

Guilt Debate Answer Key

Reflection Question Guidance

1. Most will argue no: putting anyone above the law leads to corruption; however, some may explore historical “extraordinary figures” (Napoleon, etc.) as Raskolnikov does.
2. His justifications collapse as his guilt consumes him, showing theory cannot erase moral responsibility.
3. Raskolnikov suffers intense **psychological torment**, moral collapse, and eventual confession/exile.
4. Dostoevsky contrasts **utilitarian reasoning** (“greater good”) with **moral conscience**, showing that conscience ultimately prevails.

Teacher Notes:

- Frame the debate as a safe, academic exercise: students argue positions, not personal beliefs.
- Emphasize how Dostoevsky uses Raskolnikov’s failure to critique radical logic that dismisses morality.
- Encourage students to draw connections to modern ethical dilemmas (e.g., ends vs. means debates in politics or science).