

1988- Choose a distinguished novel or play in which some of the most significant events are mental or psychological; for example, 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. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Introduction:

Thesis: In *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Raskolnikov constantly battles his conscious and his subconscious regarding the nature of the crime he committed and the psychological effects of its aftermath.

Does one bad action outweigh the thousands of good deeds that follow it?

Paragraph 1: Before the Crime

* Bipolar behavior (drunk girl on the street)
* College dropped out/confused about future?
* Debating when and if he should commit the crime
* Questions his own relationships (doesn’t know how to talk to his mother or his friend)
* “He avoided society...held a sort of thirst for company”
* “He kept aloof from everyone...as though he were superior in development, knowledge, and convictions, as though their convictions and interests were beneath him”
* Mom’s letter makes him cry because he wanted to be with family but could not mentally

Paragraph 2: During Crime

* Wraps a tin box to keep her distracted
* Pushes through the door
* Was conscious about how he looked to others and if he was ready/aware of surrounding=nerves
* Panicked when Lizaveta showed up( didn’t know if he should kill her)
* Took great care of washing all of the blood off (washing off his sins)
* Stayed by the door even when people were coming up

Paragraph 3: After the Crime

* Kept checking his hole in the wall to make sure they had no evidence
* Mentally and physically exhausted
* Freaked out and passed out when people mentioned the crime
  + Overwhelmed and didn’t want to get caught
* Stuck in his own mind and did not realize social impact
  + Everyone knew about it but he was isolated because he knew the truth
  + Conflicting opinions about reason for crime
  + Ordinary vs extraordinary person and the environment
    - He viewed himself as an extraordinary person testing out a new idea
    - Scared of social interactions with past friends, family, and even strangers
* The only person he can relate to is Sonya because they both share a sinful history
  + Sonya is still innocent and he is fascinated by how she has stayed like that
* Psychologically isolated from society because is internally in disagreement
  + One part of him wants to be caught and confess while the other part wants to stay free

Confession:

* Sonya convinces him to confess about his crime
* “But that is the beginning of a new story- the story of the gradual renewal of a man, the story of his gradual regeneration, of his passing from one world into another, of his initiation into a new unknown life.”

Crime and Punishment creates suspense through the third person omniscient point of view; the novel creates an ambiguous setting in which the reader questions whether he will confess, when he will do it, and to whom he will confess to.

One definition of madness is “mental delusion or the eccentric behavior arising from it.” But Emily Dickinson wrote Much madness is divinest Sense— To a discerning Eye— Novelists and playwrights have often seen madness with a “discerning Eye.” Select a novel or play in which a character’s apparent madness or irrational behavior plays an important role. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain what this delusion or eccentric behavior consists of and how it might be judged reasonable. Explain the significance of the “madness” to the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

1. Intro
2. Thesis: Raskolnikov is caught in between his dark internal thoughts causing him to lose sense of himself and act irrationally.
   1. He isolates himself from everyone, and was crushed by poverty, while letting his anxieties keep him from accomplishing important matters.
      1. Example of how his internal thoughts affect his actions and shows his social instability.

II. Body

1. Raskolnikov hears the man talk about Alyona Ivanovna, the pawnbroker in a negative language. This brings back memories of a time when Alyona gave him a bad price for his watch. He remembers that Alyona is corrupt and only seems to care for herself. She gets a good amount of money from her deals and cares little about anything else.
   1. Since someone else thinks negatively of the pawnbroker, Raskolnikov is asserted that she is not a good person and “the world would be better without her.” He then decides to kill her.

B. Raskolnikov makes plans to kill Alonya at the pawn shop. He plans to get an axe but his

original plan fails and this causes him to find an axe somewhere else.

1. Mentions his trick to deceive Alyona. He plans to have a fake silver box that she would be appraising.

i. These plans are irrational because he has no real motive to be killing Alonya. People who are capable of murder show symptoms of madness. Raskolnikov does not put much thought into his actions, instead his internal desires are shown.

ii. To justify this point, Raskolnikov states that he did not kill Alonya because of need for money, instead he did it because he wished it be extraordinary. This means that he is willing to do this not because of need but instead because he just wants to (Mad man).

III. Body

1. Raskolnikov’s “mental delusion” contributes to his indecisiveness about whether or not he should turn himself into the police.
   1. Returns to the scene of the crime to see if he had left anything behind but sees the painters there. Worried that he might've left something behind and it being discovered.

IV. Body

1. The violent dreams/hallucinations Raskolnikov has all the time correlates to his unstable and delusional nature. Describes his profound thoughts and current psychological state.
2. Intro
   1. Background (book, author, basic info…)
      1. Fyodor Dostoyevsky explores two inevitable parts of the human experience in his novel: *Crime and Punishment.* Madness is different from evil. Fyodor characterizes madness as committing terrible acts with good intentions; while evil is purely selfish in action and intention.
   2. Thesis: Believing himself as superior man, Raskolnikov became convinced that humanitarian justify the vile means of murder.
3. Body Paragraphs
4. Trapped in his room and his head
   1. Does not want to see anybody
   2. Is afraid of his own bad thoughts
5. Inconsistently does contradicting things
   1. Gives an officer money to look after a drunk girl, only to wish he hadn’t done it a second later
   2. Gives money to the Marmeladovs, only to regret that a second later too
   3. Murders Lizaveta in cold blood, only to regret it later when he hears that Lizaveta was Sonia’s friend
   4. Went to the crime scene and tried to implicitly turn himself in, only to not
   5. Went to Razumikhin’s and accepted three rubles for a job, only to return them and walk away a second later
6. Why it’s reasonable from Raskolnikov’s POV
   1. He believes himself to be “extraordinary”
      1. Article/ Napoleon
   2. Vile character justified their own death?
   3. Something about poverty and social classes
      1. She was richer than him and he believed he was better
7. Comparison: madness vs evil
   1. Svidrigailov
      1. Is actually evil
         1. Rapes and is insinuated in murder

Significance of Madness:

-Madness adds a layer of depth to the protagonist’s character

-Guilt/poverty/paranoia/hardship take toll a toll on the human psyche

-A person’s environment can shape their behavior

Reasonable?

-

MOWAW:

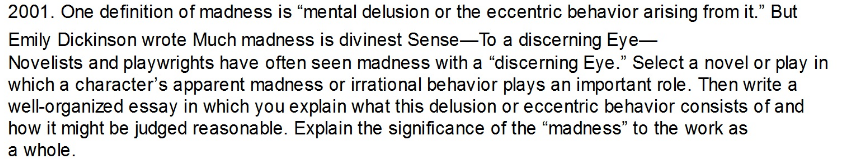
-The ends don’t just justify the means

-Redemption takes trials and tribulations to earn

-Impulsive decisions can have dire consequences that may or may not be possible to overturn

Caroline, Karel, Cairn, Lauren

Outline- C + P 2001



1. Introduction:
   1. Thesis statement: In Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*, Raskolnikov’s environment and faulty self-concept create ideal conditions for a state of delusion that drives his erratic behavior.
2. Environment/Personality
   1. Topic Sentence: Raskolnikov’s adverse environment along with a feverish state of mind (somatic symptom) influences his psyche and subsequent actions.
      1. Quote/evidence: “I sat in my room like a spider.. low ceilings and a tiny room cramp the soul and the mind” (Pt 5, Ch 4).
   2. Lack of kindred spirits to understand his actions/thoughts, feels alone, he is the only one that understands the world
3. “Why, are you all afraid of me?”-182 part 3 chapter 3,
4. “Yet in their absence I seemed to love them so much,”-Ras. Part3, chapter 3,181
5. “Mother, sister - how I loved them! Why do I hate them now?” -Ras, part 3 chapter VI
   1. Intense paranoia
      1. Quote: “You are a perfect madman”-Raz. 90
      2. Quote: As he talks to Porfiry, he questions his every word--“Was it right? Was it natural? Did I overdo it?” Ras. 200, part 3
      3. Quote: “Rakolnikov’s set and earnest face was suddenly transformed, and he suddenly went off into the same nervous laugh as before… and laugh!” (Part 2 Chapter 6).:
   2. How it is reasonable: The atmosphere of St. Petersburg, his filthy room, surrounded by extreme poverty and chaos and cause Rasky to retreat within himself. In other words, mental and physical isolation could possibly define Rasky’s actions as reasonable along with illness and oppressive environment.
6. Dissonance between Rasky’s potential and his reality
   1. Topic sentence: Raskolnikov’s arbitrary superiority over others contrasts with existing societal norms and is detrimental to one's mental state.
   2. His lack of purpose in life-had the potential to be study and develop his intellectual ideals, but is wasting his life/time.
   3. Rasky’s Theory of Crime
      1. Violation of the social contract- Rasky does not believe in the ideal that people must give up some freedom (in the form of laws) to receive protection from society.
      2. Napoleons in the world that are extraordinary, thinks he is inherently better
      3. Quote: “an extraordinary man has the… inner right to decide in his own conscience to overstep… certain obstacles” (Pt 3, Ch 5).
      4. Quote: Part 1 Chapter 6 “He decided he personally was immune (to collapse of judgement and will); while he carried out his plan, his judgement and will would remain sound, for the simple reason that what he planned to do was ‘not a crime.’”

IV. Conclusion

1. Significance: Rasky’s madness caused him to murder the old pawnbroker and her sister. His madness, while it may be judged as a reasonable response to the psychological toll of a personally stressful environment, does not justify his murderous actions, as evidenced by his exile to Siberia. Dostoyevsky utilizes Raskolnikov’s madness to prove that even people who believe they have a legitimate reason to commit crimes are still subject to the law.
2. The resultant insanity caused by Raskolnikov’s environment and his warped moral views drag out his suffering after murdering two innocents.

Jackson, Rebecca, Janelle, Natasha

1980. A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between a passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty.

Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and its significance to the work.

Give up his passion to go through suffering to achieve redemption

INTRODUCTION:

Thesis: In Dostoyevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*, the main character, Raskolnikov, is unhappy with his failures in life. Obsession with an idea of a “greater man” whose impact on society surpasses his actions, inspires him to test the theory on himself- resulting in an act of violence that contributes to his eventual downfall.

BODY PARAGRAPH I: Extraordinary man vs. Ordinary Man

* Topic Sentence: Raskolnikov’s act of murder rests on his desire to overcome the chasm between those who are ordinary and those who are extraordinary.
* “I simply hinted that an ‘extraordinary man has the right… that is not an official right, but an inner right to decide in his own conscience to overstep… certain obstacles, and only in case it is essential for the practical fulfillment of his idea (sometimes, perhaps, of benefit to the whole of humanity).
  + Belief in this leads to murder of women
  + He is not extraordinary so he feels guilt
* “Of course, people do get carried away and make mistake, but one must have indulgence; those mistakes are merely evidence of enthusiasm for the cause and of abnormal external environment”

BODY PARAGRAPH II: How Rasky’s failure to make the jump from ordinary to extraordinary contributes to the MOTWAH

* Topic Sentence: Unable to release himself from the guilt and condemnation of an extraordinary man’s crime, Raskolnikov continues to struggle with his mediocrity- trapped in the moral duty of the ancient law. He spirals into madness and distances himself from his family until he finally subjects himself to imprisonment in order to relieve himself of this guilt.
* Unlike Napoleon, Raskolnikov feels guilt and subjects himself to suffering to move towards new life.
* Trapped in a miniscule flat, chained with surmounting debts, and shadowed by men who have achieved greatness turns Raskolnikov on himself.
* While he is in jail, Raskolnikov continues to grapple with whether his crime was justified or not. Overtime, he comes to the realization that outward suffering does not lead to total internal repentance and resolution of guilt.

Conclusion:

1. You cannot force yourself into something, you must grow into it over time.

MOTWAH Ideas: Suffering affects people in different ways, allowing some to be reborn while others

One can be redeemed for their transgressions through suffering, especially for others.

Discovering that he is incapable of becoming an extraordinary man, Raskolnikov redeems himself through accepting punishment, subjecting himself to physical and mental imprisonment.

* Consumed by both an extraordinary man’s passion and an ordinary man’s guilt, Raskolnikov chooses to resolve himself to suffering to find redemption.

Accepting suffering allows one to be redeemed.

Because he accepts his suffering he is able to grow and become a new person

While he is in jail, Raskolnikov continues to grapple with whether his crime was justified or not. Overtime, he comes to the realization that outward suffering does not lead to total internal repentance and resolution of guilt.

1979. Choose a complex and important character in a novel or a play of recognized literary merit who might on the basis of the character’s actions alone be considered evil or immoral. In a well-organized essay, explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might. Avoid plot summary.

1. Introduction
   1. Thesis: In Dostoyevsky’s Crime and Punishment, Raskolnikov, despite having murdered Alyona and Lizaveta, presents a sympathetic nature because of his fractured psyche, isolation, and occasional propensity to show compassion.
2. First Paragraph
   1. Topic sentence: Due to the oscillatory nature of Raskolnikov’s psychological state, he garners sympathy from the reader and those around him.
   2. Textual Evidence:
      1. “It struck him as strange and grotesque that he should have stopped at the same spot as before, as though he actually imagined he could think the same thoughts [...] so short a time ago.”
      2. Moment of realization
         1. “What filthy things my heart is capable of.”
         2. “Yes, filthy above all, disgusting loathsome, loathsome!”
      3. Raskolnikov garners sympathy from others
         1. When he is sick, the maid and Razumihin take care of him after he faints at the police station.
3. Second Paragraph
   1. Topic sentence: Raskolnikov's poverty-ridden lifestyle offers a sympathetic circumstance to justify the murder of the two women.
   2. Textual Evidence:
      1. His apartment which is “more like a cupboard than a room”
      2. Description of Raskolnikov- handsome but with torn up clothing
      3. Raskolnikov lives in a bad part of town- prostitutes, drunks, and vagabonds
4. Third Paragraph
   1. Topic Sentence: Despite his moral shortfalls, Raskolnikov occasionally displays compassion for others.
   2. Textual evidence:
      1. Dream about a horse being killed.
      2. Raskolnikov provides twenty kopecks for a young drunk girl, who is being pursued by a gentleman predator, to take a cab home
         1. “‘Poor girl!’ he said, looking at the empty corner of the bench…”(48)
      3. When Marmeladov is killed, Raskolnikov gives his family the last of his money which they use for his funeral and reception

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C&P Outline

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***2009, Form B.***

***Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. Choose a novel or play that focuses on a political or social issue. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.***

1. **Thematic Statement: From a psychological standpoint, those who face social isolation and/or poverty may resort to crime or discreditable actions as a way to relieve inner turmoil.**
2. **Paragraph One**
3. Topic Sentence: Crime and Punishment offers an outlook on how Marxism and Nihilism impacts those under political and social influence, specifically in Russia.
4. Detail 1: “Even the poorest and most broken-spirited people are sometimes liable to these paroxysms of pride and vanity which take the form of an irresistible nervous craving.”
5. Detail 2: Many characters that are introduced and reside in St.Petersburg struggle with daily life and most resort fall to the madness among the filth and unrest by completing actions such as selling oneself for money or committing reasonless crimes.
6. Detail 3: The novel brings out an ironic twist through a time where these political and social movements are at word of mouth and rising in awareness, however the characters that are embellished in Crime and Punishment suffer from being poverty stricken as well as mentally broken.

1. **Paragraph Two**
2. Topic Sentence: Social isolation as a result of this Marxist society leads characters to the brink of insanity and often results in murder. Raskolnikov’s mind is an apt representation of a social situation with its social inequalities and how this inherent difference affects the protagonist and his reactions towards certain situations.
3. Detail 1: Raskolnikov pawns off precious items as well as any rubbish he can come across in order to scrape by and make some money.
4. Detail 2: Raskolnikov avoids his landlady because he does not pay his rent- he is stuck in the rut of poverty.
5. Detail 3: Raskolnikov overhears a member of the community downtalking the pawnbroker, Alyona, that Raskolnikov sells his misfit objects to. He decides that Alyona being one of the most hated women in the area is sufficient enough reason for him to kill her-and then he commits a double homicide when Alayna's innocent walks in on the axe being laid to her sister's body.
6. **Paragraph Three**
7. Topic Sentence: A nihilist society and a desperate mindset often leads to people wishing for an escape: suicide. Society not only controls our development, but also shapes our identity, our thoughts and our emotions. Marmeladov is the epitome of a man who feels society has failed him and resorts to ending his life.
8. Detail 1: Raskolnikov’s idea that men can be divided into a hierarchy. (Extraordinary man)
9. Detail 2: Marmeladov’s apparent ‘suicide’ and how his wife looks down on him.
10. Detail 3: Sonya and prostitution- how she justifies crimes against morality.
11. **Paragraph Four**
12. Topic Sentence: A constant impoverished state of being forces characters to resort to morally reprehensible activities in order to provide for family. Sonia embodies this through her choice of prostitution in order to help her family.
13. Detail 1: A lack of government aid for her family leaves Sonia and her mother’s family in a impoverished state where they are unsustainable.
14. Detail 2: After her father is discovered to be useless, Sonia resorts to prostitution.
15. Detail 3: Though she wishes to help her family, she is considered an outcast and therefore faces social isolation. Ironic since the political movement being forced upon the Russian government fights for everyone to be equal across the board.
16. **Conclusion:** A corrupted and uncontrolled society forces humanity to reach to lowest depths of morality in order to cope with such extenuating circumstances.

**2011, Form B. In The Writing of Fiction (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following: At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity. Choose a novel or play that you have studied and write a well-organized essay in which you describe an “illuminating” episode or moment and explain how it functions as a “casement,” a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.**

**Thesis Statement:** **In Dostoyevsky’s “Crime and Punishment”, Raskolnikov recognizes his alienation from society through his interaction with Sonya.**

**Paragraph 1:** Before interaction with Sonia

* Poor student (dropped out of school and has little motivation)
* No connections with family, yet dependent on his mother for money
* Hopeless (“He longs to forget himself altogether to forget everything, and then to wake up and begin life anew.”)
* Isolated (rejects new relationships)
* Suspense leading up to the crime, anticipation
* Doesn’t think about after effects (on family,etc)
* Puts on a facade to disguise his emotional/internal guilt
* No one to understand his situation because he refuses to share his feelings with others
* Razumihin brings him new clothing, etc.
* He didn’t care that someone else was arrested for his crime. He thought he was going to beat the system
* Marmeladov’s death

**Paragraph 2:** Interaction with Sonya

* “I bowed down to all the suffering of humanity”
* “There are three ways before her, the canal, the madhouse, or… at last to sink into depravity which obscures the mind and turns the heart to stone.”
* Realizes others suffering and the honour it brings them
* Sonia’s innocence
* Sonia will have to live her whole life suffering, he can overcome his
* Faith propels their lives (“What would I be without God?”)
* Reveals emotional guilt
* “He understood only too well how painful it was for her to betray and unveil all that was her own.”
* Realizes isolation/alienation

**Paragraph 3:** Life after the story

-Raskolnikov’s guilt is slowly exposed, partly his own fault for being so boastful and partly the detective work of Porifry

- Has to come to terms with the fact that he is not extraordinary, if he was he would have committed the crime and gotten away with it.

-Hope that there is ‘life after death’ and life will go on after this crime

-Understands there is a difference between him and Sonya.

genius