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A School for Fools is a journey through the mental landscape of a nameless, schizophrenic adolescent which he relates with the assistance of an author figure who may be the boy's older self. Through the kaleidoscopic prism of the teenager's schizoid mind, we share his bizarre perceptions and attempts to come to terms with the surrounding world.

Sokolov's A School for Fools has been called "a neglected masterpiece. Compared to Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago or Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, Sokolov's brilliant novella shares with them the distinction of being one of the very few Russian novels to remain steadily in print. Pasternak's and Solzhenitsyn's novels are a continuation of the great nineteenth-century Russian literary tradition, Sokolov's marks the beginning of a new one.