### Worksheet 2.1 Role Call: Suggested Answers Template

**Note:** These are suggested answers *only.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Physical and biographical attributes</th>
<th>Beliefs, motivations, emotions, behaviors <em>(refer to or quote text to support your assertions)</em></th>
<th>Conflicts/contrasts <em>(refer to or quote text to support your assertions)</em></th>
<th>Additions and/or modifications after class discussion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>• “Hat on and pipe in mouth”&lt;br&gt;• Part of the community but not clear in what role&lt;br&gt;• Indeterminate age though his universal knowledge suggests the wisdom of age</td>
<td>• Nostalgic, melancholic, appreciative of detail: “The morning star always gets wonderful bright the minute before it has to go.”&lt;br&gt;• Witty: “There’s some scenery for those who think they have to have scenery.”&lt;br&gt;• Honest, straight-talking, direct: “Nobody very remarkable ever come out of [the town], s’far as we know.”&lt;br&gt;• Maybe a little amused and/or contemptuous of the town folk who sleep late in</td>
<td>• He knows what other characters don’t know&lt;br&gt;• Repeatedly draws our attention to death</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Characteristics</td>
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| Emily Webb      | 16  | Youthfully confident, good student ("I’m both [healthy and bright], Mama: you know I am. I’m the brightest girl in school for my age. I have a wonderful memory.")  
But also a little insecure ("I go to school dressed like a sick turkey.")  
Has fantasies of being "a lady of startling elegance"  
Confidence again: of her speech in class, "It was like silk off a spool."  
Confidence may be excessive  
Youthful energy may abate  
To her father: “I just don’t listen to you.”  
When her mother is asking about George, Emily talks about school instead—seems more focused on and interested in the latter.  
Concerned about whether she’s pretty.  
“Oh, Mama, you never tell us the truth about anything.” |
| George Gibbs | • About 16  
• Pretty? | • Rambunctious  
(throwing soap at 
his sister, yelling 
in the morning 
despite his 
father’s fatigue)  
• Youthfully 
energetic  
• Can’t save 
money, wants 
more | • A little rebellious, 
which could lead to 
conflict  
• As with Emily, 
youthful energy 
may abate  
• Money may be a 
concern |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frank Gibbs (Doc) | • Town doctor  
• Carries a black 
bag  
• Hard working and 
tired (“takes off 
his hat and rubs 
his face with 
fatigue”  
• Father and 
husband | • Thoughtful, 
respectful  
(responds to Joe’s 
news about the 
schoolteacher’s 
engagement with 
attention to Joe’s 
feelings: “I 
declare.—How 
do you boys feel 
about that?”)  
• Also asks about 
Joe’s knee  
• Gentle, animal 
loving: greets 
Howie’s horse, 
strokes her  
• Paternal | • Wondering whether 
his work distracts 
him from his family  
• See contrast with 
wife’s desires 
below  
• Concerned about 
George’s future 
given his current 
unhelpfulness |
| **Julia (Hersey) Gibbs (Mrs. Gibbs)** | • “A plump, pleasant woman in the middle thirties.”  
• Dead from pneumonia  
• Was Julia Hersey before she married Doc Gibbs  
• Mother and wife | • Solicitous with her husband—worries about his eating and sleeping  
• Concerned and a little exasperated about her son George (“I declare, you got to speak to George. Seems like something’s come over him lately. He’s no help to me at all.”)  
• Seems maybe a little more affectionate toward her daughter than son (re: allowance) | • Some potential for drama in the furniture buyer story, in which someone wants to buy the past (Grandmother Wentworth’s highboy)  
• Says of Doc, “I haven’t heard a serious word out of him since I’ve known him.”  
• Her desire for Paris and his fear “it might make him discontented with Grover’s Corners to go traipsin’ about Europe.” |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Charles Webb** | • Cut finger  
• Publisher and editor of local newspaper | • Undecided on the gravity of economic difference in the community  
• Relatively dismissive about any alcohol abuse | • Describes some potentially provocative political and social data: “Women vote indirect. We’re lower middle class: sprinkling of professional men…ten percent illiterate laborers,” many more Protestants than... |
Catholics, though “ninety percent of [young people] graduating from high school settle down right here to live—even when they’ve been away to college”; some drinkers but not too many.

- (The “belligerent man” who asks “Is there no one in town aware of social injustice and industrial inequality” should make us question the town’s status quo despite its apparent peacefulness)—Mr. Webb doesn’t seem particularly troubled by this, however

- Not much culture, but “a lot of pleasures of a kind”—nature and other simple joys
| Myrtle Webb | “A thin, serious, crisp woman”  
| A little anxious about her children (“Walk fast, but you don’t have to run. Wally, pull up your pants at the knee. Stand up straight, Emily.”)  
| Says she was the “prettiest girl in town next to Mamie Cartwright” | “I’d rather have my children healthy than bright”  
| Seeing her anxiety about her children as the beginning of a potential conflict  
| Contrasts a bit in attitude toward children with Mrs. Gibbs—who says “You look real nice, Rebecca” and then goes peacefully to feed the chickens—and in appearance  
| Doesn’t answer Emily’s question about her attractiveness except to say “You’re pretty enough for all normal purposes” |