

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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Raskolnikow (1923)

Robert Wiene (1873-1938)

OVERVIEW

Auteur: Robert Wiene (b. 1873— d. 1938) was a writer and film director of the silent film era of German cinema. He is particularly known for *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920) which is considered to be one of the finest examples of German expressionism. He is also famous for *Raskolnikow* (1923), an adaptation of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; *The Hands of Orlac* (1924), a silent horror film; *One Night in Venice* (1934), an operetta film. He was born in Breslau as the elder son of the successful theater actor Carl Wiene. Following the rise of the Nazis to power, he fled Germany as he was of Jewish descent. Wiene died of cancer at the age of 65.

Film: *Raskolnikow* is a 1923 German silent drama film. The film is an adaptation of the 1866 novel *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. *Raskolnikow* is described as a German expressionist interpretation of the narrative, presenting a surreal avant-garde or experimental psychological drama. Its debut took place at the Mozartsaal in Berlin. The film stars Gregori Chmara, Elisaweta Skulskaja, Alla Tarasova. The cinematography is by Willy Goldberger. The subject of the film is about Raskolnikow, a former law student who has penned an article discussing laws and crime. He puts forth the thesis that individuals outside societal norms can justify committing crimes if their actions serve the greater good of humanity. He proceeds to murder an elderly woman who runs a lending establishment, along with her sister, who unfortunately happened to be present at the wrong time.

Historical background: *Raskolnikow* is based on the novel *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821—1881). Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist, and journalist. Many literary critics consider him to be among the most exceptional novelists in the entirety of world literature. Dostoevsky's literary works delve into the complexities of the human condition within the tumultuous political, social, and spiritual landscapes of 19th-century Russia. His writings grapple with a diverse array of philosophical and religious themes. *Crime and Punishment* is considered the first great novel of Dostoevsky's mature period of writing and is often cited as one of the greatest works of world literature. It made its debut as a serialized story in the literary journal *The Russian Messenger*, being released in twelve monthly installments throughout 1866.

CHARACTERS

Rodion Raskolnikow: A former law student and destitute man who murders a pawnbroker
Pulcheria Alexandrovna: Mother of Rodion Raskolnikow who deeply loves her son
Dunia: Sister of Rodion Raskolnikow who is engaged to Luzhin and pursued by Svidrigailow
Razumijin: Raskolnikow's friend, whose character contrasts with that of Raskolnikow, amicable and kind.
Marmeladow: An alcoholic public official who meets Raskolnikov at a tavern
Katerina Ivanovna: Wife of Marmeladow who later turns mad after being left homeless
Sonia: Daughter of Marmeladow who is forced to streetwalking to support herself and her family
Porfiri Petrovich: The person who is in charge of investigating the murders
Aliona Iwanowna: An old, withered pawnbroker who cheats the poor out of their money
Swidrigailow: Dunia's morally corrupt former employer
Luzhin: Dunia's self-absorbed fiancé

SYNOPSIS

Raskolnikow is a former law student who writes an essay about his theory that extraordinary people have the right to commit crimes if their crimes will have a beneficial effect on the totality of humanity. Based on this theory, Raskolnikow decides to kill an old pawnbroker who he believes is corrupt and wicked. He kills the pawnbroker and her sister with an ax. The next day, the police summon Raskolnikow to the office. His landlady has sued him because he owes her money for room and board. When Raskolnikow hears the police officers talk about the pawnbroker's murder, he faints. He is in a state of delirium for days. His friend Razumijin takes care of him. Meanwhile, Petrovich investigates the pawnbroker's murder and reads Raskolnikow's essay. Marmeladow, an alcoholic man whom Raskolnikow met at a tavern, is run over by a carriage. Raskolnikow takes Marmeladow to his house and meets his daughter Sonia who is forced into streetwalking because of poverty. Soon, Marmeladow dies. Raskolnikow pays for his funeral. Petrovich, as a result of his investigations, suspects that Raskolnikow is the murderer but a painter falsely confesses to the crimes. Meanwhile, Raskolnikow suffers tremendously as the aftermath of the crime plunges him into a spiral of guilt and psychological torment. He becomes increasingly paranoid, fearing discovery and haunted by his actions. In the end, he confesses his crime to Sonia. Svidrigailow, the former employer of Raskolnikow's sister, is also Sonia's neighbor and eavesdrops all their conversations and finds out about Raskolnikow's secret. Not able to bear the guilt any longer, Raskolnikow bids farewell to his family and Sonia, confesses his crime, and surrenders himself to the authorities.

SCENES

Raskolnikow writes an essay Little by little, a life of oppressive poverty had disrupted Rodion Raskolnikow's existence. The young man was in a state of excitement and anguish. He had withdrawn so much into himself and isolated himself from others that he was apprehensive at the idea of crossing paths, not just with the owner of his house, to whom he owed money, but with anyone else. In the first scene, we see Raskolnikow writing an essay called '*About Crime*'. He writes: 'An extraordinary person has the right to decide according to his conscience whether he must overcome certain obstacles, in the exclusive case that the execution of his idea requires it'.



Two women talk about Raskolnikow Two women talk about Raskolnikow. One says to the other: 'You haven't sent that poor student anything to eat for two weeks now. He must be dying of hunger.' The other replies: 'He doesn't do anything, he sits on the couch all day. Don't let him eat!'



Raskolnikow reads his mother's letter Raskolnikow reads a letter from his mother: 'My dear Zodia! Your sister Dunia and I, we have no one but you. For us you are everything, you are our hope, our comfort...Dunia has had to leave the Svidrigailow house, mainly due to harassment from Svidrigailow himself. Last year, Dunia entered that house as a governess, and charged 100 rubles in advance, so that she could send you the 60 that you asked for, so we had problems...but now Dunia has a new suitor, Luzon, the court advisor. He is a trustworthy person and already has some capital, although he is somewhat gloomy and proud.'



Raskolnikow listens to the conversation between two men

One of the women in the building brings some food for Raskolnikow to eat. Raskolnikow, not wanting to eat anything, gets up and leaves the room. He goes outside for a walk. He goes into a tavern and sits at a table. Next to him, two men are conversing. One of them says to the other: 'That bloodsucking witch loan shark has ruined me. Those types of people should be exterminated; crushed like insects!' Meanwhile, Raskolnikow is attentively listening to the conversation. Soon, he quickly leaves the place.



Raskolnikow goes to a pawnbroker Raskolnikow hesitatingly goes to a pawnbroker. He gives her a watch. The old pawnbroker says that she can pay a ruble and a half, paying the interest in advance. At first, Raskolnikow quickly takes the watch from the hands of the pawnbroker. But then he changes his mind and gives it back to the old woman. Before he leaves he says to her: 'In a few days, Aliona Iwanowna, perhaps I will bring you something else. A very silver cigarette case.'



Raskolnikow struggles innerly After leaving the pawnbroker, Raskolnikow rests against a wall in a state of depression and despair. His facial expressions and body language underline his internal struggles and angst.



Raskolnikow becomes acquainted with Marmeladow

Raskolnikow goes to a tavern. A man called Marmeladow greets him and introduces himself as a former civil servant: 'I've been away from home for five days...I sleep on the Neva River, on the hay on the barges.' He drinks alcohol: 'I was fired from my job for drinking...My wife, Katerina Ivanovna, she is educated and noble, the daughter of an officer. My eldest daughter, Sonia, has a yellow card; she is a prostitute.' He begins to cry: 'I went to see Sonia today, I needed money to drink. I paid for this bottle with her money. She gave me 30 kopeks. It was all she had.' Many people who watch Marmeladow drinking laugh at him. Marmeladow says to them: 'My friends! Laugh and mock me! But on the last day, He who has compassion will come to me.' He collapses to the ground. Raskolnikow helps him get up.

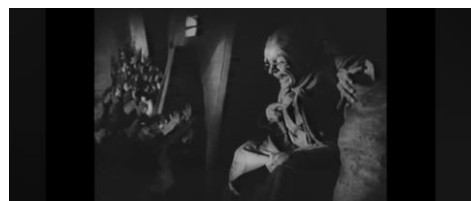


Raskolnikow takes Marmeladow to his house

Raskolnikow and Marmeladow leave the tavern. Marmeladow wants him to take him home: 'My wife will spit in my face. I don't deserve anything else. I must pay for my faults.' Next, we see Raskolnikow taking him to his house. At his house, his wife is waiting for him in a state of distress. When Marmeladow enters the house, his wife is angry at him: 'Where is the money? He drank it all! The children are hungry!' Raskolnikow leaves the house.



The pawnbroker is not a decent woman We are presented with a scene where the pawnbroker laughs while many people are begging her by raising their hands toward her. From this scene, we understand the depravity of the pawnbroker.



Raskolnikow decides to go to the pawnbroker and plans to kill her

Raskolnikow wakes up from his sleep. He suddenly looks anxious and excited. He takes out a piece of cloth and tears it into pieces. Then he patches his coat. He covers his silver cigarette case with the pieces of cloth he has torn. He is out of breath and looks neurotic. He secretly goes down the stairs. He finds an ax and puts it inside his coat.



Raskolnikow kills both the pawnbroker and her sister

Raskolnikow goes to the house of the pawnbroker. Very slowly and carefully, he walks up the stairs. When he enters the room of the elderly woman, he gives her the silver cigarette case. Raskolnikow looks like he can barely breathe. His face looks horrified and he seems to be undecided about what he is about to do. He goes near the old woman and kills her with the ax. As he is about to leave the place, the lender's sister Lizaveta enters the room. Seeing no other solution, Raskolnikow also kills her. He washes his hands and puts the ax into his coat.



Raskolnikow hardly manages to leave the building

Raskolnikow wishes to leave quickly. Yet, as he is about to leave, two men come to see the pawnbroker. Raskolnikow sees one of the men going up the stairs. Frightened, he goes back into the pawnbroker's apartment. The two men realize that the old woman must be at home because the door is bolted from the inside. Raskolnikow waits near the door, ready to strike his ax once again if anyone happens to enter the apartment. Later, both men go to look for the doorman. Raskolnikow uses the opportunity and leaves the apartment. He notices several men coming up the stairs, so he hides in one of the other apartments. There he drops his silver cigarette case. Finally, he gets out of the building.



The police summon Raskolnikow to the police station

Raskolnikow puts the ax to its original place where he found it and he goes back to his house. He collapses to his bed and falls asleep. Soon, the woman who prepares food for him comes looking for him. She says that there is a summons from the police and that they want him to go to the police station. Shocked, Raskolnikow shoos the woman away. After the woman is gone, he looks desperate, anxious, and uncertain as to what he should do. He cleans his shoes, tears pieces of cloth from his pants, and checks his coat. Then he leaves the room. When Raskolnikow arrives at the police station, his face looks horrified and he can barely breathe. The officer tells him that his landlady sued him because he owes her 115 rubles for room and board. Raskolnikow begins to smile and explain his situation. The officer tells him to declare in writing what date he agrees to pay his debt. As he tries to sign a document, his hands shake. The other two officers talk about the murder of the pawnbroker: 'The two must be released. Why would they call the doorman if it had been their doing? The murderer was inside, with the lock on.' When Raskolnikow hears this, he feels unable to breathe. He collapses to the ground. The officers help him get up.



Razumijin visits Raskolnikow In his sleep, Raskolnikow dreams of the old pawnbroker. The old woman hysterically laughs at Raskolnikow. When he wakes up, he sees his friend Razumijin right beside him who is happy to see him healthy. Soon, a letter arrives in which it is written that Raskolnikow's mother sent him 35 rubles. He asks Razumijin whether he said something when he was delirious. Razumijin joyfully says: 'Don't



worry, you didn't say a word about the countess, but you did say something about earrings and chains.' Later, his friend leaves to let Raskolnikow rest. Yet, Raskolnikow has a horrified and neurotic look on his face. He says to himself: 'They know everything... I have seen it in their eyes...' Then he goes back to sleep. Later, Razumijin buys new clothes for Raskolnikow.

Investigator Porfiri Petrovich reads Raskolnikow's essay

We see Porfiri Petrovich, the investigator. He reads Raskolnikow's essay called *About Crime*. He remembers that the old pawnbroker lent him one and a half rubles. In his essay, Raskolnikow writes: 'Some exceptional men may commit crimes, even murder if they benefit humanity in the long run. Since human laws do not apply to these men.' Reading this, Petrovich is filled with doubts.



Raskolnikow runs into the police secretary Raskolnikow goes to a restaurant and asks the waiter to bring him old newspapers, from the last five days. As he is reading the paper, a man approaches him from behind. The man turns out to be the police secretary. The secretary tells him that he is still sick and shouldn't have gone out. Raskolnikow says to the man that he was reading about the murder of the pawnbroker and her sister. All of a sudden, he says: 'What if I had murdered the old woman and Lizaveta?' Then he begins to laugh hysterically: 'You admit you believed it, didn't you?' 'Look at how much money! Where did it come from? Where did I get the new suit?' Then, he leaves the place mysteriously, leaving the secretary filled with doubts.



Raskolnikow goes back to the pawnbroker's house

Raskolnikow goes back to the place where he committed the murders. He enters the apartment where two men are mopping the floor and asks in a surprised fashion: 'Is there no more blood?' When the two men look at him with curious eyes, he says to them: 'Do you want to know who I am? Let's go to the police office and I'll tell you there.' As he leaves the building, many people gather around him and he tells them to take him to the police. The crowd thinks he is just talking nonsense so, they shoo him away.



Marmeladow is run over by a carriage At the town square, Marmeladow is run over by a carriage. Raskolnikow recognizes him as the retired civil servant and takes him back to his house. Sonia's little sister informs Sonia about the accident and she hurries to the house. Marmeladow loses his life after seeing Sonia for the last time. Seeing the plight of the family, Raskolnikow gives twenty rubles to Marmeladow's wife.



Raskolnikow's mother and sister come to see him

Raskolnikow returns to his room, accompanied by Razumijin. There is light in his room. When he enters his room he is pleasantly surprised to see that his mother and sister are waiting for him. We can see how much they have missed Raskolnikow. Afterward, Dunia shows a letter to her brother written by Luzhin: 'Your son is now healthy; I saw with my own eyes in the house of a drunk neighbor of mine, the day he was run over by a carriage, and died. To this man's daughter, a young woman of dubious reputation, Rodion gave twenty-five rubles yesterday, under the pretext of helping her pay the funeral expenses...which surprised me to the extreme knowing how much sacrifice you managed to save the sum.'



Sonia visits Raskolnikov Soon, Sonia Semionovna comes to Raskolnikov's room and he introduces her to his mother. Sonia says that her mother, Katerina Ivanovna begs them to attend the funeral tomorrow morning. Later, Sonia goes home alone, while Raskolnikov and Razumijin stay in the room.



Petrovich questions Raskolnikov Raskolnikov asks Razumijin whether he knows Porfiri Petrovich, the investigator of the pawnbroker's murder: 'I pawned some of my things to the old woman, and I would like to get them back.' So, Raskolnikov and Razumijin visit Petrovich. The police secretary is also there. Petrovich looks at Raskolnikov with suspicious and investigating eyes. He says to him that he must request in writing if he wants to get back what belongs to him. Petrovich tells Raskolnikov that he is very interested in his newspaper article about crime.



Razumijin, the police secretary, and Raskolnikov read a passage from his article where he writes: 'Only idiots and slaves follow the common path. Extraordinary men make their way without chains or obstacles.' Raskolnikov is deeply uncomfortable. Petrovich asks him whether he considered himself an extraordinary person when he wrote the article: 'If you decided that way, in a certain situation... Would you be able to kill and steal, for example?' Raskolnikov cleverly smiles and says: 'If I did, I wouldn't tell you.' After this, Raskolnikov wishes to leave. Petrovich tells him to stop by his office and see him any day tomorrow.

An old neighbor knows Raskolnikov is the murderer

While Raskolnikov is returning home, a shabby old neighbor of the building where the crime was committed comes near him and says to him: 'Killer!' Raskolnikov cannot believe what he heard and that somebody knows he is the murderer.



Raskolnikov dreams about his murder When Raskolnikov falls asleep, he dreams of the old man. The old man takes him back to the building where the crime was committed. Raskolnikov goes into a big room and sees the old pawnbroker he murdered hiding behind a curtain. The old pawnbroker laughs hysterically when she sees him. Raskolnikov has an ax and tries to murder her again and again, but he cannot. He escapes the room but the stairs are filled with people who know he is the murderer.



Svidrigailow visits Raskolnikov Upon waking up, Raskolnikov is visited by a stranger who introduces himself as Svidrigailow. Svidrigailow wants Raskolnikov to act as a mediator between his sister and him. Raskolnikov gets very angry as he does not want to offer any help to the man. After Svidrigailow leaves, Razumijin comes. Raskolnikov tells his friends that the man was Svidrigailow, in whose house his sister was offended when she was a governess. Razumijin says that they must protect Dunia from that man.



Raskolnikow confronts Luzhin Raskolnikow and Razumijin visit Raskolnikow's mother and Dunia. Luzhin is at the same table with them. Raskolnikow says to Luzhin: 'You wrote that I did not give the money to Marmeladow's widow, but to his daughter, questioning her honor! You, despite your virtues, are not worth even that young woman's little finger.' After hearing this, Luzhin proceeds to leave as he does not want to disturb the family.



Before leaving he says to Dunia that the love for the future husband must surpass the love for the brother: 'In short, this...has brought me certain expenses...' This makes Dunia very angry and she tells Luzhin to leave immediately. Later, Raskolnikow does not feel well and asks to be left alone: 'I will remember you, I love you...When necessary, I will come myself...'

Raskolnikow visits Sonia Raskolnikow visits Sonia. He holds Sonia's hand affectionately. Afterwards, he bows down before her. He says: '*I have not bowed myself before you but before all suffering humanity.*' Then Raskolnikow sees the Bible that is on the table near him. Sonia says that Lizaveta brought her the New Testament. Raskolnikow asks whether she was friends with Lizaveta. Sonia nods her head. Raskolnikow wants her to read the Bible to him. As she reads the Bible, Raskolnikow holds her hand: 'Today I have abandoned my family, and I have come to your side. We are both cursed...Let us flee together! If I come tomorrow, I will tell you who killed Lizaveta.' Meanwhile, Sonia's neighbor, Svidrigailow who lives on the other side of the wall, has been listening to the entire conversation.



Another man confesses that he is the killer Raskolnikow goes to Petrovich. He wants him to interrogate him as quickly as possible. Petrovich behaves in an easygoing fashion. Raskolnikow is nevertheless very anxious: 'I see that you suspect me for the murder of that old woman. I...will not tolerate it!' Petrovich says that he knows that he went to the old woman's apartment at dusk and that he asked about the blood.



Raskolnikow looks horrified: 'I won't let you torture me!' There is a heated argument between the two. At that very moment, a man enters the room and says that he killed the old woman and her sister with an ax.

The old neighbor apologizes to Raskolnikow Raskolnikow is in his room. The old neighbor from the building where the murder took place comes to visit him to apologize to him: 'I am sorry I thought badly of you after seeing you in the apartment that day asking about the blood...Forgive me for denouncing and slandering you.'

Luzhin gives money to Sonia Katerina Ivanovna gives a meal after Marmeladow's funeral. Meanwhile, Luzhin asks to see Sonia for a special matter. He says to her that out of humanity and compassion, he would like to be useful in something. He wants Sonia to accept a sum of money for the sake of her family. Sonia accepts the money.



Sonia is unjustly accused of having stolen money from Luzhin There arises an argument between Katerina Ivanovna and the owner of the house. She says that Katerina Ivanovna has not paid the rent in a long time and wants her to get out of her place. Then Luzhin enters the room and says that after Sonia visited his table, a hundred-ruble bill that belongs to him has disappeared. Sonia is shocked to see that she is being unjustly accused of having stolen money. From her pockets, a hundred-



ruble bill comes out. However, a witness to the event comes to tell the truth that Luzhin is the true slanderer as he put the money in her pockets without her realizing it. However, the old landlady does not want to see Katerina and Sonia in her apartment anymore: 'I won't tolerate thieves under my roof!'

Raskolnikow confesses his crime to Sonia Raskolnikow visits Sonia in her room: 'I told you when I left, that if I came back today, I was going to tell you who killed Lizaveta...He didn't want to kill Lizaveta; he wanted to kill only the old woman... Then Lizaveta came...and he killed her.' Sonia understands that the murderer is Raskolnikow and collapses to her bed. She says to him: 'There's no one in the world who is more miserable than you.' Later, Raskolnikow confesses to Sonia what his thoughts were: 'I needed to know if I was a louse like the others or someone special. Was he a fearful creature, or did he have the right?' Sonia advises him to confess his crime to the others: 'Bow down before the world and proclaim to the four winds: I am a murderer!' Meanwhile, Sonia's neighbor Svidrigailow, once again, has been listening to the whole conversation.



Katerina Ivanovna dies A man comes to inform Sonia that Katerina Ivanovna has gone crazy: 'She screams that she and her children will go out into the street to dance and beg.' Soon, Sonia finds her mother collapsed to the ground on the street, surrounded by her children. She brings her to her own apartment. Her mother tells her that she hasn't been to her house even once. Then she says: 'My time has come! I was tortured until the end...' Then she dies.



Petrovich visits Raskolnikow Petrovich comes to Raskolnikow's apartment. He thinks that it is better that they speak frankly: 'Mikolka the painter didn't kill anyone; he's a saint who wants to accept suffering or something like that.' Raskolnikow asks with frightened eyes: 'So...who...killed?' Petrovich answers: 'It was you who killed...' He further tells Raskolnikow to put his affairs in order. But Raskolnikow defends himself saying: 'I haven't confessed anything!'



Dunia learns that her brother is the murderer Svidrigailow meets Dunia and tells her that he has a secret from her brother in his hands and demands that she come to his house if she wishes to be given any explanation. He explains to her that her brother is the murderer of the old woman. After hearing this, Dunia collapses to the ground. Svidrigailow says that he can save him. But he wants Dunia to marry him. He threatens to rape her after she refuses. She fires several shots at him with a gun but misses. He finally asks Dunia if she couldn't love him. Dunia says no and leaves the place.



Raskolnikow says goodbye to his mother Raskolnikow goes to her mother and tells her that he wants to say goodbye and that he has always loved her. They hug each other but Raskolnikow lets her go. The mother is heartbroken and in despair that his son will leave him.



Raskolnikow says goodbye to Dunia When Raskolnikow comes to his room, he sees Dunia waiting for him: 'I'm going to hand me over, Dunia. To avoid this shame, I wanted to jump into the river...' Dunia says to him: 'Suffering will cleanse half your crime.' Raskolnikow gets furious: 'Crime? The one who killed a noxious, disgusting louse, an old loan shark who didn't need anyone?' Dunia's eyes are filled with tears as she cannot believe what her brother says: 'You have shed blood!' They hug each other one last time.



Raskolnikow visits Sonia Sonia gives him her cross necklace. She asks him to cross himself and pray, even if it's just for once. Raskolnikow listens to her and crosses himself three times. Then he leaves Sonia.



Raskolnikow hands himself over Raskolnikow arrives at the police station to confess his crime. Soon, the news comes that Svidrigailow has shot himself. Raskolnikow finally confesses his crime: 'I am the one who killed the moneylender and her sister Lizaveta with an ax, and who robbed them.' Then he crosses himself.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Rodion Raskolnikow

Raskolnikow is the protagonist of the film. He is a former law student and a destitute man who murders a pawnbroker and her sister because he believes that he is an extraordinary man to whom the usual laws and morals of society do not apply. Throughout the film, the viewers witness the internal struggles and inner conflicts of the young man.

Intellectual: Raskolnikow is above all an intellectual of the society. His intellectualism is one of the reasons why he is so withdrawn, isolated from others, and alienated from people around him. He sees himself as an *Übermensch*, that is, someone who is above human beings in many respects and thus is more important than them. The viewers are presented with this intellectual side of Raskolnikow in the first scene of the film where we find out that he wrote an essay called *About Crime*.

Alienated: Raskolnikow is an alienated individual with an ingrained contempt for humanity. He believes that some of the members of the human species deserve to be crushed like *insects*. Furthermore, he develops his own moral theory where people with special characteristics have the right to commit crimes if they predict that their crimes will ultimately benefit humanity as a whole. These peculiar and atypical views of his exacerbate his alienated condition.

Poor: Raskolnikow is a former law student. However, the viewers are not presented with the story of his university years. Beginning from the first scene, we meet a poor individual, who has not eaten much for weeks and can barely take care of himself. He wears ragged clothes and depends on his mother to provide money for him.

Depressed: Throughout the film, we see that Raskolnikow is mentally unwell. He has mental issues in addition to being in poverty. He is depressed. As we find out in the very first scene of the film, he is in a state of excitement and anguish. He is withdrawn so much into himself and isolates himself from others that he is apprehensive at the idea of crossing paths with everyone. All these characteristics are typical of the mental disease known as depression.

Selfish: Raskolnikow's selfishness can be inferred from a variety of his actions. First of all, his act of murdering the pawnbroker and her sister stems entirely from his selfish beliefs and views about the world and his place in it. He does not think about what the consequences of his action might lead to. He does not take into consideration his mother, sister, and friends. He only cares about testing and proving his theory of the superman or *Übermensch*. Therefore, he does not commit the crime for the well-being of others but only for his own sake and to test his moral theory.

Paranoid: After Raskolnikow commits the murders, he changes as a person. He grows ever more paranoid and agonized. He is suspicious of everyone, even his best friend Razumijin. He displays neuroticism. After being in a state of delirium for days, he wakes up and sees that Razumijin has been taking care of him. But he knows that he cannot even trust his best friend. He paranoically believes that Razumijin knows about the crimes he committed: 'They know everything...I have seen it in their eyes...'

Agonized: Raskolnikow is above all an agonized and tormented human being. From the very first scene of the film to the very end, we witness the internal, emotional, and mental suffering that a young intellectual experiences. Before he commits the crimes, he is already an ill individual. He suffers from depression, anxiety, and alienation from others. After he commits the crimes, he suffers even more with guilt, doubt, and paranoia. His only light of hope within this world of suffering is Sonia's presence which gives him some support.

Helpful: As the viewers are presented with a tormented individual, we might overlook some of Raskolnikow's good qualities. He is essentially a helpful person as can be seen when he pays for the funeral of Marmeladow. He empathizes with the suffering of Sonia's family. Perhaps he sees himself in them and tries to relieve a little bit of their suffering.

Loving: Behind his intellectualism and pride is a human being who feels he does not belong in society and feels different from others. The only light of hope that is available for Raskolnikow throughout the film is Sonia's redeeming love. Sonia's love has a transformative effect on Raskolnikow as she convinces him to confess his crimes. Raskolnikow also truly loves Sonia. Thus, Sonia becomes a point of connection for Raskolnikow to the rest of humanity.

Sonia

Sonia is the daughter of Marmeladow who is forced into streetwalking to support herself and the rest of her family. She is thus self-sacrificing. She is a timid person but highly devout and good-hearted. Sonia has a transformative effect on Raskolnikow as she urges him to confess his crimes and is his only true and meaningful connection to humanity.

Self-sacrificing: Sonia is forced into a life of streetwalking as her father is an alcoholic and the rest of her family are in poor condition. She sacrifices herself so that she can provide for her family. Raskolnikow sees Sonia as a fellow transgressor of moral laws but there is an important difference between the reasons for the sins of the two people. Sonia sins for the sake of her family whereas Raskolnikow sins only for his own sake and to test his moral theories.

Timid: Sonia is a timid individual which can be best observed in the scene where she goes to Raskolnikow's apartment to invite him to her father's funeral. Raskolnikow's mother, his sister, and his friend Razumijin are also present in the room. Throughout the scene, Sonia cannot look them in the eyes and always lowers her gaze to the ground.

Devout: Sonia is a devout Christian. She has a copy of the New Testament and reads parts of the Bible to Raskolnikow. Because she has a strong faith, she believes that Raskolnikow must confess his sins and crimes to the authorities so that he can be forgiven. Sonia also gives Raskolnikow her cross necklace. She asks him to cross himself and pray. All these acts show us her devotion to her faith.

Good-hearted: Despite the immoral acts she engages in, Sonia is ultimately a good-hearted individual who suffers because of the circumstances she finds herself in. Her religious views and her ethics are

inextricably intertwined. Sonia wants Raskolnikow to confess his crimes not because she is horrified by his acts of violence but because she has deep compassion for the well-being of his soul. As she says to Raskolnikow: 'There's no one in the world who is more miserable than you.' Thus, she is a deeply caring individual with great compassion.

Dunia

Dunia is the Sister of Rodion Raskolnikow who is engaged to Luzhin and pursued by Svidrigailow. She is a strong, principled, and just individual who is protective of her boundaries. Her decisiveness and bravery thus make her stand out as a stronger female than Sonia who is rather meek.

Strong: We find out about the strong character of Dunia beginning in the scene where Raskolnikow reads a letter from his mother. We learn that Dunia entered the Svidrigailow house as a governess, and charged 100 rubles in advance so that she could send Raskolnikow the 60. However, due to harassment from Svidrigailow, she had to leave the house. From these pieces of information, we can infer that Dunia is a strong individual who is ready to provide for her family and is also strong enough to leave the place where she works if she is not respected as an individual.

Principled: Dunia is both strong and principled. When her suitor Luzhin disrespects her and her family at a gathering, Dunia gets very angry and she tells Luzhin to leave immediately, ending her engagement. Another scene where we witness her principled nature is when she fires several shots at Svidrigailow when he threatens to rape her. Thus, she is ready to protect herself at all costs.

Just: Dunia has strong moral principles and is a just person. She believes that her brother's suffering will cleanse half his crime. When Raskolnikow gets furious about her statement, still believing his act was justified, Dunia's eyes are filled with tears as she cannot believe what her brother says: 'You have shed blood!' Thus, Dunia is firmly rooted in her moral principles and believes that justice should be done, even if it means that her brother will suffer.

Marmeladow

Marmeladow is an alcoholic civil servant who meets Raskolnikov at a tavern. He is Sonia's father. He is addicted to alcohol but also self-aware that his drinking habits are ruining his family. He dies after being run over by a carriage in the town square.

Addicted: Marmeladow is addicted to drinking alcohol. At the time he meets Raskolnikow, he has been away from home for five days. He sleeps on the Neva River, on the hay on the barges. We find out that he was fired from his job for drinking. He also goes to his daughter Sonia to get money to drink.

Self-aware: Despite his alcoholism, he is self-aware about his destructive habits. However, he cannot help himself as he cannot stop his addiction. His self-awareness can also be seen when he says to Raskolnikow: 'My wife will spit in my face. I don't deserve anything else. I must pay for my faults'. It must be noted that ultimately, it is also unknown whether Marmeladow's being run over by the wheels of a carriage was simply an accident or an act of suicide.

Aliona Iwanowna

Aliona is a pawnbroker who cheats the poor out of their money. She is an elderly lady. Raskolnikow sees her as less worthy than an insect and ultimately kills her to prove his moral theories. She has a sister called Lizaveta who is also killed by Raskolnikow. We do not get to learn about many details of the pawnbroker's life except that her lending establishment is a corrupt one.

Dishonest: Aliona's business is a dishonest and corrupt one. People think of her as a 'bloodsucking witch loan shark' who ruins people's lives. The indecency of the elderly woman is best shown to us the viewers in the scene where the pawnbroker laughs while many people are begging her by raising their hands toward her. From this scene, we understand the depravity of the pawnbroker.

Porfiri Petrovich

Petrovich is the person who is in charge of investigating the murders. He is an intelligent person who looks at a situation from many perspectives and ultimately discovers that Raskolnikov is the murderer of the old pawnbroker and her sister. He is an investigative man who knows about the depths of human psychology.

Intelligent: Petrovich is an intelligent man. We first see him in the scene where he reads Raskolnikov's essay called *About Crime*. Reading this essay, Petrovich finds out about Raskolnikov's views that some exceptional men may commit crimes, even murder if they benefit humanity in the long run. After reading this essay, Petrovich is filled with doubts and begins to suspect Raskolnikov. When they meet, Petrovich intelligently asks Raskolnikov whether he considered himself an extraordinary person when he wrote the article: 'If you decided that way, in a certain situation...Would you be able to kill and steal, for example?'

Investigative: Petrovich is perfectly suited for his role because of his investigative nature. He knows that Raskolnikov went to the old woman's apartment at dusk and that he asked about the blood. He also has other reasons to believe Raskolnikov committed the crimes because of his essay. As a result of his investigations, he finds out the painter is not guilty as he is a saint who believes he must suffer. All these pieces of evidence lead him to conclude that Raskolnikov is the murderer.

Razumijin

Razumijin is Raskolnikov's friend who has an amicable and kind character. In the film, we do not get to learn about many details of Razumijin's character. Nevertheless, we can infer that he is Raskolnikov's best friend who is always there for him and ready to help him at all times.

Helpful: Razumijin is a helpful friend. Raskolnikov is in a state of delirium for days after he faints at the police station. During those days, Razumijin takes care of Raskolnikov. When Raskolnikov wakes up, he sees his friend Razumijin right beside him who is happy to see him healthy. Razumijin's joyful and positive character contrasts with the negative and depressed personality of Raskolnikov.

Pulcheria Alexandrovna

Pulcheria Alexandrovna is the mother of Rodion Raskolnikov who deeply loves her son. We can see her love for her son in the letters she writes to him and in her behavior toward him.

Loving: Pulcheria Alexandrovna is a loving mother. As she writes in her letter to Raskolnikov, Dunia and Pulcheria Alexandrovna have no one but Raskolnikov: 'For us you are *everything*, you are *our hope*, *our comfort*...' Her love for her son can also be seen in the last scene where we see the mother and the son together. Raskolnikov tells his mother that he wants to say goodbye and that he has always loved her. Pulcheria Alexandrovna is heartbroken and in despair that his son will leave him. Thus, she is deeply attached to her son.

Katerina Ivanovna

Katerina Ivanovna is the wife of Marmeladow who turns mad after being left homeless. She is also the mother of Sonia. She comes from an educated and noble background but she is deeply angry at her husband because his destructive alcoholism is ruining their family.

Unstable: Katerina Ivanovna is not a stable character. After the death of her husband Marmeladow, she invites many people to a funeral meal. There she has a dispute with the owner of the house. Because Katerina Ivanovna has not paid the rent in a long time, the owner of the house wants her to get out of her place. Katerina cannot deal with the burden she is carrying anymore and loses her sanity. She wants her children to dance and beg on the streets. Later, she collapses and dies in Sonia's house. Hers is a life that is characterized by suffering and the mental instability that is caused by it.

Svidrigailow

Svidrigailow is Dunia's morally corrupt former employer. Dunia enters his house as a governess to provide money for her family, however he harasses her. Therefore, Dunia leaves the job. However, Svidrigailow keeps on pursuing Dunia and disturbing her. He is also Sonia's next-wall neighbor who eavesdrops on her conversations with Raskolnikow and learns that Raskolnikow is the murderer of the pawnbroker and her sister.

Corrupt: Svidrigailow is a corrupt character. Even though Dunia has cut off her ties with him, he keeps on pursuing Dunia. He wants Raskolnikow to act as a mediator between his sister and him. Approaching the end of the film, Svidrigailow meets Dunia and demands that she come to his house if she wishes to find out about Raskolnikow's secret. He explains to her that her brother is the murderer of the old woman. Svidrigailow says that he can save him but only on the condition that Dunia marry him. He threatens to rape her after she refuses. Here, we can see the depraved personality of Svidrigailow.

Luzhin

Luzhin is Dunya's self-absorbed fiancé. He is proud of his richness and what he can provide for Dunia. However, he is not on good terms with Raskolnikow. He also believes that the love Dunia has for her future husband must surpass the love for her brother.

Lying: We witness Luzhin lying in several scenes of the film. First of all, he writes a letter to Dunia that Raskolnikow gave money to Sonia to cover the funeral expenses of Marmeladow. However, the truth is that Raskolnikow gave the money to Katerina Ivanovna. Second of all, he plays a game with Sonia where he offers to help her financially. However, his actual plan is to secretly put some money into Sonia's pockets and later accuse her of being a thief. In all these instances, Luzhin's lying and morally corrupt character is revealed.

THEMES

SOCIETY

Religion The contrast between the Christian religion and nihilism is one of the important themes of *Raskolnikow*. Raskolnikow is a nihilist who does not see any value in conventional social norms. Thus, he constructs his original moral theory of the superman or *Übermensch* where extraordinary people are allowed to commit crimes as long as these crimes benefit humanity in the long run. Based on this perspective, we can also infer that Raskolnikow is a utilitarian who does not recognize individual rights but solely thinks in terms of consequences for the collective. He is also an atheist who does not recognize conventional religion. In contrast with Raskolnikow, Sonia is a devout believer. Despite being a streetwalker, she has moral integrity and is a faithful Christian. Sonia cares for Raskolnikow and wants him to embrace Christian values. That is the reason why she reads the Bible to him. Sonia also gives her cross necklace to Raskolnikow. She asks him to cross himself and pray, even if it's just for once. Through these actions, Sonia encourages Raskolnikow and ultimately convinces him to confess his crime to the authorities. In the very last scene of the film, Raskolnikow crosses himself after having confessed. This scene shows us that Raskolnikow's nihilistic worldview has been transformed, with the help of Sonia, into a worldview that is shaped by Christian values.

Identity Identity is the set of qualities, beliefs, personality traits, appearance, and expressions that characterize a person or a group. Raskolnikow's identity is different from other people around him which isolates and alienates him from society. He belongs to the poor class. However, what sets him apart from other poor people is that he is an intellectual. He does not accept the status quo and constructs his own moral theories about the world. He is a nihilist, meaning he shows unsentimental behavior and a lack of concern for others such as the pawnbroker and her sister Lizaveta. He disregards individual human rights and solely thinks in terms of the ideals of the superman or *Übermensch* and the collective around him. Moreover, his moral theory that some individuals can be exterminated for the betterment of society is a

good example of utilitarianism which focuses on the *collective* good or happiness. Overall, we can assert that Raskolnikow's specific position in society, his nihilistic and utilitarian views, his pride and consequently looking down on others such as the pawnbroker and her sister, and similar qualities set his identity apart from the rest of the society.

CRIME

Injustice Raskolnikow commits the crime of murdering a human being. Thereby, he acts unjustly. The act of murdering someone can be condemned from a variety of points of view ranging from human rights to virtue ethics to duty ethics. Moreover, the society Raskolnikow finds himself in is a Christian one and one of the moral principles of Christian ethics is that one shall not kill a human being. Therefore, Raskolnikow's act is perceived as an act of wickedness and brutality. In contrast with the perception of society, Raskolnikow sees his act as justified. He thinks that the lending establishment of the pawnbroker is a corrupt one and the pawnbroker cheats money out of poor people. Thus, Raskolnikow believes that the pawnbroker should be eliminated for the improvement of society. Even when Sonia convinces him to confess his murder, he still believes that his act is justified. One particular scene related to Raskolnikow's perception of the events is when he goes to Dunia to say goodbye to her. Dunia says to him: 'Suffering will cleanse half your crime.' Hearing this, Raskolnikow gets furious: '*Crime? The one who killed a noxious, disgusting louse, an old loan shark who didn't need anyone?*' Dunia's eyes are filled with tears as she cannot believe what her brother says: 'You have shed blood!' Thus, to the very end of the film, Raskolnikow believes that the pawnbroker was a louse that was no good to society. So, what is unjust for society as a whole is just in the eyes of Raskolnikow.

Punishment The film ends with the confession of Raskolnikow. Therefore, the viewers do not learn about what kind of sentence Raskolnikow gets. However, we can fill in the blanks by turning to *Crime and Punishment*. In the novel, Raskolnikow is sentenced to eight years of hard labor in Siberia. Also, Sonia follows him to Siberia and visits him at every opportunity. However, it is important to notice that Wiene does not elaborate upon the *legal* punishment Raskolnikow gets. In a sense, the whole sequence of events in the film following Raskolnikow's act of murdering the pawnbroker can be considered as his *psychological* punishment. As the viewers see him, Raskolnikow is in a state of agony for the totality of the film. His psyche is tortured and he suffers throughout. He is filled with doubts, paranoia, suspicion, and fear. These emotions and feelings that he experiences are thus his ultimate punishment as he never has peace of mind. All in all, the legal punishment he gets is *secondary* to his psychological punishment.

Guilt Guilt is a feeling of worry or unhappiness that one has because one has done something wrong, such as causing harm to another person. Throughout the film, Raskolnikow feels many negative emotions and feelings such as doubts, paranoia, suspicion, and fear but he does not feel guilty. Until the very end of the film, he thinks that his act of murdering the pawnbroker was justified. As we witness when he says goodbye to Dunia before his confession, he views the pawnbroker as a parasite, '*a noxious, disgusting louse, an old loan shark*' who did not deserve to live. His intellectual pride and abstract moral theories stop him from feeling empathy for the suffering of human beings. However, whether Raskolnikow felt guilty at the very end of the film is an open-ended question. Before the last scene, Raskolnikow visits Sonia who gives him her cross necklace. She asks him to cross himself and pray, even if it's just for once. Raskolnikow listens to her and crosses himself three times. This act of crossing himself shows us that he is being transformed from a nihilist into an individual who shares Christian values. In the very last scene, Raskolnikow also crosses himself after he has confessed his crimes. Thus, the viewers can draw the conclusion that Raskolnikow *did feel* guilty in the end as he returned to the faith he was brought up with.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sadness There are many scenes of sadness and despair throughout the film starting from the first scene. In the first scene, we see Raskolnikow in a state of severe depression. He is isolated from others and avoids the company of people. He is apprehensive at the idea of crossing paths with anyone. We do not know the reason for his depression. However, with a certain degree of probability, we can assert that his depression is connected with his socio-economic background, his poverty, and the poverty of people in his environment. He is thus filled with feelings of deep sadness, depression, despair, sorrow, and

anguish from the beginning until the end of the film. The other characters—except for Raskolnikov's joyful friend Razumijin, proud and wealthy Luzhin, intelligent Petrovich, and the indecent pawnbroker—are also filled with feelings of sadness and hopelessness throughout. Thus, it can be asserted that sadness as an emotion dominates the atmosphere of *Raskolnikov*. To give several examples from the film, we can point out Sonia's sadness and deep compassion for Raskolnikov when she finds out that he is the murderer of the pawnbroker. Furthermore, Raskolnikov's mother's sadness and hopelessness when Raskolnikov visits him to say goodbye is another moving scene. Then there is the sadness of Svidrigailow when he finally realizes that Dunia will never love him which leads him to ultimately commit suicide.

Anger Anger is an emotion characterized by tension and hostility arising from frustration, real or imagined injury by another, or perceived injustice. Despite the prevalence of a depressive atmosphere in *Raskolnikov*, we witness anger only a few times. One of these is when Marmeladow's wife gets angry when her husband comes home with Raskolnikov. She is righteously angry as her children keep waiting hungry and the whole family is in poverty. Another scene of anger is when Raskolnikov confronts Luzhin about his letter which he wrote to Dunia. In his letter, he slanders Sonia and writes that Raskolnikov gave money to her for her father's funeral which is false. Another character who expresses anger in the film is Dunia. When Svidrigailow explains to her that Raskolnikov is the murderer and that he can save him, he puts forward the condition that Dunia marry him. He even threatens to rape her after she refuses. Thus, she fires several shots at him with a gun. This outward expression of anger not only shows Dunia's frustration with Svidrigailow but also her strong and independent character.

Isolation/Alienation Throughout the film, we witness how much Raskolnikov has isolated himself from society and the people around him and how much alienated he feels. At the beginning of the film, he is withdrawn into himself so much that he is apprehensive at the idea of crossing paths with anyone. This isolation and alienation not only increases Raskolnikov's depression but also causes him to construct moral theories that are in conflict with the prevailing morals of society. He constructs the ideal of the superman or *Übermensch* and convinces himself that he is a member of this superman race. Thus, he begins to feel self-righteous about his actions. He sees himself as someone who can do whatever he wishes as long as he thinks his actions will benefit the rest of humanity in the long run. So, we can assert that his isolation and alienation from society cause him to adopt peculiar beliefs and points of view which eventually further cause him to commit the crimes of murdering the pawnbroker and her sister. One point that might be interesting to consider is that Raskolnikov *does* have family and friends. He is not all alone nor is he deprived of human contact. Considering this, we can say that his isolation is self-imposed. The only person who can break the metaphorical barriers that Raskolnikov built around himself is Sonia. Sonia's love, caring, and compassion for Raskolnikov lessen his isolation and alienation. As we see at the end of the film, it is Sonia's compassion for him that ultimately transforms him from a *Superman* to a human being who confesses his crimes and feels regret for the deeds he committed.

Fear/Paranoia Fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm. Paranoia is an instinct or thought process that is believed to be heavily influenced by anxiety, suspicion, or fear, often to the point of delusion and irrationality. Paranoid thinking typically includes persecutory beliefs or beliefs of conspiracy concerning a perceived threat towards oneself. Thus, fear and paranoia are very close to one another. In the film, we see Raskolnikov exhibiting both fear and paranoia. His fear and paranoia come to the forefront after he murders the pawnbroker and her sister. He fears that his deeds will be discovered by others and that everyone will learn that he is the murderer. One particular scene where paranoia plays a major role is when Raskolnikov is lying in his bed, recovering from delirium. He suspects that his friend Razumijin knows his secret: 'They know everything...I have seen it in their eyes...' This paranoid mental state continues for the rest of the film. The only scenes where Raskolnikov seems to be free from fearful and paranoid thoughts and emotional processes are the scenes when he is in the company of Sonia. He knows that Sonia is another transgressor of moral laws. Therefore, he perceives her as his companion who shares the same path and fate with him.

Otherness Raskolnikov is *the other*. He sees himself as different from other members of the society. His perception of himself as the superman or *Übermensch* isolates and alienates him from the rest of the population. Therefore, he withdraws and turns to his inner world. His conception of himself is someone

who is above others and who has a right to exert his will upon the rest of society in the way he pleases. Thus, he thinks he has the right to steal from or murder someone, in particular, if the affected individual is—in his eyes—a useless one such as the pawnbroker. Based on these observations we can assert that Raskolnikow becomes the other through his perception of himself as the superman.

Loss Two characters lose their lives in the film. These characters are the pawnbroker and her sister Lizaveta. We do not get to learn many details about the lives of these characters except that the lending establishment of the elderly pawnbroker is not a decent one and that she cheats money out of poor people. Raskolnikow murders these two individuals in the earlier part of the film. The film does not elaborate upon how the loss of the lives of these individuals affects the rest of society since this is not the focus of the film. What the film elaborates upon, however, is how the murder of these individuals affects Raskolnikow's mental and emotional states. We see Raskolnikow experiencing not only depression and sorrow but also fear, suspicion, paranoia, anguish, and agony throughout the rest of the film. Thus, Raskolnikow's act of murdering these individuals changes the course of his life irreversibly. Raskolnikow also finds out—as a consequence of his murders—that he is not the Superman that he thought he was.

FLAW

Pride Raskolnikow's great flaw is his pride. Pride refers to the quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself or one's own importance. Meher Baba calls pride 'the specific feeling through which egoism manifests'. Raskolnikow believes himself to be better than other human beings in society. He perceives himself as an extraordinary individual who possesses special rights that ordinary people cannot possess. That is the reason for his murdering the pawnbroker and her sister as he believes that he has the right to take the lives of these individuals as a result of him being a Superman. However, as we witness in the rest of the film, Raskolnikow's mental state drastically declines after the murder. He is filled with suspicion, fear, and paranoia that his secret deed will be discovered by the others. He suffers tremendously. As he confesses his crime to Sonia, he says he wanted 'to know if [he] was a louse like the others or someone special. Was he a fearful creature, or did he have the right?' Raskolnikow tests his theory but ultimately finds out that he is not an extraordinary individual after all. Nevertheless, until the point when he hands himself over to the authorities, he still believes that his act of murder was justified. He still perceives himself as having contributed to society by exterminating '*a noxious, disgusting louse, an old loan shark*'. It is only in the very last scene of the film when Raskolnikow crosses himself after he has confessed his crimes that the viewers *may* draw the conclusion that Raskolnikow does feel guilty in the end and thus abandons his pride.

QUEST

Introspection Introspection is the examination of one's thoughts and feelings. It is closely related to human self-reflection and self-discovery. Introspection generally provides privileged access to one's own mental states, not mediated by other sources of knowledge. In the film, Raskolnikow examines his own thoughts and feelings. He has a moral theory that he has constructed and is willing to test his theory in the real world. Therefore, he murders the pawnbroker and her sister. He wishes to see whether he is indeed an extraordinary human being with special rights or whether he is like the rest of the members of society. The result of his experiment is that he is not so extraordinary after all. He is not a cold-blooded murderer. He thinks of his act as justified until the very last scene. However, the difficult emotions he experiences such as fear, suspicion, paranoia, and anguish prove that he is not above the rest of the members of society and thus not an *Übermensch*.

Investigation The person who is responsible for investigating the murders of the pawnbroker and her sister is Porfiri Petrovich. He is a shrewd man who gathers all the pieces of evidence available to him and concludes that Raskolnikow is the murderer. In particular, Petrovich knows about the essay that Raskolnikow wrote where writes that extraordinary men have the right to commit certain crimes. When they meet in person, Porfiri Petrovich asks Raskolnikow whether he considered himself an extraordinary person at the time he wrote the article: '*If you decided that way, in a certain situation...Would you be able to kill and steal, for example?*' These questions torment Raskolnikow as he fears that his deeds will be discovered. Later on in the film, Petrovich visits him in his apartment and says to him: 'Mikolka the painter

didn't kill anyone; he's a saint who wants to accept suffering or something like that... It was you who killed...' Throughout this process, Petrovich does not force Raskolnikow to confess his crimes but he knows that Raskolnikow's mental state is in very poor condition and he will eventually confess his crimes willingly.

RELATIONSHIP

Friendship Razumijin is Raskolnikow's best friend. We do not get to learn many details about Razumijin's personality but we learn that he has an amicable and kind character. We can also infer that he is ready to support Raskolnikow at all times. Raskolnikow is in a state of delirium for days after he faints at the police station. During those days, Razumijin takes care of him. When Raskolnikow wakes up, Razumijin is right beside him and happy to see him healthy. Thus, Raskolnikow is not a character who is deprived of human contact. In addition to his family, he has a best friend. However, his intellectualism and pride stop him from emotionally connecting with his close ones.

Love In the film, we witness the blooming love between Raskolnikow and Sonia. Both these characters share commonalities as both of them transgress the moral laws in certain ways. Raskolnikow murders two people. Sonia leads a life of streetwalking. As Raskolnikow tells Sonia: 'We are both cursed...Let us flee together!' However, there is a major difference between the transgressions of the two characters. Sonia sacrifices herself for the sake of her family as her family is in poverty and she is forced into a life of streetwalking. Raskolnikow, on the other hand, does not sacrifice himself for the sake of others. On the contrary, he sacrifices others (by murdering the pawnbroker and her sister Lizaveta) for the sake of himself. Despite these differences between the characters, they are drawn to each other, perhaps because of how they are both considered as *the other* or the outcasts of society. Moreover, Sonia is a devout Christian and she helps Raskolnikow return to his original Christian faith and readopt Christian values. Thus, their relationship is one where Sonia helps Raskolnikow grow and transform as a human being. When Raskolnikow visits Sonia for the last time before handing himself to the police authorities, Sonia makes him cross himself three times. He crosses himself at the police station after he has confessed his crimes too. These sets of behaviors exhibited by Raskolnikow prove how much Sonia has had an influence on him and changed him for the better. Thus, their love is characterized by a sense of growth, betterment, and transformation with regard to the character of Raskolnikow.

APPEARANCE

Secrets Raskolnikow carries the secret of having murdered two people for most of the film. Because of his secret, he lives in anguish, fearing that he will be discovered as the murderer one day. Thus, his secret causes him immense suffering. His paranoia grows more with each passing day. Even in his dreams, he is haunted by the images of the pawnbroker he murdered. It is only when he is in the company of Sonia that he feels a sense of security, stability, and relative peace as he knows that Sonia is similar to him as she too, is a transgressor of moral laws. Therefore, Sonia is the only person whom Raskolnikow trusts. This is the reason why he eventually tells his secret to Sonia.

Dreams In the film, Raskolnikow dreams of the pawnbroker several times. In his dream, Raskolnikow goes into a room and sees the old pawnbroker hiding behind a curtain. The old pawnbroker laughs hysterically when she sees him. Raskolnikow has an ax and tries to murder her again and again, but he cannot. He escapes the room but the stairs are filled with people who know he is the murderer. Based on this dream, we can assert that even Raskolnikow's subconscious brain is affected by what he has done in reality. He is filled with extreme emotions ranging from apprehension to fear. He is always troubled by the possibility of his deeds eventually being discovered. And he cannot escape these emotions even in his dreams.

Self-delusion Delusion refers to a false belief or judgment about external reality, held despite incontrovertible evidence to the contrary, occurring especially in mental conditions. Self-delusion is the kind of delusion that one has about themselves. Raskolnikow's delusion is that he believes himself to be a Superman or an *Übermensch* who is above other members of society. In addition to being an intellectual, he believes that he possesses special rights such as the right to steal from people or kill

certain members of society whom he considers to be useless such as the pawnbroker. Based on his false perception of himself as separate from the rest of humanity, he proceeds to murder the pawnbroker and her sister. Thus, it is his very self-delusion which causes him to commit crimes. Even long after he has committed the murders, he believes his acts to be just and that he contributed to society by eliminating or exterminating the pawnbroker. However, Sonia helps him to see the falsity of his own perceptions. She encourages him to confess his crimes and return to his original faith of Christianity. In the very last scene of the film, we see Raskolnikow crossing himself after he has confessed his crimes to the police suggesting to us that he finally overcame his self-delusions of superiority.