

Welcome to the World of Feodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment!* Summer Reading for GT10 Students

Welcome to GT 10! This class is designed for students who have a true passion for literature. We will explore a variety of texts from different genres, time periods, and cultures. You will begin your journey in literature this summer in order to best prepare for critical analysis and writing. We will be using the Whole Book method of reading, discussing and analyzing this book. This means that we will read the entire book before discussing and analyzing it.

The Book:

1. This novel is 465 pages long (burgundy, soft-bound version). There are 6 Parts and 2 Epilogues. All must be read.
2. Check out page 466. It has the names of the main characters. Most people are confused by the names and the use of full names, last names, nicknames. This page is helpful because it has most of the name variations and provides some name symbolism.
3. Check out pages 468-9. This is a map of the part of St. Petersburg wherein most of the story is set. I found it helpful because Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov walks a lot, and settings are sometimes symbolic.

How To: Read about 10 pages a night 4-5 nights each week. I like to read to the end of a chapter if possible, but you might have a different way to do this. That is fine. This is not a fast moving book, so pace yourself.

***Writing Requirements (3):**

1. **Name each book and each chapter in each book. Epilogues, too.** Pick names that will enable you to remember what happened in the books and chapters.
2. **Take notes.** You may use a notebook or an enotebook. I prefer sticky notes. You will be able to use the notes for assignments in our studies of this book. Plus, it is easier to review the material through notes than to reread the book.

Categories for Note taking:

- a. Raskolnikov's mental deterioration: causes and effects
 - Character growth/ development (not limited to Raskolnikov)
 - Characters' interactions and relationships
 - Point of view and perspectives
 - Philosophical Concepts:
 1. Nature of crime
 2. Types and effectiveness of punishments

- 3. Extraordinary man
- 4. Existentialism
- Connection to the real world- crime/punishment
- Author's style, including but not limited to how he creates suspense
- Symbolism
- Themes (topics and statements)

3. End Product: Choose 1 of the following products. Use your notes to help you:

- a. An Analytical Dialectical Journal: **20** typed entries in chronological order and spread throughout the book. Note the book, chapter and page numbers.

Sample Dialectical Journal from *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok:

Chapter 1: Passage / Page	Response
<p>"'Only two runs,' Mr. Galanter said, smashing his right fist into his left hand. 'And they hit us with all they had. Now we give them our heavy artillery. Now we barrage them!' . . . 'Fire away'" (26)</p>	<p>This quote picks up on the coach's use a war <u>motif</u> during a high school baseball game at the end of WWII as he and the author's use <u>fighting diction</u>: "smashing," "fist," "hit," "artillery," "barrage." At first this seems to be a mere quirk in the coach's speech patterns, but upon closer inspection, it's apparent that this little high school ball game has indeed become a <u>metaphor</u> for a battle, a conflict of competing Jewish ideologies -- complete with jingoism and hatred. Potok also employs <u>situational irony</u> in that Mr. Galanter is not a soldier in the "real" war but coaches a battle in which his students are his soldiers, fighting the enemy baseball team.</p>

- b. A Letter in the Character's Voice

The letter should be typed, double-space, Times New Roman 12 font.
Suggested length: 3- 4 pages

- c. A Youtube clip of any of the above Not Taking Categories - 2 minutes.

Last Note: This is an interesting character and philosophical study. Many people enjoy the discussions, explorations of the book after reading it, so even if you do not care for the book, I think you will get a lot out of participating in the analysis. But you have to read in order to be able to do this effectively. There is a lot to think about with this book!

Last, Last Note: Let the story unfold. The beginning will raise questions. Have patience and read on.