

Crime and Punishment Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

- **Irony:** A major example of irony is Raskolnikov's theory. He believes that extraordinary people can break the law. So, he kills Alyona Ivanovna. His expectation was peace and self-confidence. But in reality, he collapses under guilt. Even before the court's punishment, he suffers mental torment. Effect: This irony shows that no matter how intelligent a person is, crime never brings freedom. True punishment comes through remorse.
- **Metaphor:** The entire novel uses murder as a metaphor. The killing of Alyona and Lizaveta is not just the death of two women. It is a metaphor for the destructive power of human pride, poverty, and false philosophy. Raskolnikov's mental agony is a metaphor for the guilt of the human soul. Effect: This metaphor teaches the reader that crime ultimately means the downfall of the soul.
- **Symbolism:**
 - **The city of St. Petersburg:** The city is not just a background. It symbolizes poverty, crime, crowds, and despair. Its dark alleys and grim streets reflect Raskolnikov's inner turmoil.
 - **The attic room:** Raskolnikov's small, suffocating room symbolizes his loneliness and confinement. Its darkness mirrors his mental darkness.
 - **Sonia (Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov):** Sonia symbolizes humanity, faith, and redemption. Her prostitution represents suffering, but her love and devotion to God symbolize Raskolnikov's spiritual salvation.
 - **The Siberian prison:** The prison is not only a place of punishment. It symbolizes rebirth. There, Raskolnikov learns true repentance.
 - **Razumikhin:** He symbolizes human friendship and hope. His presence shows that even in hardship, people can find light.
 - **Svidrigailov:** He represents hedonism, darkness, and moral corruption. His suicide is the ultimate consequence of this downfall.
 - **Luzhin:** Luzhin symbolizes hypocrisy and selfishness. His character reflects that part of society where relationships are used only for self-interest.