

### **Biography 1:**

Ivan Smirnoff

Age: 53

Job: Manager of Osh Silk Factory

Family Description: Ivan has a wife and three children. Two of his children are married and starting families. One child is in high school.

He has a 15 year old Moskvich automobile (see:

[http://digilander.libero.it/cuoccimix/ENGLISH-automotorusse5\(azlk\).htm](http://digilander.libero.it/cuoccimix/ENGLISH-automotorusse5(azlk).htm)) which has 210,000 miles on it. It is very rusty.

Hobbies: They, like most Soviets, have a small summer house in Kyzyl-Kyya. While there, they like to garden and fish in the river.

Personality: He is well-liked by the factory workers, but they think he is a bit lazy.

### **Biography 2:**

Maria Kuzmin

Age: 47

Job: Supervisor at Osh Silk Factory

Family Description: Maria is unmarried, but takes care of her elderly parents who live 55 km away. She usually leaves work 10 minutes early to catch a bus to her parents town, Ozgon. While there, she cleans and walks to the store to wait in line for cheese and milk. She takes the last bus home just after Midnight each night. She then gets up at 5 AM to be at work by 6AM, but she is usually late.

Hobbies: Maria likes to knit on the bus.

Personality: Maria does not have many friends. The workers she supervises say that she is a good boss, but resent when she yells at them for being late.

### **Biography 3:**

Sergei Alekseev

Age: 27

Job: Worker in the Osh Silk Factory.

He spins the silk. He holds the record for the most number of spools spun during a single day. He hopes to move to the north of Russia someday and would like to be married.

Family Description: He is an orphan.

Hobbies: Sergei likes to listen to Rock and Roll music.

Personality: Sergei likes to be alone and his co-workers do not know him well.

### **Biography 4:**

Valentina Romasko

Age: 68

Job: Janitor in Osh Silk Factory.

Valentina begins work as the other workers leave for the day. She empties their trash cans, scrubs the floor, cleans toilets, washes windows, waters the plants and cleans the machinery.

Family Description: Valentina's husband died in the WWII. She had one son, Alexii, who died at the age of 21 when he drove off a bridge in her car.

Hobbies: Valentina has a beautiful voice and plays the piano while she sings.

Personality: Everyone loves Valentina. Workers leave meals for her in her locker.

### **Biography 5:**

Igor Soroka

Age: 70

Job: Retired, formerly a supervisor in the Osh Silk Factory. He is a veteran of WWII.

Family Description: He has a very large family. His wife died five years ago. He has 7 children between the ages of 23 and 48. He also has 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way.

Hobbies: He likes to take photographs of his family members since he does not have the time to travel by train to see them as frequently as he would like; they live as far away as Bishkek, Karakol and Suluktu.

Personality: Many people have referred to him as "heroic" although he denies it. He is very fond of Valentina and would like for her to have a better life.