

## Do you like listening to podcasts? Do you have any faves?

Today we are going to listen to excerpts from the Stuff To Blow Your Mind podcast and to watch some scenes from an old Russian movie.



Robert Lamb is a science writer and founding host of the megahit podcast Stuff to Blow Your Mind with more than 100 million downloads to date. He has co-hosted the podcast since its inception in 2010.



Joe McCormick is a writer and a host of the science podcast Stuff to Blow Your Mind, on which he explores strange fascinations such as techno-religions, prehistoric sea monsters and the origins of consciousness.

1.

Listen to the first clip \_\_\_\_\_ from the episode dedicated to a Russian film.

Can you guess what movie Robert and Joe are talking about? What is the genre of the movie?

Listen again and number the things mentioned in the snippet in order of their appearance:

- \_\_\_ arranged marriages
- \_\_\_ troll-like bandits
- \_\_\_ the evil witch Baba Yaga
- \_\_\_ magical animals
- \_\_\_ the personification of winter
- \_\_\_ Mushroom Spirits
- \_\_\_ folkloric logic
- \_\_\_ chicken-footed house

**Quote:** “ - In terms of **an elevator pitch** for this movie, the best I could come up with is: Looking for a change in life? Consider wandering into the Russian folkloric wilderness and see what happens.

- The other way I'd frame it is: Always be polite to magical old people you meet in the woods.
- Absolutely. That's just universal.”

Can you explain in your own words the meaning of phrase “**an elevator pitch**”?

2.

In this snippet \_\_\_\_\_ you are going to hear some information about the director of the movie. Fill the gaps.



1. The director of the film is Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_. (type in both versions of spelling)
2. He was born in \_\_\_\_\_ and died in \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. He is of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ heritage.
4. He directed \_\_\_\_\_ fantasy films.

**Quote:** “...*such a rich well to draw from.*” – What does it mean?

3.

**Now you're going to listen to the beginning of the Russian fairy tale which provided a part of the film's plot. Does it sound familiar?**



4.

**There are a lot of interesting verbs in this part of the fairy tale. Listen to the clip \_\_\_\_\_ and choose the correct meaning of the verb forms in bold.**

- 1) **deserted** by her father  
offered a dessert  
abandoned
- 2) **springing** from tree to tree  
moving quickly and suddenly  
crawling slowly
- 3) **cracking** his fingers as he went  
wagging his finger  
making a sudden sharp sound

took a photo

4) he **snapped out**

spoke abruptly or sharply

smiled

5) she **shivered** as she spoke

shook

6) **stooped down**

bent

calmed down

7) King Frost **gnashed his teeth**

struck or ground his teeth

showed his teeth

8) **was so stiff and numb**

didn't feel anything

was very proud

9) **had a pity on her**

felt sorry for her and tried to help

had an advantage over her

10) **fetches** a great box

threw away

went for and brought back for her



Now watch a scene 49:30–52:10 in the movie Morozko/Father Frost/Jack Frost (you may open the link in a new tab for convenience). What power does the magic scepter have? Retell the scene trying to use some verbs from the task above.

6.

We have met Nasten'ka, one of the main characters in the story. Now you are going to listen to Joe and Robert discussing the second main character and his first appearance in the film \_\_\_\_\_. Listen once and answer the questions:

- 1) What does Ivan's mother ask him for?
- 2) What does she say he should and shouldn't do?



Listen again and complete the sentences:

- 1) Immediately, we get the vibe about Ivan – he is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) He walks out of his house with the chest puffed-out, looking into a hand-held \_\_\_\_\_, really enjoying \_\_\_\_\_, enjoying his own \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) He is a caricature of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) He has all the tools to back it up: he is a beautiful man, he does have almost god-like \_\_\_\_\_, he is like a Russian \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) He has a great mind, he is able to trick people out of hurting him without necessarily getting into a \_\_\_\_\_ battle with him, but he is just \_\_\_\_\_ vain.
- 6) Even though he has all the tools to be a true hero, he is not gonna be a one until he \_\_\_\_\_ the right path in life.

Watch the scene in the movie 08:39-11:23. Can you add anything to Joe and Robert's descriptions of Ivan? What adventures and ordeals may be ahead of him?