The Captain's Daughter is full of action but much of the plot is propelled by letters, including some that the reader never sees. At one point, Captain Mironov, the fortress commandant, acts as an internal censor, tearing up one of Pugachov's subversive proclamations without giving away so much as a word of its contents; Pushkin does, however, allow the captain's gossipy wife to divulge part of Pugachov's other proclamation. The Captain's Daughter can even be read as a discussion of the future direction of Russian literature. Pyotr has two tutors: one Russian and one French. At first Pyotr seems linguistically incompetent; he fails to learn French from Beaupré and, when he meets the incognito Pugachov, is unable to understand his riddling Russian.