

## 1. Joseph Andrews

Role: Protagonist

Character Traits: Virtuous, handsome, naive yet morally strong, loyal, humble Expanded Analysis:

Joseph Andrews is a young, good-looking, and virtuous footman who serves Lady Booby. His character is modeled after the idealized virtue of Pamela from Samuel Richardson's novel Pamela, though Fielding satirizes the concept by making Joseph a male counterpart. His main defining trait is his chastity, which he staunchly defends despite numerous attempts at seduction, particularly from Lady Booby and Mrs. Slipslop.

Throughout the novel, Joseph faces hardship, including being dismissed from Lady Booby's service, robbed, and separated from Fanny. However, he remains steadfast in his values and unwavering in his love for Fanny. His character exemplifies Fielding's belief that true virtue is not determined by social class but by personal integrity.

Joseph also serves as a contrast to other men in the novel, particularly the lustful and predatory characters who lack his moral fortitude. His innocence and good hearted nature sometimes make him naive, but he learns from his experiences, growing in wisdom by the end of the novel.

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## 2. Parson Abraham Adams

Role: Joseph's mentor and traveling companion

Character Traits: Kind-hearted, naive, scholarly, absent-minded, generous, idealistic

Expanded Analysis:

Parson Adams is one of the most memorable and beloved characters in the novel. He is a poor but highly educated clergyman who genuinely

embodies Christian values such as charity, humility, and compassion. Despite his deep knowledge of theology and classical literature, he is often impractical and oblivious to worldly matters.

Adams is frequently taken advantage of due to his trusting nature. For instance, he lends money to a stranger who never repays him, leaving him stranded without funds. However, his moral convictions never waver, and he constantly defends justice, even when it puts him in dangerous situations.

Fielding uses Adams as a contrast to hypocritical religious figures in the novel, such as the corrupt clergymen who are more concerned with wealth and status than true Christian values. Adams is a comic figure due to his forgetfulness and eccentricities, yet he also serves as a moral guide for both Joseph and the reader.

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### 3. Fanny Goodwill

Role: Joseph's love interest

Character Traits: Beautiful, modest, virtuous, devoted,

innocent Expanded Analysis:

Fanny Goodwill is a poor but virtuous young woman deeply in love with Joseph. Her unwavering devotion and purity parallel Joseph's, making them the perfect romantic pair. Like Joseph, she is tested throughout the novel, particularly when she is nearly kidnapped and assaulted multiple times, yet she remains steadfast in her virtue.

Though she is a relatively passive character, Fanny plays an important role in the novel's critique of class and morality. Despite being of low birth, she is morally superior to many of the aristocrats and gentry. Her character reinforces Fielding's message that true virtue is found in one's actions, not one's social status.

Additionally, Fanny's beauty makes her a target for men who wish to exploit her, but her innocence and moral strength protect her. She is ultimately rewarded for her virtue when she and Joseph are reunited and allowed to marry, representing the triumph of goodness over corruption.

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#### 4. Lady Booby

Role: Antagonist; Joseph's employer

Character Traits: Lustful, selfish, aristocratic, hypocritical, manipulative Expanded Analysis:

Lady Booby is a wealthy, widowed aristocrat who becomes infatuated with Joseph. When he resists her advances, she becomes furious and dismisses him, revealing her selfish and vengeful nature. She represents the moral corruption of the upper class, using her wealth and influence to manipulate those beneath her.

Throughout the novel, Lady Booby's actions demonstrate the hypocrisy of the aristocracy. She publicly maintains an image of respectability but privately indulges in inappropriate desires. Her character serves as a satirical critique of how the rich often believe they can control others through power and money.

Despite her attempts to prevent Joseph from marrying Fanny, she ultimately fails, highlighting the novel's theme that true virtue cannot be defeated by wealth or social status.

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#### 5. Mrs. Slipslop

Role: Lady Booby's servant; comic relief

Character Traits: Hypocritical, pretentious, lustful, arrogant, foolish Expanded Analysis:

Mrs. Slipslop is Lady Booby's maid and one of the novel's most comical characters. She fancies herself intelligent and sophisticated but frequently misuses big words, making her a figure of ridicule. Her speech is filled with malapropisms, a literary device Fielding uses to emphasize her pretentiousness.

Like her mistress, Mrs. Slipslop is attracted to Joseph, but her attempts to seduce him fail. She often criticizes other women for their lack of morality while indulging in the same behavior, making her a prime example of hypocrisy.

She also represents the idea that social class does not determine morality. Despite being a servant, she shares many of Lady Booby's selfish and manipulative tendencies. Her character reinforces the novel's satire on human folly and pretension.

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## 6. Mr. Wilson

Role: A reformed character and mentor figure

Character Traits: Wise, reflective, experienced, regretful,

content Expanded Analysis:

Mr. Wilson is a character Joseph and Parson Adams meet during their journey. He tells them his life story, which serves as an important moral lesson. Once a reckless and immoral young man, he wasted his youth in London indulging in gambling, drinking, and womanizing. However, after experiencing loss and misfortune, he reformed himself and chose a simple, virtuous life in the countryside.

Wilson's story contrasts with the other characters who remain morally corrupt, showing that it is possible for people to change. His character reinforces the novel's message that true happiness comes from living a virtuous and humble life rather than chasing wealth or pleasure.

Additionally, Wilson plays a key role in the novel's plot, as he is later revealed to be Joseph's long-lost father, adding a sentimental and providential element to the story.

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