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A Literary Analysis of Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time*

*A Hero of Our Time* is a Russian novel written by Mikhail Lermontov and translated by Vladimir and Dmitri Nabokov. The main character of the novel is Pechorin, a situational hero with a superfluous existence. Lermontov does not portray Pechorin as he himself sees Pechorin; instead, Lermontov hides Pechorin behind layers of perception, characters that each see him in a different light. Lermontov plays with the image of Pechorin as a child would play with a doll, twisting, stretching it, as if he had little regard for the consequences. Lermontov, by twisting perspective, is able to control readers' perceptions of Pechorin as a puppetmaster can control a puppet.