

Worksheet 2.1 Role Call: Suggested Answers Template

Note: These are suggested answers only.

Character	Physical and biographical attributes	Beliefs, motivations, emotions, behaviors (refer to or quote text to support your assertions)	Conflicts/contrasts (refer to or quote text to support your assertions)	Additions and/or modifications after class discussion
Stage Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Hat on and pipe in mouth” • Part of the community but not clear in what role • Indeterminate age though his universal knowledge suggests the wisdom of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nostalgic, melancholic, appreciative of detail: “The morning star always gets wonderful bright the minute before it has to go.” • Witty: “There’s some scenery for those who think they have to have scenery.” • Honest, straight-talking, direct: “Nobody very remarkable ever come out of [the town], s’far as we know.” • Maybe a little amused and/or contemptuous of the town folk who sleep late in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He knows what other characters don’t know • Repeatedly draws our attention to death 	

		<p>contrast to the farmers who are up with the light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorrowful sometimes (e.g., when he tells us about Joe dying in the war), but not sentimental 		
Emily Webb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 16 • Pretty? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rambunctious (throwing soap at his sister, yelling in the morning despite his father's fatigue) • Youthfully energetic • Can't save money, wants more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A little rebellious, which could lead to conflict • As with Emily, youthful energy may abate • Money may be a concern 	
Frank Gibbs (Doc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town doctor • Carries a black bag • Hard working and tired ("takes off his hat and rubs his face with fatigue") • Father and husband 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

<p>Julia (Hersey) Gibbs (Mrs. Gibbs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A plump, pleasant woman in the middle thirties.” • Dead from pneumonia • Was Julia Hersey before she married Doc Gibbs • Mother and wife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitous with her husband—worryes 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.” 	
<p>Charles Webb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut finger • Publisher and editor of local newspaper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undecided on the gravity of economic difference in the community • Relatively dismissive about any alcohol abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

			<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (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	
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Myrtle Webb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “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” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I’d rather have my children healthy than bright” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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” 	
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