

Words that Weigh Answer Key

Quote 1:

- *Meaning:* Intelligence and sensitivity bring awareness of life's suffering.
- *Significance:* Foreshadows Raskolnikov's torment as both a thinker and a man with conscience.
- *Connection:* Shows Dostoevsky's theme that knowledge without humility leads to pain.

Quote 2:

- *Meaning:* Independence, even in error, feels more authentic than blind obedience.
- *Significance:* Reflects Raskolnikov's pride and belief in testing his theory of the "extraordinary man."
- *Connection:* Central to his justification of murder, but ultimately shown as destructive.

Quote 3:

- *Meaning:* Hope and faith can shine brightest in times of despair.
- *Significance:* Embodies Sonia's perspective of finding God through suffering.
- *Connection:* Contrasts with Raskolnikov's despair, pointing to redemption through faith.

Quote 4:

- *Meaning:* A guilty conscience itself punishes the sinner.
- *Significance:* Captures the novel's psychological focus on inner torment as punishment.
- *Connection:* Explains Raskolnikov's breakdown long before the court punishes him.