

**Crime and Punishment Major Work Review Sheet**  
**(The electronic version of this can be found on my website. Please complete electronically!)**

1. Compose two different theme statements for *Crime and Punishment*. Follow this format: Title, a genre by Author, is about abstract concept and reveals that assertion about the human condition. (For example, "Miss Brill," a short story by Katherine Mansfield is about loneliness and reveals that loneliness is a pitiable emotional state that may be avoided by refusing to acknowledge that one feels lonely, though such avoidance may also require one to create unrealistic fantasies about oneself.) Then, cite focused quotations from crucial scenes that illustrate each of your stated themes.

Theme Statement	3 Quotations	Commentary (How does each quotation support your theme?)
	(1) (2) (3)	(1) (2) (3)
	(1) (2) (3)	(1) (2) (3)

2. What is the significance of the full title, *Crime and Punishment*, and the beginning and ending of the play (analyzing the change or lack thereof that takes place in the work)?

Significance of Title	Evidence (Quotation)	Commentary
Significance of Beginning	Evidence (Quotation)	Commentary
Significance of Ending	Evidence (Quotation)	Commentary

3. What is the function of setting in *Crime and Punishment*? Consider the multiple aspects of setting (geography, time period, culture (research "Supermen theories"), religion, moral standards, politics, social/familial relationships, gender roles, and occupations) in your analysis.

Aspect	Function	Evidence	Commentary

4. What are the central conflicts (external and internal) around which *Crime and Punishment* centers? You may add additional internal or external conflicts.

Internal Conflict (Identify character.)	External Conflict	External Conflict
Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)
Commentary	Commentary	Commentary

5. Describe the novel's genre (tragedy, comedy, satire, etc.). How does its form relate to the work's meaning?

Genre	How does the type of work relate to its meaning?	Evidence (Quotation)	Commentary

6. Identify and explain the six most pivotal events (one must be the climax of the novel) that affect the development of plot and character, and explain their impact.

Details of Event	Commentary
1.	
2.	
3.	
4. ( <i>Climax</i> )	
5.	
6.	

7. In analyzing the characters and their roles, complete the following tasks:

(a) Provide at least two precise and vivid adjectives to describe each character to reveal complex or static nature.

(b) Identify each of the characters by their function: for example, narrator, protagonist, antagonist, archetype, foil, confidant, or mentor.

(c) How do these characters and the roles they play impact the plot and meaning?

(d) Support your assertions about the characters with two examples/quotations of their actions or statements and explain this evidence.

Raskolnikov	Razumihin	Sonia
adjectives	adjectives	adjectives
function	function	function
impact	impact	impact
Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)
Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)
Porfiry Petrovich	Svidrigailov	Marmeladov
adjectives	adjectives	adjectives
function	function	function
impact	impact	impact
Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)
Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)	Evidence (Quotation)

8. Identify at least 2 symbols and 2 Biblical allusions from the text. Explain their significance and connection to the plot and theme.

Symbol #1 with Textual Evidence	How does the symbol relate to the meaning of the novel?	Symbol #1 with Textual Evidence	How does the symbol relate to the meaning of the novel?
Allusion #1 with Textual Evidence	How does the allusion relate to the meaning of the novel?	Allusion #2 with Textual Evidence	How does the allusion relate to the meaning of the novel?

9. Choose two of the following prompts. For each of the prompts you choose, write a thesis statement and two topic sentences. For each topic sentence, provide two specific details from the novel for evidence (four specific details for each prompt). Remember, a topic sentence is an assertion, related to the thesis, which must be proven with evidence. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY.
- In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.” Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.
  - The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, “No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time.” From a novel or play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.
  - 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—  
Novelist and playwrights have often seen madness with a “discerning Eye.” Select a novel or a 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.
  - Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole.
  - According to critic Northrop Frye, “Tragic heroes are so much the highest points in their human landscape that they seem the inevitable conductors of the power about them, great trees more likely to be struck by lightning than a clump of grass. Conductors may of course be instruments as well as victims of the divine lightning.” Select a novel or play in which a tragic figure functions as an instrument of the suffering of others. Then, write an essay in which you explain how the suffering brought upon others by that tragic figure contributes to the tragic vision of the work as a whole.
  - Often in literature a character’s success in achieving goals depends on keeping a secret and divulging it only at the right moment, if at all. Choose a novel or play of literary merit that requires a character to keep a secret. In a well-organized essay, briefly explain the necessity for secrecy and how the character’s choice to reveal or keep the secret affects the plot and contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Thesis	Topic Sentence 1	Evidence for TS 1	Topic Sentence 2	Evidence for TS 2
		(1)		(1)
		(2)		(2)
		(1)		(1)
		(2)		(2)