As the main character in *Crime and Punishment*, Raskolnikov not only drives the plot forward, but presents the reader with a dual personality that can be interpreted in many ways.

Raskolnikov is portrayed as a morally ambiguous character in *Crime and Punishment* due to his inner conflict and emotions about the murders he committed in the book. Raskolnikov might be viewed as purely evil after murdering the pawn broker and her sister; however, the events taking place afterwards show a different side of Raskolnikov which is not purely evil.
Raskolnikov’s moral ambiguity brings the reader to realize that he is not a purely evil person, although while reading Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, we also can tell that he is not purely good. In order for a character to be purely good, they must be doing their very best the entire time to make themselves better and make the place around them better. If a character is purely evil they must be acting out of complete aggression and anger. They must have no good inside them at all.

In Crime and Punishment the protagonist, Rodion Romanovitch Raskolnikov, has remarkably pervasive moral ambiguity. He can be seen as both relatable and caricatured; compassionate and
misanthropic; a mere victim of his own psychological stresses and deserving of the blame for all his wrongdoings. Raskolnikov’s moral dichotomy reflects his schism in personality, and these two facets of the character are significant to the novel because together they substantiate its primary psychological themes and illustrate its optimistic message of the possibility of salvation through suffering.

In every well written novel, like Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky, there should be a character whose morals are neither purely good. In Crime and Punishment Sonia is an important pivotal character due to her strong
influence on Raskolnikov, her questionable acts that contradict her beliefs and her significance to the book.

Dostoevsky uses Raskolnikov to demonstrate moral ambiguity alternating between a logical and unemotional man to a sympathetic and faithful man relying on a higher power. This schism in his personality and thought process shows Dostoevsky’s belief of attainment of salvation through suffering, and his rejection of rationalism.

In Crime and Punishment Dostoevsky portrays the character of Raskolnikov as morally ambiguous:
he commits both acts of kindness and horrible atrocities. This schism allows Dostoevsky to create a deeper meaning for the novel as a whole. Raskolnikov will, at times, do spontaneous and extravagant acts of kindness. He can also, on the other hand, commit cold blooded crimes. This split between his two identities gives the novel a greater meaning and contrast.