

Class 12 Literature Main Lesson: *Crime & Punishment*  
Lesson 4: Monday, May 10 – Student Work & Instructions

1. If you have not yet, finish all work for Days 1-3 and send me a photo or some documentation. **All work for this week can be submitted on Friday.**
2. Biography recap: I read some of your biographies - there was some **really** good biographical work done! I learned a few new things about Dostoevsky.

A few things I would like to stress about his life:

> His arrest – he was arrested and sentenced to death merely for being in the company of people suspected of talking intellectually about matters that *might* be subversive (undermining) to the government – they also had an unregistered **printing press** – the government wanted strict control of who had access to print and distribute information.

> His ‘execution’ – one cannot understand the trauma of fully believing you are going to die, in the manner that he did. The inhumanity of this act is staggering... one of his fellow prisoners went completely insane from the experience, while it triggered epilepsy and flashbacks for Dostoevsky for the rest of his life.

> His time in prison influenced him profoundly – he spent 4+ years in a labour camp in Siberia with fellow prisoners ranging from people like himself – artists and thinkers – to hardened murderers. This time led him to think deeply on the nature and psychology of the people around him, but also on the whole purpose of **punishment**. He began to ask: What is the best way to ‘deal with’ people who do not belong in society? To what extent should rehabilitation and transformation be externally imposed (to imprison people and limit their freedom) or an internal transformation (how can internal suffering lead to transformation and rehabilitation)?

3. Thinking questions: **Consider your own relationship to ‘the law’**

- Think of a time you have knowingly broken the law, or even disobeyed a law – whether it be society’s law, your parents’ law, or your teacher or school’s law:

> What happened? What were the conditions that led you to believe it was ‘right’ for you to make this decision?

> Thinking back now: was your decision the right one? Why/why not?

- To what extent do you obey the law? – *constantly – as society tells you you should? Mostly? When it suits you? Rarely?*

- Are there any laws you do not agree with? *What do you do about this? What is your imperative as a free-willed human being – to follow for the good of society? To challenge, for the good of society? If so, **how** will you challenge these laws? Does just ‘breaking’ them challenge them?*

- To what extent should people challenge laws? What would happen if everyone picked

and chose the laws they followed? Or is challenging different to breaking?

- Think about the role of law and order in the current world climate... how might law and order have helped Australia to deal with the current Covid crisis?

Or do you feel (like many in America) that your civil liberties – your freedoms – have been taken away ‘unfairly’ by the law? Should the law/state have the power to enforce restrictions on freedoms in times of emergency? What then makes something a valid emergency?

- As you grow older the consequences for breaking laws becomes more severe, as you have more to lose. Fear then becomes a key factor in influencing how people behave. Fear of punishment.

### **How will you lead your life in accordance with the law?**

4. This week we are going to spend a bit of time on Part 1 (more than we will spend on the other parts).

We will read parts of the book to get a sense for the language and style of the narration and to get some deeper insights into **Raskolnikov** than the chapter summaries may give.

Your Task: Download the PDF of Crime & Punishment (available on the website).

Read the Opening Chapter – starts at page 7 (you can choose to stop when he enters the Tavern – near the top of page 17, if you wish).

**Note: the pages are quite small and do not take long to read.**

If you would rather listen than read – there are many audiobooks available online – try YouTube.

As you read, take notes (either written or mental) on the following:

- How is the setting portrayed (think about the season/weather, his living quarters and the streets of St. Petersburg (*his* environmental factors).
  - How is Raskolnikov described physically?
  - How would you describe his thoughts and thought processes?
  - How would *you* describe him?
  - What seems to be on his mind? What do you think he might be *thinking* about doing?
  - How would you describe the old pawn-broker.
5. Open your Main Lesson book – leave the front page (you could write Crime & Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky – **but leave enough room for an illustration from the book for later**)

Write “CONTENTS” on page 2.

Write “Chapter 1 Reflections” on page 3 – ready for tomorrow.

Tomorrow’s task will be to reflect on these questions and to do an illustration of Raskolnikov with a quote underneath from Chapter 1 – all on the same page.

If you want to get a head-start – you could start drawing or sketching Raskolnikov – **but make sure you have chosen a particular quote from the text to give context to the illustration.**

How much of the page your sketch takes up is up to you. You place it in the middle, or side of the page, and then do the writing around it.