

**Title:** Putevoditel' po proshlomu: Literary Depictions of Soviet Childhoods by Grishkovets and Klinau

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Recent years have seen the publication of several autobiographical works in Russian which look back in various ways on childhood in the Soviet Union. This paper compares two examples: *Reki* by Evgeny Grishkovets (2009) and *Putevoditel' po gorodu solntsa* by Artur Klinau (2006). In both of these works, adult narrators remember boyhood during the late-Soviet period. Both adopt in passages the style of a travel guide, describing geographical and historical landmarks and also locating them variously within the pre-revolutionary, Soviet, and post-Soviet periods. While Grishkovets demythologizes rural Siberia, Klinau can be seen to de-monumentalize urban Minsk. Applying Gérard Genette's concept of dual voice in narrative discourse, the analysis will focus on how the naïve perspective of a child growing up in the Soviet Union is conveyed through the retrospective narrative of an adult living in the post-Soviet era. In particular, I will examine the ironic effects of elements of the travel genre and the significance of rivers as metaphors for memory and forgetting. I argue that these aspects of the texts offer reflections on the broader themes of Soviet history and post-Soviet memory.