

# personal english



## Character #3

### *The Firebird* *Russia*

The firebird, a bird with **glowing feathers** that is both a blessing and a bringer of doom to its owner, stars in a number of Russian tales, including ***Tsarevitch Ivan, the Firebird and the Gray Wolf*** and ***The Humpbacked Horse***. In the latter tale a little horse helps Ivan, a young peasant, carry out the many unreasonable demands of the tsar. Censors banned the story in the mid-19th century because it made the Tsar appear foolish. The tale is meant to be a **satire** on the absurdities of Russian feudal and bureaucratic life. The story gained huge popularity in Soviet Russia and was also set to music in 1911 by **Igor Stravinsky**.



*Click on the picture for the 1962  
Russian cartoon *The Humpbacked  
Horse* (dubbed in English)*