

Feodor Yevtushenko

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Autobiography:

Hi! I'm Feodor Yevtushenko, and I'm currently a rising freshman at MIT. Ever since I was in elementary school, I've always known that I inherently loved playing around with numbers and concepts: instinctually, I was drawn to fields like math, physics, and chemistry because of how they interwove seemingly simple ideas into sprawling tapestries of truth and beauty.

In sixth grade, I accidentally stumbled into the world of math and science competitions for the first time. Little did I know that this would not only allow me to reinforce my content knowledge and problem-solving skills, but it would also unlock a plethora of new experiences, friendships, and insights that continue to stick with me to this day. As I worked through practice problems spanning a variety of STEM subjects, I began to realize that these fields were both infinitely more complex and more alluring than I had imagined. When the pandemic hit throughout my late sixth, seventh, and eighth grade years, I sunk hours a day into scavenging the internet for free resources and practice questions, craving the feelings of discovery and insight that made every second of doing STEM so special - a work ethic that has stuck with me throughout high school and beyond. In high school, I gradually refined my mathematical reasoning while also picking up computer science. However, it wasn't until the middle of senior year that I started seriously learning and reading about AI. While I had heard about some of the fundamental ideas of AI systems earlier, only recently did I begin to truly appreciate the nuance and creative design present in state-of-the-art models and algorithms. Specifically, I envisioned AI systems as the aggregate of many heuristics: for each of these, while there's no reason that they have to work, they feel so right on an intuitive level that it's hard to imagine a reasonable world where they don't work, and when we test them, they do. Consequently, I began to view AI as being less mysterious and untouchable and more magically beautiful, and in doing so, I started devouring random arXiv papers on interesting modern developments in AI. All in all, I'm quite happy with the way I've spent many of my recent

evenings: looking back, there's something uniquely special about working through an AI problem set or launching an experiment, almost as if doing so lets me hold my own shard of the shimmering, limitless sphere of our collective AI knowledge that I have slowly grown to know and love.

I'm incredibly grateful to represent Team USA at the upcoming 2026 International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence, and I look forward to learning from and having fun with my fellow teammates! Besides representing Team USA at the upcoming IOAI, I have already represented our country at the 2023 International Physics Olympiad, winning a gold medal and a special prize for the top theory score, at the 2025 Romanian Master in Mathematics, winning a silver medal and placing in the top ten internationally, at the 2025 International Physics Olympiad, winning a gold medal and later being invited to the White House, and at the 2025 International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics, winning the overall tournament. I will also be representing the United States at the upcoming 2026 International Mathematical Olympiad. I have also received three gold medals on the USA Math Olympiad and have been invited to be a USA Computing Olympiad finalist twice.