

## Study Guide for Pushkin and *The Queen of Spades*

Aleksandr (Alexander) Pushkin 1799-1837:

Read the BIO for Pushkin. Some of his most significant facts will be on the quiz.

### Study Questions from *The Queen of Spades*

1. Who has a gambling debt that her husband refuses to pay?
2. Why does Countess Anna Fedorovna go to see the Count St. Germain?
3. What secret has the Countess's grandson, Tomsky, never learned from her?
4. Why did the Countess reveal the secret to Chaplitzky?
5. Who is Lizaveta Ivanovna?
6. Lizaveta is called the "martyr of the household." What are some of the hardships Lizaveta tolerates as the Countess's ward?
7. Why does Hermann refrain from gambling?
8. Who becomes obsessed with learning the secret of the cards trick?
9. Why does Hermann begin writing letters to Lizaveta?
10. Who does Tomsky say Hermann resembles?
11. What does Tomsky tell Lizaveta about Hermann that foreshadows his true personality?
12. How does Hermann try to make the Countess give him the secret?
13. How does the Countess die?
14. What does Lizaveta realize about Hermann?
15. How does Hermann get out of the Countess's home unseen?
16. Why does Hermann go to the Countess's funeral?
17. What makes Hermann fall down at the funeral?
18. Who does the queen of spades resemble?
19. Who looks into Hermann's window?
20. What are the three conditions that the Countess gives Hermann before she will give him the secret of the cards?
21. Why does Hermann go to Chekalinsky's residence?

22. How does Hermann lose all his money to Chekalinsky?
23. How does the story end for Hermann?
24. How does the story end for Lizaveta?
25. Who becomes the husband of Princess Pauline?