



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

BY FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY



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Item No. 307205

Written by Kathryn Mitchell and Stephanie Polukis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapter I**Setting and Character**

Objectives: Identifying character and setting details
 Showing the connection between setting and character description

Activity

Setting plays an important role in a novel or play, but not only because it designates where the action takes place: setting may be used to present the historical context if important social, economic, or political events are going to be addressed; setting may evoke particular feelings in the reader that will make him or her more emotionally receptive to events, themes, or messages; setting may also make the character's emotional state more apparent by projecting internal, abstract emotions in the physical landscape.

In the instance of Chapter I, setting is used to reflect the emotional condition of the protagonist, Rodion Romanovitch Raskolnikov, a poor former student living in St. Petersburg, Russia. For this activity, re-read the chapter and complete the chart that follows. In the first column, record examples of setting description from Chapter I; in the second, record any description of Raskolnikov in the chapter. When you have finished, write a paragraph or two in which you explain any similarities between the description of the setting and character and show how the setting reflects Rodya's emotional state.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapter II**Contemporary Rewrite****Objective:** Applying conflicts and themes to a modern-day setting**Activity**

In Part I: Chapter II, Raskolnikov goes to a bar and ends up having an unusual conversation with a man named Marmeladov. Marmeladov, who is dressed in tattered remnants of fine clothing, speaks with an educated and distinctive air; however, he is drunk, melancholy, and depraved. During their conversation, Marmeladov explains to Raskolnikov how poorly he has treated his wife and how his family suffers because of his drinking problem.

Rewrite this bar room conversation, updating it by giving it a modern-day setting and putting it in contemporary speech. Like the original, your new version should have a great deal of dialogue and some humor. While you may alter some of the situations Marmeladov mentions to make them more current, attempt to retain the essence of the scene and the characters. In addition, keep in mind that the other characters cannot hear Raskolnikov's thoughts.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapter III**Writing a Letter**

Objectives: Summarizing a text
 Writing in the voice of a character

Activity

Immediately after learning that his landlady will report him to the police for not paying his rent, Raskolnikov receives a letter from his mother, in which she mentions her and Dounia's personal woes. Imagine that you are Rodya, and you want to write a response to your mother. Before you begin, make a list of the key points mentioned in her letter. Then, respond to these points in a well-written letter.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapter V**Pamphlet**

Objectives: Summarizing and commenting on events in the text
Relating the text to current issues

Activity

The majority of Part I: Chapter V tells, in vivid detail, a dream Raskolnikov has after reading his mother's letter about Dounia's engagement and encountering the young woman on K—Boulevard. In the dream, people pile onto a cart pulled by a scrawny, weak mare. Soon afterward, the peasants begin to beat the poor animal until she falls to the ground and dies.

Imagine that you are an animal rights activist, and you are creating a pamphlet to prevent cruelty toward animals. Your pamphlet will include the following parts:

- an article about the horse-beating incident, in which you summarize what happened
- an opinion piece, in which you comment on the incident
- an article that persuades readers to support your cause and stop animal abuse
- information about where the reader can go to report animal abuse

You may arrange the pamphlet any way you choose. You may even add additional text, drawings, graphics, slogans, poems, or charts.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapter VI

Flashback

Objectives: Analyzing a character's motivation
Expressing opinions about a character's beliefs

Activity

Part I: Chapter VI gives the reader some reasons why Raskolnikov may have murdered Alyona Ivanovna. Dostoevsky presents this information in the form of a flashback. Six weeks prior to the murder, Raskolnikov visited the pawnbroker for the first time, pawning a ring for a couple of roubles. On his way home, he stopped by a tavern for tea and overheard a student and an officer speaking in a derogatory manner about Alyona. One of them suggested killing the old woman and gave several reasons why it would be just.

Part I: Reread the flashback in Part I: Chapter VI, which starts with “In the previous winter” and ends with “something preordained, some guiding hint....” When you have finished, list at least five things on the following page the two men say that may justify Alyona's murder or reasons Raskolnikov may have conceived while listening to their conversation.

Part II: During his conversation with the officer, the student suggests sacrificing one to save many. He says:

What do you think, would not one tiny crime be wiped out by thousands of good deeds? For one life thousands would be saved from corruption and decay. One death, and a hundred lives in exchange—it's simple arithmetic! Besides, what value has the life of that sickly, stupid, ill-natured old woman in the balance of existence! No more than the life of a louse, of a black-beetle, less in fact because the old woman is doing harm. On your own paper, write a paragraph or two in which you agree or disagree with the belief that a few people can justifiably be sacrificed to benefit the rest of humanity.

Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapters VI – VII**Rewriting Figurative Language****Objective:** Writing new examples of figurative language**Activity**

Choose five examples of figurative language (i.e., simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification) from Chapters VI and VII to rewrite. Attempt to make the new device as effective as the original. Use the chart provided to complete this assignment. Write the original example in the first column, your rewritten version in the second comparison, and an explanation why you chose that new device. We have provided an example for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I: Chapters VI – VII**Suspense****Objective:** Explaining how Dostoevsky creates suspense**Activity**

Chapters VI and VII are full of suspense. The reader knows Raskolnikov is preparing for a murder, but there are many ways his plan could fail. For instance, what if Alyona isn't home? What if Lizaveta did not go to the Hay Market as she planned? What if Alyona catches Raskolnikov trying to sell her a fake cigarette case? What if someone witnesses the crime? All these possibilities help create a sense of urgency and anxiety in the reader.

Use the chart that follows to analyze suspenseful passages. Paraphrase or quote at least five such passages in the "Suspenseful Passage" column. In the second column, analyze the passage and determine how it creates suspense. It may help to answer the following questions:

- Does the passage show Raskolnikov doing something risky or dangerous?
- Does the passage increase or decrease the pace of the story?
- Does the passage foreshadow a future event?

An example has been provided for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part II: Chapter I

Adding a Chapter

Objectives: Writing a scene from another character's point of view
Imitating the author's style

Activity

While at the police station, Raskolnikov learns that Koch and Pestryakov, the two men who almost discovered Raskolnikov in Alyona's flat, have been arrested for the murders. He also learns that latching the door to keep the men out was a mistake, for it led the police to think that Koch and Pestryakov are innocent. Nikodim Fomitch explains to Ilya Petrovitch:

That's just it; the murderer must have been there and bolted himself in; and they'd have caught him for a certainty if Koch had not been an ass and gone to look for the porter too. *He* must have seized the interval to get downstairs and slip by them somehow. Koch keeps crossing himself and saying: 'If I had been there, he would have jumped out and killed me with his axe.'

Crime and Punishment, while written in the third-person omniscient, focuses primarily on the protagonist, Raskolnikov, and rarely includes scenes in which he is not present. Nikodim Fomitch and Ilya Petrovitch's conversations about the murder evidence, as well as Koch's and Pestryakov's arrests, are not included.

Choose one of the following potential chapters, and write it:

- when Koch, Pestryakov, and the porter discover the murder
- Koch's and Pestryakov's arrests
- a conversation between Fomitch and Petrovitch discussing the evidence

Write writing, try to emulate Dostoevsky's style so that your chapter could be seamlessly added to the novel. Furthermore, stay true to the characters, but use the chapter to explore their thoughts and feelings.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part II: Chapter II

Split-screen Artwork

Objectives: Identifying changes in a character's behavior and feelings
Creating art to illustrate a character's behavior and feelings

Activity

At this point in the novel, Raskolnikov is suffering for his crime. Having gotten away with the murders has not made him feel any better about his actions, and he seems to wander about in a dreamlike state, aimless and preoccupied.

For this activity, read the following passage, taken from Part II: Chapter II. The passage demonstrates how detached Raskolnikov feels from his world. Even he recognizes his inability to appreciate the beauty around him.

The sky was without a cloud and the water was almost bright blue, which is so rare in the Neva. The cupola of the cathedral, which is seen at its best from the bridge about twenty paces from the chapel, glittered in the sunlight, and in the pure air every ornament on it could be clearly distinguished. The pain from the lash went off, and Raskolnikov forgot about it; one uneasy and not quite definite idea occupied him now completely. He stood still, and gazed long and intently into the distance; this spot was especially familiar to him. When he was attending the university, he had hundreds of times—generally on his way home—stood still on this spot, gazed at this truly magnificent spectacle and almost always marvelled at a vague and mysterious emotion it roused in him. It left him strangely cold; this gorgeous picture was for him blank and lifeless.

Using a clean white sheet of paper divided in half, create a piece of artwork that depicts the beauty of Raskolnikov's world on one half and his detachment from it on the other. You can do this using color, texture, images, or shapes. You may choose to make a drawing, painting, or collage, which can include text.