

QUICK CARD: *THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV*



<i>Reference</i>	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> . Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. (1880) ISBN: 978-0374528379
<i>Plot</i>	When the base and egocentric Fyodor Karamazov is brutally murdered, circumstantial evidence suggests patricide.
<i>Setting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A provincial Russian town by the name of Skotoprigonyevsk • A dysfunctional Russian family • Mid 19th century • The developing philosophical milieu of philosophical atheism, nihilism, and existentialism
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, the sensual and egocentric father of three sons • Dmitri (Mitya or Mitenka) Karamazov, eldest son of Fyodor from his first marriage. Passionate and sensual, but concerned with honor. A military man. Accused of patricide. 27 years old. • Ivan Karamazov, the second child, but eldest from Fyodor’s second marriage. An intelligent academic who flirts with atheism. 24 years old. • Alexey (Alyosha) Karamazov, the youngest of Fyodor’s children. A gentle, naïve youth of 20 years. An acolyte to Father Zosima in the local monastery. A man of simple faith and goodness. The moral lodestone of the story. • Grigory and Marfa, faithful servants of the Karamazov family. Grigory “parents” the boys when they are very young. Adopts Smerdyakov • Pavel (Smeerdyakov), orphan child of stinking Lizaveta, the mentally retarded and mute village idiot that Fyodor compromises on a dare. That suggests Fyodor is his father. He is adopted by Grigory and Marfa, and raised as a servant in Fyodor’s house. • The Elder Zosima, Alyosha’s spiritual elder and “sponsor” at the monastery. A father figure and saint to Alyosha. Highly revered by the community. Shares a similar history to Dmitri. A possible foil. 65 years old. • Grushenka (aka Agrafena Alexandrovna and Madame Svyetlov), initially shrewd, calculating, bitter and vengeful, she is considered a “loose” woman. Desired by both Dmitri and Fyodor.

<p><i>Characters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lise Hohlakov, the childishly capricious, crippled daughter of Mme. Hohlakov and, for a short time, Alyosha’s fiancée. • Katerina (Katya) Ivanovna, Dmitri’s fiancée, whom he abandons for Grushenka. She loves Ivan, and feels passionately for Dmitri, although it is unclear whether her feelings run toward love or hatred. • Pyotr Alexandrovitch Miusov, cousin to Dmitri’s mother and joint guardian of Dmitri • Yefim Petrovitch, a kind and charitable man who financially supported and raised Ivan and Alyosha. • Pyotr Ilyich perhotic, counsel in Dmitri’s case • Ippolit Kirillovitch, prosecutor in Dmitri’s trial • Fetyukovitch, defense lawyer in Dmitri’s trial • Ilusha Snegiryov, the schoolboy who passionately defends his father (the “wisp of tow”) when Dmitri publicly abuses and humiliates him. • Snegiryov, Ilusha’s loving father, the “wisp of tow.” • Pyotr Ilyich Perkhotin, Dmitri’s friend and companion on the night of the fatal murder • Samsonov, the merchant who houses and teaches Grushenka business after her first lover deserts her. • Father Ferapont, the hateful ascetic monk who opposes Father Zosima and slanders his memory • Rakitin, a seminary student, athiest, socialist and scoffer. A journalist. A cousin to Grushenka • Mme. Khohlakov, Katerina’s friend. Mother of Lise. Shallow and egocentric. • The Narrator, who intermittently intrudes into his narrative to air his own opinions. A writer. A resident of Skotoprignyevsk.
<p><i>Conflict</i></p>	<p>Man vs. Man Man vs. Self Man vs. Society Man vs. God</p>
<p><i>Theme</i></p>	<p>Christian faith vs. Philosophical Atheism and Nihilism The Suffering of Man/The Problem of Pain The Nature and Source of Justice The Dignity and Baseness of Man The Nature of Fatherhood The Nature and Preconditions of Human Relationship Repentance, Forgiveness, Mercy, Grace, Self-Knowledge</p>

<p><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<p>Allusions Foils Symbolism Allegory</p>
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