

AP English 12 Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
2011-2012

Dear AP English 12 Students:

I am looking forward to teaching you next school year. The summer reading assignment is designed to begin your advanced study of literature. All AP English 12 students must read and complete the study guide for the following two novels: *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoyevsky and *Madame Bovary* by Flaubert. Copies of the study guide will be available in room L-10 and it will be posted on the WBHS website. Write neatly, thoroughly using your own paper. Responses to the study guide questions are due on the first day of class. I have a limited number of copies of each novel that you can check out for the summer.

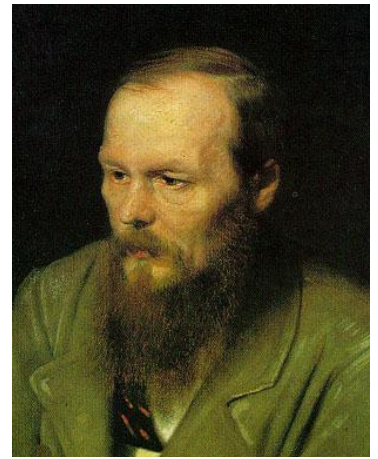
In addition, although it is not required I highly recommend that you read the following course selections this summer: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Invisible Man* (by Ellison), and *As I Lay Dying*. I have a limited number of novels and they will be distributed by request. If you have any questions you may contact me at joan.cochran@cpschools.com or joancochran@cox.net.

Your teacher,
Mrs. Joan A. Cochran

Crime and Punishment

Study Guide Questions

R = Raskolnikov



Part I

Chapter 1

1. Give a detailed account of Raskolnikov's appearance and physical condition.
2. What evidence implies that R is suffering from some type of psychological condition?
3. Describe Alyona Ivanovna's appearance and profession.
4. What is Raskolnikov's supposed business with Alyona? Does any evidence exist that R is visiting Alyona for ulterior motives?
5. Give an example from the text that demonstrates Raskolnikov's unpredictable and volatile temperament.

Chapter 2

1. What is the initial impression of Marmeladov's appearance and demeanor on R?
2. What are some common traits that Marmeladov and R share, and how do these traits help form a bond between the two men? How does the introduction of Marmeladov affect R?
3. Describe Sonia and her relationship to Marmeladov and Katerina Ivanovna. What makes Katerina pressure Sonia into prostitution?
4. Dostoyevsky was a follower of Christianity, and he often incorporated his religious beliefs into his writing. For example, the thirty rubles Sonia earns during her first night as a prostitute alludes to a Biblical story about thirty pieces of silver Judas receives for betraying Jesus. Give an example of another reference to Christianity found within this chapter.
5. Briefly describe Katerina Ivanovna. How does she treat Marmeladov when he returns home with R, and why? Explain Marmeladov's reaction to her treatment.
6. Cite an incident from the story that proves R is capable of feeling compassion for another person's suffering.
7. R exhibits signs of internal disturbance by showing compassion for humanity one moment and plotting a murder the next. Explain how Raskolnikov's thoughts, upon leaving Marmeladov's apartment, display his inner conflict.

Chapter 3

1. The color yellow reoccurs as a description throughout the text, suggesting that it may have significance. For example, Sonia is required to attain a yellow card in order to become a prostitute. Read the excerpt describing Raskolnikov's room, and discuss your interpretation of what the color yellow might represent.
2. What evidence exists that R is systematically becoming isolated from society? Explain whether this isolation is intentional or unintentional, and give reasons to support your answer.
3. How does R feel about receiving a letter from his mother? What does his reaction to the letter suggest to the reader about his feelings for his family?
4. Describe the incident that occurs between Dounia and the Svidrigailov family. What are three traits that this situation reveals about Dounia's character?

5. In the second part of her letter to R, Pulcheria writes about Dounia's forthcoming marriage to Pyotr Petrovitch Luzhin. Briefly describe Luzhin and explain why he is not a suitable husband for Dounia.
6. Why does Dounia agree to marry Luzhin?
7. How are Sonia and Dounia similar?
8. Pulcheria writes, "Dounia and I can travel quite comfortably third class. So that I may very likely be able to send you not twenty-five but thirty rubles." How does Pulcheria imply that Sonia's betrothal is another sacrifice being made for his benefit?
9. How does Pulcheria's letter affect R, and why does he react the way he does?

Chapter 4

1. In a communist economy, ownership of property and business is shared by the community as a whole rather than by private individuals. The hope of such a system is to eradicate any and all social inequality. Cite instances of social injustice from this chapter which would indicate why communism became popular in Russia.
2. Why does R intervene between the young drunk girl and the "fat dandy" on the boulevard?
3. R, in an effort to protect the girl from danger, enlists the aid of a policeman. Suddenly, without any warning, R changes his mind about helping the girl and yells to the officer, "Let them be! What is it to do with you?" Explain Raskolnikov's erratic behavior.
4. Describe Razumihin and his relationship with R. Why does R spontaneously decide to visit Razumihin?

Chapter 5

1. Dostoyevsky discusses dreams in the following passage:

In a morbid condition of the brain, dreams often have a singular actuality, vividness and an extraordinary semblance of reality. At times monstrous images are created, but the setting and the whole picture are so truthlike and filled with details so delicate, so unexpectedly, but so artistically consistent, that the dreamer, were he like an artist like Pushkin or Turgenev even, could never have invented them in the waking state. Such sick dreams always remain long in the memory and make a powerful impression on the overwrought and deranged nervous system.

Discuss the "powerful impression" Raskolnikov's dream about the mare makes on him. What is the source of this dream?

2. R is disturbed by his dream and says:

"I knew that I could never bring myself to do it, so what have I been torturing myself for till now? Yesterday, yesterday, when I went to make that experiment, yesterday I realized completely that I could never bear to do it."

Why does R abandon his plan to murder Alyona, and if he has forsaken the plan, why does the thought continue to plague him? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

3. Raskolnikov's dream is significant because it reveals his tendency towards violence, but this is not the only connection that can be made. In what way is the dream a metaphor for the lifestyle of young women, such as Sonia, who are forced to live with poverty and alcoholism?
4. What chance meeting in the Hay Market changes Raskolnikov's life forever, and how?

Chapter 6

1. R recalls overhearing two students in a tavern discuss Alyona, the old pawnbroker. Why do the students believe killing Alyona would be doing a "service [to] humanity"?
2. Cite incidents from the chapter to support the following statement: R is having trouble distinguishing between dreams and reality.
3. What is the "pledge" that R intends to give Alyona? How does he plan to conceal his axe?
4. Why does R believe that most criminals leave "obvious traces" so that they are eventually arrested for their crimes? How does he plan to avoid the same fate?
5. R acts superstitious by believing certain events and circumstances occur to help him carry out his plan. Cite an incident in this chapter that R interprets as a "sign" that he should carry out his plan.

Chapter 7

1. Find a passage in the story illustrating Raskolnikov's internal struggle after he murders Alyona.
2. What does R do when he hears the men coming to Alyona's door, and how is his action ironic?
3. Preceding the murder, R felt certain that his clear conscience and cool demeanor would keep him from leaving obvious traces of his crime. Discuss how R displays reason while he is in Alyona's apartment. Cite incidents from the chapter to support your answer.
4. What evidence does R leave behind which may indicate to the police that the crime was premeditated?

Part II

Chapter 1

1. R awakens just before dawn the night of the murders and suddenly remembers everything. List four steps R takes to conceal evidence of his involvement in the murders.
2. How does Raskolnikov's behavior the morning after the murder suggest that he is inadvertently trying to force knowledge of the crime into his sub consciousness?
3. How does R react when he receives a summons to the police office?
4. Briefly identify Alexandr Grigorievitch Zametov, Ilya Petrovitch, and Nikodim Fomitch. Include a physical description of each character, the position he holds, and a brief summary of his character traits.
5. R relaxes when he realizes the police are only interested in his debt, so he begins to explain his history with the landlady. Explain the officers' reactions to Raskolnikov's story. What incident occurs which makes the officers take particular interest in R?

Chapter 2

1. Where does R decide to hide the stolen property?
2. R hides the stolen purse without checking to see how much money it contains. When he realizes what he has done, he asks:

"How is it I did not even glance into the purse and don't know what I had there, for which I have undergone these agonies, and have deliberately undertaken this base, filthy, degrading business?"

How does R answer his question?

3. Why does R decide to visit Razumihin? How does R behave with his friend, and what is Razumihin's reaction?
4. One theme in *Crime and Punishment* is the importance of Christian values in helping a person to rehabilitate. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating that R is not only isolated from his old friends, but he is also alienated from the church.

Chapter 3

1. Briefly describe Raskolnikov's landlady, Pashenka. What other relationship have Pashenka and R shared in the past other than tenant and landlady?
2. How does Razumihin aid R by intervening with Pashenka?
3. What does R say about the murders while he is delirious, and what does Razumihin think about R's ravings?
4. Where does Razumihin get the money he uses to purchase new clothing for R?

Chapter 4

1. Give a description of Zossimov, and explain why he comes to see R.
2. Why does Razumihin believe the painter, who is arrested for the pawnbroker's murder, is innocent?
3. How does Razumihin criticize the legal system for the method in which Nikolay is accused and held accountable for the murder?

Chapter 5

1. Give a description of Pyotr Petrovitch Luzhin, and explain why he comes to visit R.
2. What economic views does Luzhin discuss which support the Russian proverb, "Catch several hares and you won't catch one"?
3. Why does Razumihin believe the pawnbroker's killer must be an inexperienced criminal?
4. How does R insult Luzhin so that Luzhin angrily leaves the room?

Chapter 6

1. What provokes R to suddenly dress in his new clothes and leave the apartment while he is still ill?
2. Explain how the following passage explains a change in Raskolnikov's attitude:

"Where is it I've read that someone condemned to death says or thinks "if he had to remain standing on a square yard of space all his life, a thousand years, eternity, it were better to live so than to die at once! Only to live, to live and live!"

3. R and Zametov discuss the murder in a highly dramatic scene. How does R frighten Zametov and raise his suspicion during this conversation?
4. R meets Razumihin upon leaving the Palais de Cristal, and Razumihin is furious with R. Explain why Razumihin is angry, and give Raskolnikov's reaction.
5. R refuses Razumihin's invitation to join him for a party at Potchinkov's house. How does Razumihin react to Raskolnikov's rude refusal?
6. Why does R return to the scene of the murders? Once at the house, how does he behave in such a way as to draw attention to himself?

Chapter 7

1. How do Katerina Ivanovna and Sonia react to Marmeladov's death?
2. Why does R offer to pay for Marmeladov's funeral?
3. Why does R ask young Polenka, Marmeladov's daughter, to do at the end of the chapter?
4. After leaving Marmeladov's home, R undergoes a change in his outlook on life. Give an example that reflects his attitude change. Create a theme for this story based on this change of viewpoint.
5. Why does R faint when he returns to his apartment?

Part III

Chapter 1

1. What does R say to Dounia about her forthcoming marriage to Luzhin?
2. How does Razumihin convince Dounia and Pulcheria to leave Raskolnikov's room after they meet R and see that he is ill?
3. What evidence is there in this chapter that Razumihin is falling in love with Dounia?
4. Briefly describe Dounia and Pulcheria, and explain why the descriptions of the women, particularly Dounia, are significant to the story.
5. Why does Zossimov tell Pulcheria about her son's illness?

Chapter 2

1. Find a passage in this chapter that illustrates Razumihin's recognition of Raskolnikov's dual personality.
2. Why does Pulcheria admit to rejoicing at the death of the landlady's daughter?
3. In a letter to Pulcheria, how does Luzhin falsely slander R? Why does Luzhin lie about R?
4. Luzhin announces in his letter that he plans to visit Dounia and Pulcheria the following evening, but he does not want Raskolnikov to be present. Why does Dounia disregard Luzhin's request and insist that her brother be present at the meeting?

Chapter 3

1. One theme of this novel pertains to how the power of forgiveness can lead to salvation and rebirth. Cite two instances of reconciliation in this chapter.
2. What reason does R give for his engagement to the landlady's invalid daughter?
3. Raskolnikov's behavior and comments sometimes offer hints to the crime he has committed. Give an example from the conversation with Pulcheria and Dounia when R reveals that he is hiding something from the others.
4. Describe Raskolnikov's interpretation of the passage from the letter when Luzhin writes:

"I have the honour to inform you, in anticipation, that if, in spite of my request, I meet Rodion Romanovitch, I shall be compelled to withdraw immediately and then you have only yourself to blame."

Chapter 4

1. Why does Sonia come to Raskolnikov's room, and what surprises her during the visit?
2. Briefly describe Sonia's appearance and mannerisms.

3. Explain the interaction between Pulcheria, Dounia, and Sonia. How do the women react to each other, and why?
4. Who follows Sonia back to her room?
5. For what reason does R ask Razumihin to arrange a meeting with Porfiry? Why is Razumihin delighted with this request?
6. How does Razumihin describe Porfiry's character?
7. R manipulates Razumihin for his advantage. How does R reinforce his innocence to Razumihin during their conversation on the way to Porfiry's house? Before arriving at the house, why does R begin teasing Razumihin?

Chapter 5

1. Briefly describe Porfiry. How does Porfiry imply that he believes R is involved in the murders?
2. Explain the socialist view of crime. Why does Razumihin disagree with this viewpoint? What is Porfiry's outlook on the nature of crime?
3. Porfiry discusses Raskolnikov's article about "the psychology about a criminal before and after the crime." What is the thesis of Raskolnikov's essay?
4. Explain Raskolnikov's differentiation between "ordinary" and "extraordinary" men. How does R reply when Porfiry asks him whether he believes he is an extraordinary man for writing an article about a new idea about crime?
5. What part of Raskolnikov's article horrifies and concerns Porfiry and Razumihin? When Porfiry asks R how to deal with ordinary men who think they are extraordinary and commit crimes, how does R reply?
6. In what way does Porfiry try to trick R into revealing his guilt in the pawnbroker's murder?

Chapter 6

1. How does R explain the nature of conversation with Porfiry to Razumihin? What is Razumihin's reaction?
2. Describe the man whom R encounters outside his home including his behavior and the accusation he makes. How does R react to the confrontation?
3. R states, "I didn't kill a human being, but a principle!" What is the principle that R wants to kill?
4. Briefly describe Svidrigailov. Give one possible explanation as to why he visits R.

Part IV

Chapter 1

1. List three qualities that R and Svidrigailov share.
2. What does Svidrigailov want from R?
3. Svidrigailov talks about taking a journey, but he is vague about the details of this journey. Explain what the following excerpt implies about the possible nature of Svidrigailov's journey:

"A journey? Oh, yes. I did speak of a journey. Well, that's a wide subject. ... If only you knew what you are asking," he added, and gave a sudden, loud, short laugh.

4. Svidrigailov asks R, "The question is, am I a monster, or am I myself a victim?" Cite incidents from the chapter to support Svidrigailov in each respect - as a monster and a victim.

Chapter 2

1. Explain Raskolnikov's reaction to his encounter with Svidrigailov.
2. Why does Dounia break her engagement with Luzhin?
3. What good news does R give Dounia concerning Marfa Petrovna? Do you think this good news has any influence on Dounia's decision to break her engagement to Luzhin?
4. What complaints does Luzhin make after Dounia breaks off the engagement and asks him to leave? How do the others react to the accusatory remarks?
5. Who does Luzhin blame for his broken engagement?

Chapter 3

1. After the embarrassing scene with Dounia and her termination of their engagement, why is Luzhin still determined to marry her?
2. How do Pulcheria and Dounia feel about Svidrigailov's offer to give Dounia 10,000 rubles?
3. What is the business venture Razumihin proposes to Dounia, Pulcheria, and R?
4. Cite information from the text that displays Raskolnikov's reason for leaving his family. What is the likely reason that he chooses to leave when he does?

Chapter 4

1. How does Sonia feel about Katerina Ivanovna?
2. What does R consider to be Sonia's worst sin?
3. Where does Sonia find the strength to endure her miserable life?
4. R insists on hearing Sonia read a passage from the Bible about the resurrection of Lazarus. How does the biblical story relate to R?
5. Before he leaves her room, R tells Sonia, "If I come tomorrow, I'll tell you who killed Lizaveta. Good-bye." How does Sonia react to Raskolnikov's departure?
6. Who is listening to Sonia and Raskolnikov's conversation through the wall in the next room? In what way might this person cause trouble for R?

Chapter 5

1. Porfiry discusses with R the techniques he uses in catching a criminal, by either trapping the criminal in a lie or tricking the criminal into saying or doing something incriminating. Briefly cite two interrogation techniques that Porfiry mentions, and, for each technique, discuss how effective it is on R.
2. How does Porfiry define "mathematical proof"?
3. What is Raskolnikov's response to Porfiry's comments about criminals and their tendency to give themselves away to the police?
4. What does Porfiry hope to accomplish by provoking R about having a person locked behind the door? How does R react?

Chapter 6

1. Who is Nikolay, and why does he confess to murdering the pawnbroker? What is Porfiry's reaction to Nikolay's confession, and why is it ironic?
2. Give an example of how Porfiry, upon Raskolnikov's departure from his office, implies that he thinks R is guilty of the murders.
3. Why does the stranger, who earlier accused R of murder, come to Raskolnikov's room?

Part V

Chapter 1

1. The reader is reminded that Luzhin is staying in the same building as Marmeladov's widow and children. Describe Andrey Semyonovitch Lebeziatnikov's relationship to Luzhin. How do the men feel about each other?
2. Why does Luzhin purposely count his money in front of Lebeziatnikov?
3. List three Nihilist ideas Lebeziatnikov discusses with Luzhin. Does Dostoyevsky seem to be in favor of these radical ideas or poking fun at them?
4. Why does Luzhin supposedly call Sonia into his room? What is on the table near Sonia during the interview?
5. For what reason does Luzhin ask Lebeziatnikov to remain in the room while he is talking to Sonia?
6. In the following excerpt, Lebeziatnikov praises Luzhin. What does Lebeziatnikov see that gives him so much pleasure?

"I heard and saw everything," he said, laying stress on the last verb. "That is honorable, I mean to say, it's humane! You wanted to avoid gratitude, I saw! And although I cannot, I confess, in principle sympathize with private charity, for it not only fails to eradicate the evil but even promotes it, yet I must admit that I saw your action with pleasure - yes, yes, I like it."

Chapter 2

1. Why does Katerina Ivanovna decide to spend Raskolnikov's money on a funeral dinner for Marmeladov?
2. How does the landlady, Amalia Ivanovna, insult Katerina?
3. What does Katerina plan to do once she obtains her pension?

Chapter 3

1. Upon Luzhin's arrival, Katerina beseeches him, as her father's old acquaintance, to protect her from Amalia. Responding to Katerina's ranting, Luzhin states, "Your papa as you are well aware I had not the honor of knowing, and I do not intend to take part in your everlasting squabbles with Amalia Ivanovna." Why does Katerina claim that Luzhin knows her father?
2. What does Luzhin accuse Sonia of stealing? How does Katerina, in her efforts to protect Sonia, manage to make the situation worse?
3. How does Lebeziatnikov prove that Luzhin is falsely accusing Sonia?
4. Lebeziatnikov knows that Luzhin put the note in Sonia's pocket, but he does not understand Luzhin's reasons for wanting Sonia to look like a thief. How does R explain Luzhin's motivation?
5. How does Luzhin respond when R exposes his plan? What does his reaction reveal about his personality?

Chapter 4

1. Cite evidence from the text that supports why R chooses to confess to Sonia.
2. R tries to explain to Sonia why he committed the murders, but Sonia is unable to follow Raskolnikov's complex explanation. Why does she think he murdered the pawnbroker and her sister?
3. What does Sonia think R must do to redeem his life?
4. Why does R refuse to take Sonia's cross?

Chapter 5

1. What causes Katerina to go insane, and what does she do that makes Lebeziatnikov seek out Sonia?
2. According to Lebeziatnikov, what is the new method being studied in Paris for curing the insane? How would this method work if used on R?
3. R does not confess his crimes to Dounia, but he does confess to Sonia. What are plausible reasons for R refraining from telling his sister?
4. Why does Svidrigailov offer to pay for Katerina's funeral? What does he offer to do for the young orphans?
5. What disturbing information does Svidrigailov reveal to R?

Part VI

Chapter 1

1. R meets Svidrigailov outside Sonia's room before Katerina's funeral. R knows that he must come to terms with Svidrigailov about the murders, but he is not yet ready to talk to him. Svidrigailov senses Raskolnikov's confused state of mind and says:

"But how is it, Rodion Romanovitch; you don't seem yourself? You look and you listen, but you don't seem to understand. Cheer up! We'll talk things over; I am only sorry, I've so much to do of my own business and other people's. Ah, Rodion Romanovitch," he added suddenly, "What all men need is fresh air, fresh air more than anything!"

What is Svidrigailov likely referring to when he states that all men need "fresh air"?

2. Razumihin tells R that Dounia received a disturbing letter. Give two possible explanations for the source and purpose of the letter.

Chapter 2

1. Why does Porfiry visit R? What offer does he make?
2. How does Porfiry use psychology to explain why Nikolay, the painter, confesses to a crime he did not commit?
3. Cite instances from this chapter that display Porfiry's excellent detective skills.
4. What request does Porfiry make of R as he is leaving?
5. Give examples from the text that demonstrate how Porfiry feels about R.

Chapter 3

1. In the following passage, R compares himself and Svidrigailov:

But what could they have in common? Their very evil-doing could not be of the same kind. The man, moreover, was very unpleasant, evidently depraved, undoubtedly cunning and deceitful, possibly malignant. Such stories were told about him. It is true he was befriending Katerina Ivanovna's children, but who could tell with what motive and what it meant? The man always had some design, some project.

What are the similarities of R and Svidrigailov's "evil-doing" ways? What are the differences?

2. What is Svidrigailov's major vice? What is he afraid of?

Chapter 4

1. What are the details of the unwritten contract Svidrigailov has with his wife?
2. R suspects that Svidrigailov has evil designs for Dounia. What does Svidrigailov say to dispel Raskolnikov's suspicions? Why does R decide to follow Svidrigailov?

Chapter 5

1. How does Svidrigailov lure Dounia to his room?
2. What did Svidrigailov write in his letter that convinced Dounia to meet with him?
3. Svidrigailov outlines Raskolnikov's reasons for committing the murders to Dounia. Briefly summarize his explanation about Raskolnikov's motivations.
4. What is Dounia's reaction to Svidrigailov's comments about Raskolnikov's crime?
5. What does Svidrigailov offer to do in order to help R?
6. Read the following passage and, based on the events from this chapter, explain what Svidrigailov most likely plans to do with the revolver.

The revolver which Dounia had flung away lay near the door and suddenly caught his eye. He picked it up and examined it. It was a little pocket three-barrel revolver of old-fashioned construction. There were still two charges and one capsule left in it. It could be fired again. He thought a little, put the revolver in his pocket, took his hat and went out.

Chapter 6

1. What two choices does Svidrigailov see for R future?
2. Why does Svidrigailov give Sonia three thousand rubles? What advice does he give to Sonia before he departs?
3. Briefly describe Svidrigailov's dreams. What does he learn about himself from these dreams?
4. Why does he decide to kill himself at the end of this chapter?
5. Svidrigailov makes several references to America. In fact, his final words are, "When you are asked, you just say he was going to America." Based on this reference, what is Dostoyevsky's opinion of America?

Chapter 7

1. In his final days, Svidrigailov visits his fiancé and has a final interview with Dounia. In Raskolnikov's final hours of freedom, he visits his mother and sister. Based on these meetings with the important women in their lives, why does Svidrigailov commit suicide but R does not?
2. Find evidence in this chapter that R and, through him, Dostoyevsky, disagree with the idea that one must suffer in order to find salvation.

Chapter 8

1. Why does R want Sonia's cross before he confesses his crimes?
2. What is the significance of R bowing down twice in the Hay Market and kissing the ground? What does he notice the second time he kneels, and how does he react?
3. For what reason does R decide not to turn himself in to Porfiry?
4. While talking to the Explosive Lieutenant, R learns that Svidrigailov is dead and, therefore, is no longer a danger to him. Why does he decide to confess anyway?

Epilogue

Chapter 1

1. Why does the court conclude that R must have been mentally deranged when he committed the murders?
2. During his confession to the court, R claims that he committed the murders because he was miserably poor and wanted the money to provide for himself. What would be his motive for omitting his theory that extraordinary men have the right to overstep the boundaries of the law? Is he fully repentant?
3. What evidence exists that Raskolnikov's personality, mood, and character have not changed since he confessed his crimes and went to prison?
4. Describe Pulcheria's state of mind throughout Raskolnikov's trial and after he is sentenced to prison. What happens to Razumihin and Dounia?

Chapter 2

1. When he first goes to prison, why is R ashamed? How does he feel about his prison life?
2. In the following passage, R discusses repentance:

And if only fate would have sent him repentance - burning repentance that would have torn his heart and robbed him of sleep, that repentance, the awful agony of which brings visions of hanging or drowning! Oh, he would have been glad of it! Tears and agonies would at least have been life. But he did not repent of his crime.

Knowing that R does not repent his crime, how likely is it that he will continue to be a danger to society? What factor can help him want to find sincere repentance?

3. How does R come to realize that he loves Sonia?
4. State a theme for *Crime and Punishment* based on the following excerpt:

They [Sonia and R] wanted to speak, but could not; tears stood in their eyes. They were both pale and thin; but those sick pale faces were bright with the dawn of a new future, of a full resurrection into a new life. They were renewed by love; the heart of each held infinite sources of life for the heart of the other.

Madame Bovary

Study Guide Questions

Part 1

Chapter 1

1. What does Flaubert's detailed description of Charles tell you about his personality?

Chapter 2

2. Style - Note the effect of Flaubert's use of sentences of different lengths and sound patterns as he describes Charles' ride to Les Bertaux and his arrival there.

Chapters 3 and 4

3. Style - Note Flaubert's unusual coupling of ideas (juxtaposition). When Charles is excitedly falling in love with Emma, he "can only hear the pounding inside his head and ..."
Locate the rest of this sentence and determine if Flaubert is realistic or satiric. Discuss his description of the fiddler at the wedding.

Chapter 5

4. What is the significance of the word "uncut" in reference to Charles' medical books?

Chapter 6

5. The subject matter of the novels, which apparently affected Emma's values, provides one of the author's many listings. What does the list include? Does he approve of these books? Why or why not?

Chapter 7

6. Can you recognize the difference between Flaubert's genuine appreciation of nature and nature as fancied by the false romantics? Find an example of Flaubert writing seriously about nature.

Chapter 8

7. Discuss Emma's impressions at the ball at Vaubyssard, (an important tableau in the novel).

Chapter 9

8. How does Emma picture Paris? What difference in writing style can you discover between scenes of real places and those Emma imagines?

Part 2

Chapter 1

1. Draw a brief map of Yonville as Flaubert describes it in the first five paragraphs.
2. What appears to be the narrator's impression of the town? What words or phrases lead you to this assumption?
3. What would you suppose the lives of these townspeople to be like? Why?
4. What observations can you make on the attitudes of the people through the description of their church and marketplace?
5. What does the last sentence of paragraph twelve convey about the narrator's attitude toward the town?

Chapter 2

6. What is Flaubert's attitude toward the conversation between Emma and Leon? About what do they speak?

Chapter 3

7. How is Emma's attitude toward her child typical of her?

Chapter 4

8. Flaubert indicates Emma's psychological distress. What is happening to her?

Chapter 5

9. What roles does Emma affect in her renunciation of Leon?

Chapter 6

10. What is Flaubert's attitude toward Abbe Bouisien? What comments is he making on religion in this chapter?

Chapter 7

11. Characterize Rodolphe; what kind of man is he?

Chapter 8

12. This is the fourth tableau in the novel (also wedding, ball, and description of Yonville). How does Flaubert describe bourgeois society here? Note the device of the interrupted dialogue in the conversation of Emma and Rodolphe.

Chapter 9

13. What writing technique (style) does Flaubert use to create a feeling of excitement?

Chapter 10

14. How does Flaubert indicate the disintegration of Emma and Rodolphe's affair?

Chapter 11

15. Discuss the outcome of the operation. What possessed Charles to try it?

Chapter 12

16. How does Lhereaux begin to figure in the plot? When does the reader first realize Rodolphe's intentions?

Chapter 13

17. What is happening to Emma?

Chapter 14

18. What does Emma now turn to? How sincere is she? How do you know?

Chapter 15

19. Describe their trip to the opera. Whom do they meet?

Part 3

Chapter 1

1. At this point, how sophisticated is Leon?

Chapter 2

2. What danger is mentioned which will later figure in the plot?

Chapter 3

3. What is the significance of the line, "Come on, tell us a story, Adolphe ..."?

Chapter 4

4. What is Emma's excuse for her trips to the city of Rouen?

Chapter 5

5. Describe the decor of the hotel room.

Chapter 6

6. What pressure does Emma now find herself under?

Chapter 7

7. What is the significance of the blind man? How does Emma try to obtain money?

Chapter 8

8. Describe what happens to Emma. How does Charles react?

9. Discuss the actions of Homais and the priest.

Chapter 9

10. Ironically, Charles now begins to act like a romantic. What does he do?

Chapter 10

11. How is Homais' ambition finally satisfied?

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the personality of Charles Bovary. Why did Emma marry him? Does he contribute to her downfall? Is he a sympathetic character?
2. Discuss the fantasies that motivate Emma and cause her unhappiness. In what way are they unrealistic? Does the kind of problem that Emma suffered from still exist today, and if so, how do the media cater to the desires of people like her?
3. Analyze the structure of Madame Bovary as a novel, pointing out the major scenes and characters.
4. What is the narrator's view of Emma? Of Charles? Of Homais?
5. Why does Flaubert begin and end his story with Charles?
6. Explain Flaubert's use of irony and contrast (juxtaposition) in the novel.
7. Using specific illustrations from the novel, discuss Flaubert's attitude toward the middle class (the bourgeoisie).
8. What does the term "realistic" mean in a literary sense? How does Madame Bovary a realistic novel?
9. Discuss Flaubert's use of symbolism, citing specifics.
10. Compare Emma's relationships with Charles, Rodolphe, and Leon in terms of her attitude toward them, the types of men they are, and her ability to judge their characters.
11. Discuss the depiction of medicine in the novel.
12. Is Madame Bovary a tragedy? Explain.