

Shadows of St. Petersburg Answer Key

Scene-to-Setting Chart (Sample Responses)

- *Raskolnikov wanders before the murder* → Sweltering heat, filthy streets, noise → Mirrors his feverish, restless, and agitated mind as he prepares for the crime.
- *Marmeladov's tavern encounter* → Crowded, smoky, suffocating → Reflects the despair, poverty, and moral decay of the city that weighs on both Marmeladov and Raskolnikov.
- *Sonia's small room* → Bare, poor, but filled with warmth → Symbolizes Sonia's purity and compassion despite hardship, offering Raskolnikov a moral refuge.
- *Raskolnikov's confession* → Cold, official spaces of the police station → Matches his final surrender to authority, mirroring his emotional numbness as he accepts punishment.

Reflection

- Strong answers may argue that the city acts as a mirror of Raskolnikov's inner world, showing how Dostoevsky uses external setting to make internal struggles visible. Others may note that St. Petersburg also punishes him by surrounding him with decay and despair, forcing him to confront human suffering.