@ authorwritis Same here. I'm glad you asked that. # litchat
16:53	@DanaSachs		It's a sign of a great book, if you can take it with you through your life and still find something in it every time. # LitChat
16:53	@Angela_Anglais		RT @ DanaSachs It's a sign of a great book, if you can take it with you through your life and still find something in it every time. # LitChat
16:53	@andrewdkaufman		The subtitle of my book Tolstoyan Wisdom for Troubled Times, reflects the focus of my current take on # WarandPeace # LitChat
16:53	@robynmcintyre		@ DanaSachs I feel that way about the Master and Margarita. # LitChat
16:54	@JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Now I need to sort out if my library has a copy of your book and/or if I need to submit a purchase REQ! :D # LitChat
16:54	@andrewdkaufman		# MasterandMargarita is a great book, too, a classic, a cult classic in Russia that 20 somethings especially adore # LitChat
16:54	@DanaSachs		What Russian Lit would you say people might read next, if they love # WarandPeace ? # LitChat
16:55	@LitChat		Only 5 more minutes of WAR & PEACE with authors @ DanaSachs and @ AndrewDKaufman in # LitChat . Ask your questions now. http://t.co/5uq9fwj4Jg

16:55	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman The acuity of your focus within your book is not only aptly timed but evokes an extension of # Tolstoy 's legacy # LitChat
16:55	@ DanaSachs		And any books you consider maybe overrated? # LitChat
16:55	@ andrewdkaufman		Well, the two great writers of 19th century are # Tolstoy and # Dostoevsky , so I'd suggest something by # Dostoevsky # LitChat
16:55	@ andrewdkaufman		But beware, the experience of reading each is very different. # LitChat
16:55	@ andrewdkaufman		Hmmm.... # LitChat
16:55	@ DanaSachs		I never finished OBLOMOV, I have to say. But maybe I should try again? # LitChat
16:56	@ andrewdkaufman		Most books in my view are underrated... # LitChat
16:56	@ DanaSachs		RT @ andrewdkaufman Most books in my view are underrated... # LitChat
16:56	@ DanaSachs		I love that! # LitChat
16:56	@ JLovesAStory		@ andrewdkaufman Yes, I concur with this statement! I love championing the stories & writers that most do not always get to know # LitChat
16:56	@ andrewdkaufman		As far as # Russianliterature , I don't # Sholokhov can quite stack up to # Tolstoy , although people often put them in the same league # LitChat
16:57	@ DanaSachs		Any others? We only have a few minutes, so let's finish with some recommendations. # LitChat


16:57	@DanaSachs		I recommend @AndrewDKaufman 's book, by the way: GIVE WAR AND PEACE A CHANCE. It's a terrific companion. #LitChat	1
16:57	@Angela_Anglais		What about Boris Pasternak? Dr. Zhivago is a brilliant novel about the Russian revolution. #litchat	
16:58	@andrewdkaufman		10 Russian novels to read before you die...I just published this in Off the Shelf... http://offtheshelf.com/2014/10/10-russian-novels-to-read-before-you-die/ #LitChat	1
16:58	@andrewdkaufman		That's a list I recently came up with, so I think it can be very helpful to folks#LitChat	
16:58	@DanaSachs		Perfect. Now I have a path to follow as I move forward with #RussianLit#LitChat	
16:58	@andrewdkaufman		Yes, #DoctorZhivago is on that list! #LitChat	
16:58	@DanaSachs		RT @andrewdkaufman 10 Russian novels to read before you die...I just published this in Off the Shelf... http://offtheshelf.com/2014/10/10-russian-novels-to-read-before-you-die/ #LitChat	
16:58	@robynmcintyre		@andrewdkaufman I find Russian authors challenging, but I like them. #LitChat	
16:59	@DanaSachs		I loved Dostoevsky. #LitChat	
16:59	@andrewdkaufman		#Dostoevsky is of course on that list #LitChat	
16:59	@DanaSachs		@AndrewDKaufman anything else you want to add in these last minutes? This has been great, enlightening. #LitChat	
16:59	@andrewdkaufman		So is a contemporary writer, a fabulous woman writer by the name of #LyudmilaUlitskaya #LitChat	


17:00	@ andrewdkaufman		Two pieces of wisdom, one from #Tolstoy first, the second from #Thoreau#LitChat
17:01	@ andrewdkaufman		#Thoreau said: "Read the best books first, or you may not have the chance to read them at all." #LitChat
17:01	@ andrewdkaufman		#Tolstoy said: "The goal of the artist is to force people to love life in all of its countless, inexhaustible manifestations." #LitChat
17:01	@ andrewdkaufman		That is exactly what #WarandPeace has been for me, and hope it will be for others, too! #LitChat
17:02	@ DanaSachs		@ AndrewDKaufman Thank you so much. @ RobynMcIntyre thanks for hosting. I feel inspired, which is what I need from books. #LitChat
17:02	@ andrewdkaufman		THANK YOU ALL #LitChat
17:02	@ authorwritis		Great to see Alexander Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich on @ andrewdkaufman 's 10 Russian Novels to Read.... #litchat
17:02	@ DanaSachs		RT @ andrewdkaufman #Thoreau said: "Read the best books first, or you may not have the chance to read them at all." #LitChat
17:02			@ dbgsachs has left the channel
17:02	@ robynmcintyre		Thank you so much @ DanaSachs and @ andrewdkaufman for rekindling my love of Russian Lit. #LitChat
17:03	@ andrewdkaufman		Yes, thank you @ DanaSachs and all for a stimulating conversation #LitChat
17:03	@ andrewdkaufman		@ DanaSachs do you want to point people to the interview online we did? #LitChat


17:03 @andrewdkaufman  It might be a fun followup to this conversation #[LitChat](#)


17:03 @soniawrite  later @[litchat](#). sorry I couldn't participate #[LitChat](#)


17:03 @soniawrite has left the channel

17:04 @Angela_Anglais  Wow, this was a fast chat today. I'm glad I got here when I did. Now to review what I missed. #[litchat](#)

17:04 @robynmcintyre  Please check out @[andrewdkaufman](#)'s book "Give War And Peace A Chance"! #[LitChat](#)

17:04 @Angela_Anglais  Thanks for leading the way @[DanaSachs](#). Where is @[LitChat](#)? #[litchat](#)

17:04 @andrewdkaufman  <http://litchat.com/give-war-and-peace-a-chance-two-authors-talk-tolstoy/#LitChat>

17:04 @robynmcintyre  @[Angela_Anglais](#) On a private island in Georgia having a great time! #[LitChat](#)