Ivan Bunin

--65 years of literary activity
--disparate and uneven critical reviews
--sober prose portraits of the Russian village in pre-Revolutionary Russia
--leaving Russia after the revolution, became a prominent figure in the Russian emigration, noted for exquisite tales of love an passion;

--the standard Soviet view: displayed a healthy strain of Critical Realism during the pre-Revolutionary period, but upon leaving Russia, suffered a decline in his creative powers and became ruinously preoccupied with personal themes and issues.

--Bunin was viewed by other critics as the last representative of the "Classical" era in Russian Literature;
--Bunin experimented with innovative narrative techniques, including point of view; time frames; narrative tempo.

--the greatest source of confusion for critics is the writer's worldview, at the core for his work, one finds a fundamental dichotomy: a profound love for the beauty of earthly life undermined by an awareness that life must inevitably end in death, which threatens to render life and its joy meaningless;
--Bunin wrestles with the mystery of death and its implications for the living;