

***Crime and Punishment***, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*Advanced Placement English, Ms. Thackeray*

Dostoyevsky is considered one of Russia's greatest novelists and today stands as one of the world's greatest. His novel *Crime and Punishment* is considered one of the greatest Christian novels of all time and was revolutionary in the use of dreams to reveal the sub-conscious of the central character, Raskolnikov.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

The following is required work. If you choose not to complete the work, please know that you will not be able to receive an "A" in the class.

1. Reading log **or** annotated book
  - A. As you read you will have many questions about plot, characters, settings, vocabulary, etc. Write them down for class discussion.
  - B. Also record any thoughts about the literary concepts listed below, passages you like, other literary observations.

## **LITERARY CONCEPTS**

I. *BIBLICAL ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS*  
*EX. CROSSES, LAZARUS, EASTER*

II. CHARACTERIZATION

NOTE HOW THE AUTHOR GUIDES THE READER'S RESPONSE TO EACH CHARACTER. WHY DO YOU FEEL SYMPATHY FOR A MURDERER?

III. *SYMBOLISM ( OTHER THAN CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS)*

1. WATER
2. AIR/ LACK OF AIR
3. MOTH AND CANDLE
4. LOWER LIFE FORMS (SPIDERS, ETC.)
5. "SQUARE YARD OF SPACE"
6. COLORS
7. SHRUBS / PLANTS
8. NUMBERS
9. DREAMS

IV. *KEY CONCEPTS:*

*SUFFERING*  
*REDEMPTION*

*SUPERMAN THEORY (NIETZSCHE)*  
*NIHILISM*  
*UTILITARIANISM (GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER)*

V. *SETTING AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE:*  
*TIME AND PLACE OF ACTION*

VI. *IMPORTANT TECHNIQUE:*  
*USE OF DREAMS*

VI. *STRUCTURE:*  
*NOTE THAT THE NOVEL IS DIVIDED INTO SIX PARTS PLUS THE EPILOGUE*

**NOTE: YOU WILL BE HANDING IN YOUR ANNOTATED BOOK OR A READING LOG (IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO WRITE IN YOUR BOOK). THIS IS PART OF YOUR FIRST TERM GRADE.**

GUIDING QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER. ( you only need to answer these in your head )

1. Consider the introductory pages of chapter 1 up to the point where Raskolnikov reaches the house where the old woman lives. What is the first impression the reader gets of Raskolnikov? His state of mind? His financial position?
2. The dream of the mare beating in chapter 5 begins the dream symbolism. What emotions does Raskolnikov have after the dream?
3. What important themes do you see emerging? (Consider confession, suffering solitude and isolation of man, “the square yard of space”, the need for fresh air, forgiveness..)
4. What is Raskolnikov’s theory?
5. What do the following events reveal about Raskolnikov?
  - His decision to leave his family
  - His visits to Sonia
  - His sessions with Porfiry
6. To what extent is the theme of Christian regeneration developed by Sonia? By Raskolnikov?
7. Many critics have questioned Dostoevsky’s use of the Epilogue, saying that it was not needed; others have supported his use of the device. What is your response to the added Epilogue?