

***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (Published by Bantam)**

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts IV

Summary

Rodya, an impoverished student in St. Petersburg, Russia, plans to murder and rob an old pawnbroker in order to relieve his debts and provide financial assistance to his family. After the murder, he is consumed with guilt and relentlessly pursued by the police inspector, Porfiry Petrovich. In the meantime, he meets and befriends, Marmeladov, a pathetic alcoholic whose daughter, Sonia, prostitutes herself to provide for her own family. Through Rodya and Sonia's mutual suffering and love, they eventually find redemption, forgiveness, and peace. Several subplots abound that make for a layered and complex narrative.

Connection to the Curriculum

A frequently listed work for the open-ended question on the Advanced Placement national examination, *Crime and Punishment* is an essential text in the world literature corpus. The novel is an expose of social conditions in nineteenth-century Russia, a satirical analysis of liberal and radical politics, and a religious call for redemption through suffering. As an intensely dramatic study of the nature of good and evil, it is commonly considered a quintessential Russian novel.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.4- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during and after reading a text.

1.4.5- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions, including how one part of the passage functions in relation to the whole passage or another part of the passage.

1.4.7- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects of texts.

1.4.11- The student analyzes and evaluates how an author's style and use of literary devices work together to achieve a purpose for writing the text.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the literary text.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in text.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This Russian classic contains violence (including a descriptive scene of a premeditated murder). Topics include alcohol use and prostitution. These issues are in the context of developing the theme of redemption in the main character and others.

AP Connections

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:
To be completed during future curriculum development activities