

Crime and Punishment

Fyodor Dostoevsky

What limit does Raskolnikov try to place on his idea that extraordinary people may break the law?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The extraordinary-man theory
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Part III, Chapter V
START	Ordinary men have to live in submission, have no right to transgress the law
END	But it does not follow from that that Newton had a right to murder people right and left and to steal every day in the market.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cp-01

THE MOVE

Separate a theoretical exception from unlimited permission

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Raskolnikov's extraordinary-man theory permits transgression only when a person's idea supposedly justifies breaking existing law. He tries to distinguish exceptional historical action from random criminal license, revealing the limit he needs in order to make the theory sound defensible.

MARK

Underline the rights Raskolnikov grants to 'extraordinary' people. Circle the examples or conditions he uses to limit those rights. Star the point where he insists the theory does not authorize murder 'right and left.'

NOTICE

- What separates an 'extraordinary' transgression from ordinary crime in Raskolnikov's theory?
- Who gets to decide whether the idea is important enough to justify breaking the law?
- Why is the limit difficult to enforce if the person breaking the law also judges his own exception?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What limit does Raskolnikov try to place on his idea that extraordinary people may break the law? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What limit does Raskolnikov try to place on his idea that extraordinary people may break the law? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Raskolnikov tries to limit the theory by saying transgression is justified only for genuinely extraordinary people pursuing ideas important enough to require breaking existing law, not as general permission to commit crimes at will.
EVIDENCE	Use the extraordinary-man exception, examples such as lawgivers, and his explicit denial of indiscriminate killing.
WATCH FOR	Do not accept the limit as workable without question. A strong answer can note the problem of who decides that a person is truly extraordinary.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What limit does Raskolnikov try to place on his idea that extraordinary people may break the law?

START ANCHOR	Ordinary men have to live in submission, have no right to transgress the law
END ANCHOR	But it does not follow from that that Newton had a right to murder people right and left and to steal every day in the market.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the rights Raskolnikov grants to 'extraordinary' people. Circle the examples or conditions he uses to limit those rights. Star the point where he insists the theory does not authorize murder 'right and left.'
2. NOTICE - What separates an 'extraordinary' transgression from ordinary crime in Raskolnikov's theory? Who gets to decide whether the idea is important enough to justify breaking the law? Why is the limit difficult to enforce if the person breaking the law also judges his own exception?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What limit does Raskolnikov try to place on his idea that extraordinary people may break the law?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.