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International Tea Day: How the beverage occupied the minds of authors

FP Staff

Dec 15, 2016 12:13 IST



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Tea, though ridiculed by those who are naturally coarse in their nervous sensibilities will always be the favorite beverage of the intellectual.

- Thomas de Quincey

Tea and literature go hand in hand - authors have poured their very love for the beverage into their writings, their character sketches and have ruminated over the brilliance of the beverage. How many bitter fights have been had while sharing cups of tea? Many. Take *The Importance of Being Earnest*, in the part where Cecily and Gwendolyn exchange bitter words over tea - sugar cubes, porcelain and a healthy English habit never seemed more tense. Russian authors like Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky have made ample references to the beverage in their writings. Anton Chekov, who had a penchant for affecting the readers' mood through his characters, also infused tea in his works.

On **International Tea Day** - observed annually on December 15 since 2005 in tea producing nations like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania - here are a few musings on tea by famous authors:

First Published On : Dec 15, 2016 12:13 IST

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