

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.

offered a dessert

1) **deserted** by her father

abandoned

moving quickly and suddenly

2) **springing** from tree to tree

crawling slowly

wagging his finger

3) **cracking** his fingers as he went

making a sudden sharp sound

took a photo

4) he **snapped out**

spoke abruptly or sharply

smiled

5) she **shivered** as she spoke

shook

bent

6) **stooped down**

calmed down

struck or ground his teeth

7) King Frost **gnashed his teeth**

showed his teeth

didn't feel anything

8) **was so stiff and numb**

was very proud

felt sorry for her and tried to help

9) **had a pity on her**

had an advantage over her

threw away

10) **fetched** a great box

went for and brought back for her



5.

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?