

1. Violet Weston

- **Age:** Mid-60s to early 70s
- **Description:** Violet is the strong-willed, abrasive, and often cruel matriarch of the Weston family. She suffers from mouth cancer and has a longstanding addiction to pills. Despite her sharp tongue, there is a vulnerable side to her, hidden beneath years of bitterness, trauma, and drug dependence.
- **Traits:** Sharp, manipulative, sarcastic, domineering, but also emotionally wounded.

2. Barbara Fordham

- **Age:** Early 40s to early 50s
- **Description:** The eldest daughter of Violet and Beverly. Barbara is a strong woman who has come into conflict with her mother over the years. She is facing the breakdown of her marriage and struggles to balance her responsibilities to her family with her desire for independence.
- **Traits:** Determined, frustrated, resilient, authoritative, deeply conflicted.

3. Bill Fordham

- **Age:** Late 40s to early 50s
- **Description:** Barbara's estranged husband. A college professor who is leaving Barbara for a younger woman. Despite his affair, he still shows moments of care and concern for his family, though he is largely emotionally distant.
- **Traits:** Intellectual, detached, charismatic but flawed, conflicted.

4. Ivy Weston

- **Age:** Late 30s to mid-40s
- **Description:** The middle daughter, Ivy is the one who stayed close to home. She is often overshadowed and dismissed by her family. She has a secret relationship with her cousin, Little Charles, and dreams of escaping the family's toxic environment.
- **Traits:** Quiet, introverted, longing for love and independence, underestimated.

5. Karen Weston

- **Age:** Mid-30s to early 40s
- **Description:** The youngest Weston daughter, Karen is superficial and self-absorbed, living in a bubble of optimism. She has recently become engaged to Steve, a man with questionable morals, and is desperate to prove that she has found happiness, even if it's fragile.
- **Traits:** Naive, idealistic, shallow, desperate for approval.

6. Beverly Weston

- **Age:** Mid-60s to early 70s
- **Description:** The patriarch of the family, Beverly is an alcoholic poet who has become disillusioned with life and his marriage to Violet. His disappearance at the beginning of the play sets the story in motion.
- **Traits:** Thoughtful, poetic, melancholy, resigned.

7. Mattie Fae Aiken

- **Age:** Late 50s to mid-60s
- **Description:** Violet's loud and brash sister, Mattie Fae dominates conversations and is often unkind, particularly to her son, Little Charles. She carries her own secrets and frustrations, masking her insecurities with humor and bullying.
- **Traits:** Loud, domineering, sarcastic, dismissive of others' feelings.

8. Charlie Aiken

- **Age:** Late 50s to mid-60s
- **Description:** Mattie Fae's husband, Charlie is good-natured and tries to keep the peace. He is more understanding and compassionate than his wife, and their relationship is strained due to her treatment of their son.
- **Traits:** Gentle, patient, diplomatic, supportive.

9. Little Charles Aiken

- **Age:** Early 30s to mid-40s
- **Description:** The son of Mattie Fae and Charlie, Little Charles is shy, awkward, and often belittled by his mother. He harbors feelings of inadequacy but dreams of a relationship with Ivy, unaware of the family secret that complicates things.
- **Traits:** Sweet, insecure, sensitive, yearning for love and approval.

10. Steve Heidebrecht

- **Age:** Early 40s to mid-50s
- **Description:** Karen's fiancé, Steve is slick and confident but has a darker side. He is a sleazy businessman with questionable morals and becomes involved in a scandalous incident during the play.
- **Traits:** Charming, sleazy, manipulative.

11. Johnna Monevata

- **Age:** Early 20s to early 30s
- **Description:** The young Native American woman hired as a live-in housekeeper by Beverly before he disappears. Johnna is quiet, compassionate, and observant, often providing a calm contrast to the chaos of the Weston family.

- **Traits:** Kind, stoic, grounded, protective.

12. Sheriff Deon Gilbeau

- **Age:** Early 40s to early 50s
- **Description:** An old flame of Barbara's, the local sheriff who brings news to the family. He is calm and professional, with a touch of sentimentality for his past with Barbara.
- **Traits:** Professional, empathetic, steady, nostalgic.