

Worksheet 2. A Close Look at Raskolnikov's Divided Self (teacher version)

Raskolnikov's name is derived from a Russian word meaning "schism" or "division". A schism occurs when something unified—a religion, for example, or a country—breaks into two or more opposing parts.

Directions: Examine the instances below that reflect Raskolnikov's divided personality. In the first column, summarize the facts. Then, in the next two columns, describe the opposing sides of his personality. Use textual evidence in your answers.

The First Encounter with Marmeladov

Part 1, Chapter 2

Summarize the facts

Raskolnikov meets the down-and-out stranger in a bar and listens to his story; he accompanies Marmeladov home to an enraged wife and hungry children. Desperately poor as he is, Raskolnikov leaves behind money for the family and thinks especially about Sonia.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>At first, alone at the bar, Raskolnikov feels that he would like company.</p> <p>He listens to Marmeladov's long story and sees the drunken man safely home.</p> <p>On the way out, he leaves some of his meager money behind for the destitute family.</p>	<p>Approached by the stranger, he instinctively wants to be alone.</p> <p>He has no particular liking for the man.</p> <p>He thinks that leaving the money was stupid and nearly goes back to reclaim it.</p>
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The Young Intoxicated Woman on the Street

Part 1, Chapter 4

Summarize the facts

Raskolnikov sees the disheveled, drunken girl and is astonished. He also sees a man stalking her and nearly gets into a fight, but a policeman intervenes. Raskolnikov is determined that the man, whom he compares to Svidrigailov, will not get near the girl and even offers money for a cab to help get her home.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>He feels regret and compassion for the girl and wants to protect her from a sexual predator.</p>	<p>He thinks that her situation has nothing to do with him or the police officer and they should not get involved.</p>
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The Dream about the Peasant and the Horse

Part 1, Chapter 5

Summarize the facts

Raskolnikov dreams that he is a child with his father. In the dream he sees a drunk peasant, urged on by bystanders, abuse a horse to the extent that it drops dead. The young boy in the dream is filled with sorrow and even kisses the face of the dead animal before trying to attack the peasant. He awakens grateful that it was only a terrible dream.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>He regards cruelty and violence with abhorrence. The dream leaves him gasping and terrorized and leads him to decide not to carry out his plan.</p>	<p>He has been methodically planning the brutal murder of an old woman.</p>
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The Murder of the Old Pawnbroker and Her Sister

Part 1, Chapter 7

Summarize the facts

Raskolnikov hides an axe under his coat and goes to the apartment of the pawnbroker, whom he expects to find alone. He uses the weapon in a particularly brutal and bloody murder. When Lizaveta returns (an event he did not foresee) he kills her in a similarly brutal way. After a quick search for valuables and money, he tries to flee.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>In committing cold-blooded murder, he is determined and single-minded, with no feeling for the humanity of the two victims. He is not particularly distressed by the blood and gore, except for the desire not to be caught. He is crafty (and lucky) in hiding and making his escape.</p>	<p>Far from being cool and confident, he is frightened almost out of his mind and has great difficulty managing details.</p> <p>Afterward, he is disoriented and even becomes seriously ill and delirious.</p>
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Visiting Razumihin

Part 2, Chapter 2

Summarize the facts

Razumihin is a friend from the university—really, Raskolnikov’s only friend, and one he has not visited recently. An opportunity to earn some money translating from German into Russian arises.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>Raskolnikov wants to visit his friend, who is very glad to see him.</p>	<p>Once Raskolnikov arrives, he realizes that he really does not want to see anyone. He is irritable.</p>
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Marmeladov's Injury and Death

Part 2, Chapter 7

Summarize the facts

Marmeladov is critically injured when he is run over by a carriage. Raskolnikov recognizes the man and identifies him for the police. Marmeladov is carried to his apartment, and Raskolnikov goes along and tries to be helpful. He sees Sonia for the first time. When he departs, he leaves money for the family and has a conversation with Polenka, Sonia's half-sister.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>The incident demonstrates Raskolnikov's capacity for compassion and responsibility, even toward people he barely knows. His attitude toward Marmeladov's death has no similarity to his thoughts about the murder of the pawnbroker.</p>	<p>During this incident, his cynical side does not emerge. He even asks Polenka to pray for him, indicating that he knows he is in deep trouble and unable to save himself.</p>
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Relationship with Mother and Sister
Part 1, Chapter 3, and Part 3, Chapter 1

Summarize the facts

Raskolnikov's mother and sister send him money when they can. He is very happy to receive his mother's letter and deeply displeased with its contents, believing that the planned marriage to Luzhin is intended only for Raskolnikov's benefit. When he finds them in his miserable little apartment, he is agitated and only wants them to leave.

Raskolnikov Side 1

Raskolnikov Side 2

<p>Raskolnikov loves his mother and sister intensely. He will not allow Dounia to sacrifice her life for himself.</p>	<p>He is extremely uncomfortable in their presence and treats them with coldness, not love. He sends them away.</p>
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