

Crime, Punishment, Motives Answer Key

Possible Responses (student answers may vary, but these highlight key ideas):

Raskolnikov

- *View of Morality:* Initially justifies murder with a "superior man" theory.
- *Purpose Behind Actions:* Driven by pride and desperation, tests moral boundaries.
- *Role of Suffering:* Sees suffering as inevitable punishment and path to truth.
- *Influence of Love/Compassion:* Struggles, but eventually softened by Sonia's love.
- *Attitude Toward Redemption:* Moves from denial to seeking forgiveness and renewal.

Sonia

- *View of Morality:* Holds deep Christian faith and self-sacrifice.
- *Purpose Behind Actions:* Works as a prostitute to support her family.
- *Role of Suffering:* Accepts suffering as redemptive and meaningful.
- *Influence of Love/Compassion:* Guides Raskolnikov toward repentance with compassion.
- *Attitude Toward Redemption:* Believes salvation is possible for everyone.

Svidrigailov

- *View of Morality:* Cynical, manipulative, often indulgent without restraint.
- *Purpose Behind Actions:* Seeks pleasure, power, and control over others.
- *Role of Suffering:* Avoids or ignores suffering, becomes consumed by despair.
- *Influence of Love/Compassion:* Twisted affection for Dunya shows obsession, not love.
- *Attitude Toward Redemption:* Sees no possibility; ends in suicide.

Reflection Key Insight:

- A strong answer explains that Sonia's motivations embody Dostoevsky's ideal of faith and redemption, while Raskolnikov represents the struggle between pride and salvation, and Svidrigailov represents despair without redemption.