

CHARACTERS

(Cast of 15: 8 female, 7 male)

Charlotte Holland (101 lines): A single woman in her twenties, without relatives except her four uncles who live abroad; headmistress of a small girls' boarding school set up in Holland House, the family estate inherited from her father

Penny (38 lines): A student of Charlotte's; a kind, meek girl who pays attention to the needs of others

Jemima (19 lines): One of the youngest students — sarcastic and straightforward, but well-meaning

Lois (33 lines): A student who has a dramatic imagination and always expects the worst

Ada (34 lines): A quick-thinking, book-loving student, eager to learn and be useful to others

Harriet (34 lines): A sweet, enthusiastic student who can sometimes be a bit scatterbrained

Flora (33 lines): One of the older students, who tends to take charge when Charlotte is absent

Eleanor (30 lines): A gentle, caring, mature student

Morris Holland (131 lines): The younger brother of Charlotte's late father; an unrepentant "prodigal son," who has lived in France for years and now returns to America hoping to claim the Holland estate

Nicodemus (54 lines): One of Morris's foolish sidekicks, who proves to be surprisingly conscientious

Bob (54 lines): Morris's other sidekick, even more foolish than Nicodemus

Alexander Lockwood (59 lines): The attorney who handles the Holland family's legal affairs; a wise, responsible, considerate man who helps to protect Charlotte's interests

Jay Paternoster (48 lines): The oldest brother of Charlotte's late mother; once a businessman in London with his two brothers, now the three of them are moving back to America in hopes of reuniting with their niece

Felix Paternoster (58 lines): Jay's younger brother — friendly and easier to interact with than either of his brothers

Chester Paternoster (50 lines): Jay's youngest brother, whose concern for the well-being of others makes him attentive and sometimes anxious