

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT Character List

(most commonly used names are underlined)

**Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov** ("Rodya," "Rodka") The protagonist of the novel. A former student, Raskolnikov is now destitute, living in a cramped garret at the top of an apartment building.

**Avdotya Romanovna Raskolnikov** ("Dunya," "Dunechka") - Raskolnikov's sister. Dunya is as intelligent, proud, and good-looking as her brother, but she is also moral and compassionate. She is engaged to Luzhin at the beginning of the novel.

**Pulcheria Alexandrovna Raskolnikov** - Raskolnikov's mother. Pulcheria-Alexandrovna is deeply devoted to her son.

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**Dmitri Prokofych Razumikhin** - Raskolnikov's friend. A poor ex-student, he responds to his poverty not by taking from others but by working even harder. His name comes from the Russian word *razum*, which means "reason" or "intelligence."

**Zossimov** - Raskolnikov's doctor and a friend of Razumikhin. Zossimov is a young, self-congratulating man who has little insight into his patient's condition. He suspects that Raskolnikov is mentally ill.

**Nastasya Petrovna** ("Nastenka," "Nastasyushka") - A servant in the house where Raskolnikov rents his "closet." Nastasya brings him tea and food when he requests it and helps care for him in his illness after the murders.

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**Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov** ("Sonya," "Sonechka") - Raskolnikov's love and Marmeladov's daughter. Sonya is forced to prostitute herself to support herself and the rest of her family. She is meek and easily embarrassed, but she maintains a strong religious faith.

**Katerina Ivanovna Marmeladov** - The consumptive wife of Marmeladov. Katerina Ivanovna's serious illness gives her flushed cheeks and a persistent, bloody cough. She is very proud and repeatedly declares her aristocratic heritage.

**Semyon Zakharovich Marmeladov** - An alcoholic public official whom Raskolnikov meets at a tavern. Marmeladov is fully aware that his drinking is ruining himself and his family, but he is unable to stop.

**Polina Mikhailovna Marmeladov** ("Polya," "Polenka," "Polechka") The oldest daughter of Katerina Ivanovna from her former marriage; not Marmeladov's daughter (by blood).

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**Porfiry Petrovich** - The magistrate in charge of investigating the murders. Porfiry Petrovich has a shrewd understanding of criminal psychology and seems exquisitely aware of Raskolnikov's mental state at every step along the way.

**Ilya Petrovich** ("Gunpowder") - The police official whom Raskolnikov encounters after committing the murder. Unlike Porfiry Petrovich, Ilya Petrovich is rather oblivious and prone to sudden bouts of temper (thus the nickname "Gunpowder").

**Alexander Grigorievich Zamyotov** - A junior official in the police station who suspects that Raskolnikov.

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**Arkady Ivanovich Svidrigailov** - Dunya's depraved former employer. The death of his wife, Marfa Petrovna, has made him generous, but for what motive?

**Pyotr Petrovich Luzhin** - Dunya's fiancé. Luzhin is stingy, narrow-minded, and self-absorbed. His deepest wish is to marry a beautiful, intelligent, but desperately poor girl like Dunya so that she will be indebted to him.

**Andrei Semyonovich Lebezyatnikov** - Luzhin's grudging roommate. Lebezyatnikov is a young man who is convinced of the rightness of the "new philosophies" such as nihilism that are currently raging through St. Petersburg. Although he is self-centered, confused, and immature, he nonetheless seems to possess a basic version of human decency.

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**Alyona Ivanovna** - An old, withered pawnbroker. Raskolnikov calls Alyona Ivanovna a "louse" and despises her for cheating the poor out of their money and enslaving her own sister, Lizaveta.

**Lizaveta Ivanovna** - Alyona Ivanovna's sister. Lizaveta is simple, almost "idiotic," and a virtual servant to her sister. Sonya later reveals to Raskolnikov that she and Lizaveta were friends.

**Nikolai Dementiev ("Mikolka")** - A painter working in an empty apartment next to Alyona Ivanovna's on the day of the murders. Suspected of the murders and held in prison.

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## Facts about Russian Names and Culture

- Russian names are structured as [first name] [middle patronymic name] [SURNAME]. E.g. Igor Mihajlovich MEDVEDEV (male) or Natalia Borisovna PAVLOVA (female).
- Address people using their first name (casual) or first name and patronymic name (formal). For example, one would refer to Igor Mihajlovich MEDVEDEV as 'Igor Mihajlovich' in person. It is less common to use the patronymic name alone, although some Russians may do so.
- Titles such as "Mr.", "Mrs." and "Ms." are not used.
- It is uncommon to use the surname to address an individual face-to-face. This generally only occurs in formal circumstances (such as in written administrative documents, between teachers and students) or when speaking with people about somebody who is not present in the discussion.
- Women customarily take their husband's surname at marriage, although not always.
- The middle name is patronymic, created by using the child's father's name with the suffix "vich" or "ovich" for boys, and "avna" or "ovna" for girls. This means 'son of' and 'daughter of'.
- An 'a' is added to the end of almost all female surnames.
- People commonly use diminutives as nicknames to address one another. For example, Lena may become Lenchka or Anya is turned into Anyuta. Male nicknames often shorten the original name. For example, Mikhail becomes Mish or Misha.
- Ask a Russian's permission before calling them by a nickname – especially those that shorten their original name. As Russians are more formal in the initial stages of meeting someone, moving on to this basis too soon can be seen as excessive familiarity or even patronising.
- Close friends may jokingly refer to one another by using a shortened version of their patronymic name. For example, calling Nikolai Ivanovich by "Ivanych". This is the way people called on servants in the 19th century and implies inferiority. It is best not to address people in this way if you have a limited background in Russian as you may not be able to deliver the name in such a way that it is taken as a joke.