The idea of child heroism in Russian literature for children first can be traced to state ideology and analyzed as part of patriotic pedagogical discourse both in the Russian imperial period and in the Soviet Union. Secondly, models of heroic behavior and their narrative representations closely resemble models of behavior by saints found in hagiographic literature. Finally, a character of a child hero who commits an act that is both extraordinary and valuable for the community partakes in an international repertoire of motifs encountered across genres. The poetics of heroic narrative in Soviet children's literature since the 1920s retains features formed in the previous period and invents some new features, especially by transforming the category of the enemy. This talk focuses on typological and genetic analysis of Soviet narratives of a child hero, with particular attention to works by leading authors of Soviet children's literature.