

Name: _____

Advanced Placement: Literature and Composition Summer Reading Instructions

First and foremost, I look forward to having you in AP Literature and Composition. For summer reading, you will read the novel Crime and Punishment. It is best to purchase a copy of your own so you can annotate the text, but not required. You can check out a copy from the county library. You can also load the book on an electronic device. This book is public domain so you can find a copy online and read that way.

Attached is:

- Background information
- Character list
- Topics for conversation/discussion questions
- Article titled: “Raskolnikov, Hegel, and Nietzsche”
- Character Bone Structure Assignment

Suggestions **BEFORE** reading—to help you understand better as you read:

- Read the background information.
- Look at the character list to help understand their names and their relationship to Raskolnikov.
- Read the article “Raskolnikov, Hegel, and Nietzsche” to provide insight into Raskolnikov’s psyche.

Assignment:

1. Read the book.
2. Read the topics for conversation/discussion – be prepared to discuss any/all of the topics/questions. The table has a column for you to take notes, but notes are not required.
3. Complete the Character Bone Structure Assignment.

Due Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2017:

- Novel read
- Character Bone Structure complete to turn in at the beginning of the period.
- Quiz on main plot points and main characters of the novel.

If you have any questions, I want to try to answer them. Please feel free to call me. My cell phone number is: 386-314-6345. I text, so if you want you can ask questions via text. Be sure to identify yourself. I’ll try to answer quickly via text or call you.

Have a great summer and I will see you August 15. The first day of school is August 14, but we are scheduling freshmen only on the 14th.

Mrs. Meehl

Background for *Crime and Punishment*

Summary	This powerful story of a young university student who sets out to prove that he is a superior human being capable of committing the perfect murder has thrilled readers ever since it was first published. With the exception of <u>War and Peace</u> , there is probably no Russian novel so universally read and admired as this masterpiece of Dostoevsky. It has all the ingredients of a great work of fiction with merit: an intriguing story of crime and detection, a taut psychological study, and the drama of one man’s efforts to revolt against society and God.	
Type of Work	Psychological novel – characters are shown mainly from the inside thoughts and emotions full of complexity and intensity	
First Published	1866	
Author	Fyodor Dostovesky (1821-81) Born in Moscow; achieved critical success at 25; involved in liberal politics; arrested in 1849, condemned to death, but at the last moment, his sentences was commuted to hard labor in Siberia (later described in <u>The House of the Dead</u> , (1862). Freed in 1859, sick and poor; described human suffering in a realistic mystical way through psychological analysis in novels such as <u>Notes from the Underground</u> (1864), <u>The Idiot</u> (1869), <u>The Possessed</u> (1871), and <u>The Brothers Karamozov</u> (1880). Contrary to other Russian novelists of the time (Turgenev, Tolstoy), Dostoevsky believed in the superiority of Russia over the Western world.	
Setting	Realistic portrayal of the St. Petersburg Hay Market slums – the mid 1800s	
Structure	The novel is divided into six parts plus an epilogue. Each part is subdivided into chapters. Part 1: Presentation of characters and description of murder. Parts 2-6: Raskolnikovs’ inner struggle. Epilogue: Results and consequences.	
Major Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raskolnikov’s dual personality ● The end justifies the means ● Love as a tool of salvation and damnation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dreams ● Alienation ● Self-Sacrifice
Major Symbols	Bloody sock, Easter, the Number 3	
Hints about Russian Names:	Russian names can be confusing! Many people have three or four names or nicknames. Generally, in addition to a first and last name, Russians have a middle name called a patronymic. This is usually a form of the person’s father’s first name with “ovitch” – meaning “son of” if the person is a male or “ovana” meaning “daughter of” if the person is a female. A person might also have a “nickname” or affectionate name used by family and close friends. The main character in this novel is Rodion Romanovitch Raskolnikov, also known as Rodya. Sometimes only the first two names are used in conversation. If this sounds confusing, it can be but it gets easier to follow the characters by remembering this system of naming people.	

Characters and how they are addressed/identified differently:

(The names may be spelled different depending on the translation.)

Character	Major relationship	Often referred to as:
Rodion Romanovitch Raskolnikov	Protagonist	Raskolnikov, Rodya or Rodka
Avdoyta Romanovna Raskolnikov	Raskolnikov’s sister	Dounia, Dunya, Dunechka
Dmitri Prokofych Razumihin	Raskolnikov’s friend	Razumihin
Pytor Petrovich Luzhin	Dounia’s Fiancé	Luzhin or Mr. Luzhin
Andrei Semyonovich Lebezyatnikov	Pytor’s roommate	Andrey
Semyon Marmveladov	Alcoholic	Marmeladov
Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov	Marmveladov’s daughter	Sonya or Sonechka
Katerina Ivanovna Marmeladov	Marmveladov’s wife	Katerina Ivanova
Arkady Ivanivich Svidrigailov	Dounia’s former employer/suitor	Svidrigailov

Topics for Discussion and/or Composition

The following are **possible** topics for discussion/composition for the novel. Look them over before reading and consider while reading. Collect specific examples/incidents from the novel to be used as support evidence. You do **not** have to write out the answers for collection.

Question/Discussion Points	Notes or thoughts you may have
1. What is one theme of the novel?	
2. How is suspense created at the outset? What devices serve to sustain the suspense?	
3. Evaluate the author’s skill at creating atmosphere.	
4. Raskolnik means “dissenter.” Against what forces in society does Raskolnikov dissent?	
5. To what extent is Raskolnikov conscious throughout the novel of his real motive for murder?	
6. What qualities does Raskolnikov possess that predetermine his ultimate failure as a criminal? Do these qualities strengthen or weaken his appeal as a character? What is his basic flaw?	
7. Why have each of the following characters been called Raskolnikov’s “double”: Luzhin, Sonia, Svidrigailov, Porfiry?	

<p>8. How do these characters illumine certain facets of Raskolnikov’s personality: Marmeladov, Dounia, Razumihn?</p>	
<p>9. Compare Svidrigailov and Luzhin. Why is Svidrigailov developed more sympathetically</p>	
<p>10. Why is Sonia made a prostitute? Why does Raskolnikov both love her and hate her?</p>	
<p>11. What are the steps in Raskolnikov’s punishment? In which phase of human experience, in crime or punishment, do you find Dostoyevsky’s insights more profound?</p>	
<p>12. Discuss the symbolic meaning of each of Raskolnikov’s dreams.</p>	
<p>13. Discuss the symbolic meaning of each of Svidrigailov’s dreams.</p>	
<p>14. How is Raskolnikov’s sickness related to his social philosophy?</p>	
<p>15. What is the symbolic significance of the unintended murder of Lizaveta?</p>	
<p>16. How does Doestoyevsky employ humor? To what purpose?</p>	
<p>17. In broad social and spiritual terms, what is Raskolnikov’s tragedy? What is his triumph?</p>	
<p>18. What is Dostoyevsky’s attitude toward women and love? What is the symbolic role of sex in the novel?</p>	
<p>19. What is real crime in the novel and what is the punishment?</p>	

Name: _____

Read the following to give you a better grasp of the philosophies Porfiry and Raskolnikov discuss. Being taught in the university Raskolnikov attended, he was bombarded with the philosophies popular at the time. Idealistic and rebellious, he does not have enough maturity and perspective to balance these theories against experience and common sense. The conversations concerning these philosophies occur in Part 3, chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Part 4, chapter 1.

Come to class with this annotated and prepared to discuss with the class.

“Raskolnikov, Hegel, and Nietzsche”

While he was in college, Raskolnikov studied the German philosopher, Gerog Wilhelm Fredrich Hegel. As a result, Hegel influenced his thinking.

It is in Hegel rather that we discover a direct and obvious source of Raskolnikov’s notion of inferior and superior men, the superior ones having the right to commit breaches of morality while inferiors are obliged to mind their business, which is to stay put in the common rut. Now what Dostoevsky has done in devising Raskolnikov’s justification is to convert into a theory of human nature what is in Hegel not a psychological theory at all but a theory of man as subjects and objects of history (Rahv 34).

In other words Hegel suggests that men like Caesar and Napoleon can break the laws since “the history of the world moves on a higher level than that of morality (Ibid). The advancement of society is more important than the breaking of a law. These individuals may “treat others great and even sacred interest inconsiderately—a conduct which subjects them to moral reprehension. But so might a figure may trample down many an innocent flower, crush to pieces many things in his path (Ibid).

Accordingly, Raskolnikov sees the pawnbroker as a worthless object who stands in the way of his financial security and security of many other people in St. Petersburg. Upon overhearing the conversation of the students at the bar, Raskolnikov is even more convinced that the pawnbroker’s death would benefit mankind. Instead of her money being used for continual masses to be said in her memory, Raskolnikov could use the money to further his education, free Dounia of the despised marriage to Luzhin, and help the other people in St. Petersburg. Thus, he sees a parallel between him killing the pawnbroker and Napoleon or Caesar eliminating a harmful obstacle to progress.

While classifying people as superior or inferior is, in itself, controversial, it is even more ironic to see the pawnbroker as a significant figure whose death would forge society ahead. Furthermore, Raskolnikov is hardly a Napoleon. Even to attempt to put himself into this category is egotistical and delusive. Even Raskolnikov laughs at his own attempt at Napoleonic grandeur. “One sudden irrelevant idea almost made him laugh. Napoleon, the pyramids, Waterloos, and wretched skinny old woman, a pawnbroker with a red trunk under her bed—it’s a nice hash for Porfiry to digest! How can the digest it! It’s too inartistic. ‘A Napoleon crept under an old woman’s bed!’ Ugh, how loathsome!”

The real question for mankind has to be, “Is anyone above the law?”

Friedrich Nietzsche also put men into categories. He clearly saw men as leaders and followers. To the leaders, power was the ultimate goal. The mediocrity of the majority is the necessary condition for the existence of exceptions; together with the herd animal, there develops also the leader animal (Lowith 261).

Nietzsche admired strength and abhorred weakness. The extent of Nietzsche’s intensity of belief is apparent in the following passage:

What is significant of Nietzsche is his love of fighting for its own sake, in contrast to the modern humanitarian view. To Nietzsche the greatness of a movement is to be measured by the sacrifices it demands. The hygiene which keeps alive millions of weak and useless beings who ought rather to die, is to him no true progress. A dead level of mediocre happiness assured to the largest possible majority of the miserable creatures we nowadays call men, would be to him no true progress. But to him as to Renan, the rearing of a human species higher and stronger than that which surrounds us (the “Superman”), even if this could only be achieved by the sacrifice of masses of such men as we know, would be great, a real progress (Brandes 36).

Consequently, the Nietzsche Superman exists for the sake of power over others—not for the benefit of mankind. Since Nietzsche believe that God was dead, he believed that there was no superior power to one’s own. The Nietzsche Superman must assert his power over others and remain detached from humanity. He does not have to follow the rules and will feel no remorse in breaking them. Hitler read Nietzsche.

Character Bone Structure of Raskolnikov

Due: Tuesday, 8/15/2017

Name: _____

- This material helps to understand the physical and psychological background of characters found in literature concerning physiology, sociology, and psychology. When possible, use quotes to support your answers. Write down page numbers.
- As you read, record your observations. Write down page numbers where you find the information.
- Some of the information will not be written in black and white – you will have to infer the information.

Physiology:	This helps your description concerning Raskolnikov's appearance and outward attitude.				
Element	Description			Page #	
Gender					
Age					
Height					
Weight					
Note: eyes, hair, skin					
Posture					
Appearance (dress)					
Defects					
Heredity					
Other notable aspects					

Sociology	This includes the Raskolnikov's home location, type of job, family life, wealth (amount of money), and how free time is spent				
Element	Description			Page #	
Class (social standing)					
Education					
Relationship with family					
Religion					
Place in the community (is Raskolnikov liked/disliked in his community?)					
How spends time					

Psychology	This includes how a character acts because of attitude. Please attempt to describe the mental state of the character. Try to offer reasons for character's actions due to attitude. Use the "Raskolnikov, Hegel, and Nietzsche" article.	
Element	Description	Page #
Moral Standards		
Personal Ambitions		
Frustrations		
Temperament	Is Roskolnikov mild mannered or hostile? When Raskolnikov comes in contact with different persons, how does he/she respond? Does he act differently around different people?	
Attitude toward life		

Complexes	Are there any mental problems which cause him/her to act in a particular manner? Or, what mental processes occur that cause him/her to act in a particular manner?)	
Element	Description	Page #
Extrovert, Introvert, Ambivert (both)	Is the character outgoing and social, keeps to him/herself and doesn't mix with other people, or can be described as at one time moody and to him/herself while at other times outgoing and social?	
Intelligence		