SL1 Preparatory reading

1. An overview of Russian history from the medieval period to the present
    - Two good, basic (short) introductions are:
    - Geoffrey Hosking, *Russian History: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2012)
    - Stephen Lovell, *The Soviet Union: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2008)
2. Some background on Russian literature:
    - Caryl Emerson, *The Cambridge Introduction to Russian Literature* (Cambridge, 2008): this book may be overwhelming as a whole before you have begun the course, but you would do well to look at Chapters 3 and 4 before you arrive, as these will provide useful background for the material we will be covering in the first term.
3. **ALL** of Mikhail Lermontov, *Geroi nashego vremeni* [*A Hero of Our Time*] IN ENGLISH.
4. **As many as possible** of the following (in English):
    - Alexander Pushkin, 'Медный всадник' [The Bronze Horseman]
    - Ivan Turgenev, 'Певцы' [Singers] from A Huntsman's Sketches
    - Anna Akhmatova, 'Реквием' [Requiem]