

## MIDDLETOWN CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

*(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)*

**PUBLIC SPEAKER, Male, 40s–60s**

The audience's guide through the world of Middletown. He speaks directly to the audience, introducing the town and its people while inviting us to look more closely at ordinary life. By turns funny, thoughtful, welcoming, and unsettling, he seems to exist both inside and outside the story.

**COP, Male, 30s–50s**

A police officer in Middletown. He spends much of the play questioning, interrupting, observing, and inserting himself into the lives of others. He projects authority and certainty, but beneath that confidence are deeper questions about loneliness, purpose, and what it means to be human.

**MRS. SWANSON, Female, late 30s–40s**

New to Middletown and preparing to start a family with her husband. Thoughtful, hopeful, and practical. As the play unfolds, she experiences both profound joy and profound loss while continuing to move forward with courage and grace.

**JOHN DODGE, Male, late 30s–40s**

A handyman struggling with loneliness and a sense that something is missing from his life. Intelligent, observant, and often uncomfortable with himself and the world around him. He longs for connection, understanding, and a reason to keep going.

**MECHANIC, Male, late 20s–40s**

A mechanic who lives on the edges of Middletown. He has started drinking again, feels disconnected from many of the people around him, and often sees the darker side of life. Skeptical, restless, and blunt, he is nevertheless searching for meaning, belonging, and human connection.

**LIBRARIAN, Female, 50s–70s**

The town librarian. Curious, compassionate, and genuinely interested in people. She possesses a deep appreciation for books, ideas, and life's unanswered questions. One of the few people who seems able to meet others exactly where they are.

**TOUR GUIDE, Female, 18–25**

A local tour guide with a fascination for history, science, and humanity's place in the universe. She sees connections between everyday life and enormous cosmic questions. Curious, intelligent, and eager to understand how everything fits together.

**FEMALE TOURIST, Female, 30s–50s**

Visiting Middletown with her husband. Open-minded, curious, and willing to engage with unfamiliar ideas. She enjoys exploring the world and finding meaning in unexpected places.

MALE TOURIST, Male, 30s–50s

Visiting Middletown with his wife. Well-traveled, opinionated, and confident in his perspective. He enjoys sharing what he knows and does not hesitate to voice his opinions, though his curiosity often gets the better of him.

GREG, Male, 20s–40s

An astronaut orbiting Earth. Separated from the rest of humanity, he reflects on the beauty, fragility, and strangeness of life. Thoughtful, observant, and deeply affected by what he sees.

SWEETHEART, Female, young adult who can convincingly appear younger (18+)

A young woman who experiences the world differently than most people around her. She possesses an extraordinary memory and a unique way of seeing things. Honest, direct, and often unexpectedly insightful.

AUNT, Female, 40s–60s

Sweetheart's caretaker. Protective, patient, and deeply devoted to her niece. She understands Sweetheart's challenges and strengths better than most.

FREELANCER, Male, 20s–40s

A writer attending a play. Observant, reflective, and interested in people. He spends much of his time paying attention to the world around him and trying to make sense of it.

MAN, Male, 20s–40s

Attending a play on a date. Trying to connect with the woman beside him while navigating a conversation about art, life, and relationships.

WOMAN, Female, 20s–40s

Attending a play on a date. Thoughtful and engaged. She is willing to wrestle with difficult ideas and challenge assumptions about art and life.

LANDSCAPER, Male, 20s–30s

A young man working outside the hospital. Straightforward, sincere, and grounded. He serves as a reminder that life continues moving forward even during moments of crisis.

MALE DOCTOR, Male, 40s–60s

A physician responsible for delivering important medical information to Mrs. Swanson. Professional, direct, and compassionate.

FEMALE DOCTOR, Female, 40s–60s

A physician caring for John Dodge and Mechanic. Honest, practical, and empathetic. She balances medical reality with genuine concern for her patients.

ATTENDANT #1, Female, 40s–60s

A hospital attendant helping care for patients and families during difficult moments.

ATTENDANT #2, Female, 20s–40s

A hospital attendant whose presence contributes to the life of the hospital and its patients.

JANITOR, Male, 20s–40s

A hospital janitor who has quietly observed countless people pass through the building over the years. Practical, unpretentious, and attentive to the realities of everyday life.