

Title: When I was Child, I Spoke as a Child: Narration in Ivan Klíma's *Láska a smetí* and Iurii Trifonov's *Dom na naberezhnoi*

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Ivan Klíma's narrator in the novel *Láska a smetí* does not belong to any group, but desperately strives to enter into what might be assumed to be natural relationships with other people. His co-workers, his wife, his mistress, his children all present the narrator with opportunities, frustrated time and again, to enter into community with other human beings. Among these people is the narrator's aging father. The narrator's father offers a link to the past that the narrator longs to access to make sense of his own childhood memories of the ghetto.

In a similar vein, Glebov, Iurii Trifonov's protagonist from *Dom na naberezhnoi* also reflects on his childhood to make sense of his adult life. But Glebov's is not the only voice within the novel. The unnamed secondary narrator subverts Glebov's point of view and emphasizes the dearth of common memory. On the level of poetics, this discord underscores the lack of community within the world the novel.

I purpose that these works examine the importance of a dialogue between individual memory and a shared collective memory. They explore the rifts which occur between these two. Most powerfully, they explore the consequence of isolation and in doing so highlight questions of what if anything bonds people together.

### Works Cited

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