

Summer Reading Assignment for Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (2014)
 - *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (We recommend the translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky)
-

Crime and Punishment is a challenging text partly due to the Russian names and culture. (See the back of this paper for character names.) Allow plenty of time to read and reflect on events and ideas in the novel. While you read, you may want to take notes in the margins (if you own the novel), underline, highlight, and note page numbers and passages of significance. It is also helpful (and recommended) to write chapter and section summaries and keep a journal about the following topics:

- ❖ Significance of the title
- ❖ Effect created by the opening pages and events
- ❖ Major characters
 - What values does each have or represent
 - What purpose does each play
- ❖ The dreams
 - How do they move the story along?
 - What do they symbolize
- ❖ The Epilogue – Is the ending satisfactory? Why or why not?
- ❖ How do setting, society, and philosophy make the work interesting and influential?

First writing assignment due the second week of school:

As you read and complete your chapter/section notes, consider the three AP test questions below. Be prepared to write an essay **the second week of school** on one of the prompts. AP essays are 2 – 3 pages long and contain:

1. A well-developed thesis paragraph that asserts your position related to the question, along with an overview of the points you will make to support your position.
2. At least three well-developed paragraphs that have specific examples, details and ideas that support the topic sentence of each paragraph and relate clearly to your thesis. Avoid plot summary.
3. A conclusion that briefly reviews the large issues in the thesis that you have discussed without just restating the obvious or being redundant.

You will be assigned one of these past AP test prompts to answer in an essay on *Crime and Punishment*:

1. **Some of the most significant events in a novel are mental or psychological; for example the awakenings, discoveries, changes in consciousness. In a well-organized essay, describe how the author manages to give these internal events the sense of excitement, suspense and climax usually associated with external action.**
2. **A confidant is a character, often a friend or relative of the protagonist, whose role is to be present when the protagonist needs a sympathetic listener. Frequently the result is, as Henry James remarked, that the confidant can be as much “the reader’s friend as the protagonist’s.” However, the author sometimes uses this character for other purposes as well. Choose a confidant and write an essay in which you discuss the various ways this character functions in the work.**
3. **The British novelist Fay Weldon offers this observation about happy endings: “The writers, I do believe, who get the best and most lasting response from readers are the writers who offer a happy ending through moral development. By a happy ending, I do not mean mere fortunate events – a marriage or a last-minute rescue from death – but some kind of spiritual assessment or moral reconciliation, even with the self, even at death.” In a well-written essay, identify the “spiritual reassessment or moral reconciliation” evident in the ending and explain its significance to the work as a whole.**

The Characters

The middle names of male characters end in “vitch” and of female characters in “ovna.” This ending simply means “son of” or “daughter of” the father whose first name is converted into their middle names. Rodion and Avdotya’s father was *Roman* Raskolnikov. Thus, their names are Rodion *Romanovitch* and Avdotya *Romanovna*.

Significant roots of characters' names:

Raskolnikov: raskol = schism or split

Razumikhin: razum = reason or good sense

Lebeyatnikov: lebezit = to fawn on someone or ingratiate oneself

Marmeladov: marmelad = jam, jelly; spineless

Sonya: Sofya is Greek for wisdom

Note: The Russian word for "crime" is *prestuplenie*, from pre (across, trans) and *stuplenie* (a stepping) so that it is similar etymologically to the English "transgression." The root meaning of "stepping across" some barrier, is both essential and analogous to the criminal, are played on in the text.

Rodion (Rodya) Romanovitch Raskolnikov – The protagonist. He is extremely proud, introspective and moody; he is generous and responsive to the misery about him. He is also a cold-blooded theoretician of murder.

Avdoyta Romanovna Raskolnikov (Dounia, Dunia, Dunya – Raskolnikov's proud and beautiful sister.

Pulcheria Alexandrovna Raskolnikov – Mother of Raskolnikov and Dounia. Well-meaning and genteel.

Sonia Semyonovna Marmeladov (Sonya, Sofya) – Eighteen-year-old daughter of Marmeladov by his first marriage. She has become a prostitute in order to support her family, but her kindness and religious devotion have not been corrupted.

Katerine Ivanovna Marmeladov – Marmeladov's second wife, thirty years of age. She is educated and genteel, but ridden with hard work, poverty, betrayal and consumption. Her brave efforts to maintain Sonia and the other three children are destroyed time and time again by her husband's alcoholism.

Semyon Zharavitch Marmeladov – Once a government clerk, in now an impoverished drunkard. He is not depraved and maintains a religious faith.

Dmitir Prokofitch Razumikin – Friend of Raskolnikov, cheerful, energetic and undaunted by hardship.

Pvotr (Peter) Petrovich Luzhin – A successful lawyer, and Dounia's fiancé until she realizes that he is a pompous, miserly, mendacious and wicked man.

Nastasya or Natasha – A servant and cook in Raskolnikov's rooming house.

Arkady Ivanovitch Svidrigailov – A rake and libertine, yet capable of kindness and generosity. He is cynical, jaded, and without faith. He is infatuated with Dounia. He is, more importantly, Raskolnikov's alter ego.

Marfa (Martha) Petrovna – Svidrigailov's wife. She introduces Luzhin to Dounia.

Porfiry Petrovitch – The chief of the criminal investigation. He haunts Raskolnikov with his psychological methods of investigation. He is in every way Raskolnikov's match, but is more concerned with saving Raskolnikov than with punishing him.

Alexander Grigorievitch Zametov – Head of the police office; one of the first to suspect Raskolnikov of murder.

Ilya Petrovich – The "explosive" lieutenant with whom Raskolnikov quarrels at the police office.

Lizaveta and Alyona Ivanovna – These are the murder victims. Alyona, the pawnbroker, is an old woman. Lizaveta is thirty-five, and good-natured. Only Sonya who would read the Bible to her treated her kindly.

Nikolay and Dmiti – The two house painters suspected of the murder.

Andrey Semyonovitch Lebezianikov – The government clerk who speaks for the progressive ideas of Dostoyevsky's day. He believed in free love, the equality of women, and a communal society.

Zosimov – The young doctor, especially interested in mental cases. He is not particularly brilliant, but he is a dedicated doctor and a good friend of Razumikin.

Russians address each other by first name and patronymic (father's first name and suffix). When they are related or intimately acquainted, they use shorter forms or nicknames.

AP Literature and Composition Novel List 2016-2017

AP deals with literature and issues of a mature nature, as this is a college-level course. Please contact Julie Adams, Mindy Thompson, Marcie Thompson, or Marene Stensrud if any of these texts are problematic for you or your parents. *Hamlet* (Shakespeare), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Hurston), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Stoppard), *Hard Times* (Dickens), *Brave New World* (Huxley), *The Awakening*, (Chopin), *Sound and Sense*, (poetry anthology) and a selection of independent titles.