

The writer helped the schoolgirl write an essay on her story.

When the writer Vitaly Seroklinov learned that the story “Gingerbread” was included in the program of the literature competition for the eighth grade, he was pleasantly surprised, because his work stood side by side with the works of Mikhail Lermontov and Sasha Cherny. Then, in student forums, he began to help schoolchildren with an analysis of his story, and later with essays. Says Vitaly Seroklinov: The girl’s father turned to me: “Urgent, tomorrow I’ll have to take it. Help, you’re the author, you know better. Well, I am like that, so down: “Yes, of course, I know better.” Well, I was in a good mood I took and wrote him my own composition based on my story. It was all in September-October. In winter, the girl’s dad wrote to me, what did you get, if you translate into the usual grades, something in the “troika” area. The teacher believes that the author didn’t think so, he intended something else in this work, you didn’t reveal it, they told the schoolgirl. I laughed, it must be, our author, it turns out, knows less than teachers. It’s good for teachers: the classics are already dead, and you can think of anything that they were up to. And here, the infection, Seroklinov was alive.

“Have you tried to find out what the author thought in the end?” What was the correct answer? Unfortunately, I have no contacts left. I will remain forever in ignorance of what I was thinking. Now I have to suffer this.

Now that this story has been made public, his “Gingerbread” will be removed from the Olympics, I am sure Seroklinov. All works included in the school curriculum are disassembled by bones. Students are given ready-made articles by literary critics, whose reasoning is a priori considered correct. Any other look is considered a mistake. There should not be any amateur performances, says Alexandra, last year she passed the exam in literature.

“Preparation for an essay on the exam in literature was based mainly on the fact that certain patterns were respected. And if you move away from the template, most of the points on the essay, even if it is written correctly, accurately, logically, is simply lost. That is, for example, if you have your own vision of a character, some good qualities of it, if you write about it, but already well-established critics wrote badly, negatively about this character, then you simply will not be credited with these points. There are recognized key skills of the XXI century, they are also called “4 K” creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. If everything is done only by direction, then these skills cannot develop, says Fedor Sheberstov, co-founder of the Teacher for US program.