**Spoon River Anthology**

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

Roles already cast are in blue.  
New characters are in green.

1. **The Gardener** – is an elder, outwardly a gardener. This is someone who tends to the community.  
2. **Ollie McGee** – a pretty young woman with a cold husband.  
3. **Aaron Kelstone** – a new character to be created  
4. **Fletcher McGee** – Ollie McGee’s husband who thought he could mold her into the person he wanted her to be and now feels haunted by her.  
5. **Serepta Mason** – like a flower in the wind that can’t blossom on all sides, she felt she hid her best self from the town.  
6. **Amanda Barker** – died in childbirth, blames her husband who knew the pregnancy could kill her.  
7. **Chase Henry** – town drunk, in death he is as celebrated as the best of men.  
8. **Judge Somers** – grumbles that the town drunk has a nicer grave than his.  
9. **Benjamin Pantier** – husband and conservative town leader.  
10. **Mrs. Benjamin Pantier**  
11. **Reuben Pantier** – a “player” who had a lasting crush on his teacher Emily Sparks.  
12. **Emily Sparks** – a dedicated teacher, Christian and loving to her students, especially to Reuben Pantier.  
13. **Trainor, the Druggist** – single person, ran the town pharmacy.  
14. **Minerva Jones** – a poet with a physical disability (heavy-set, a limp, a crooked eye).  
15. **“Indignation“ Jones** – Minerva’s Dad, a carpenter who lived in poverty “ruined”.  
16. **Doctor Meyers** – a loved and respected doctor who gave Minerva an abortion. When she died, his reputation was in ruins. He died soon after.  
17. **Mrs. Meyers** – The Doctor’s wife, believed her husband did the right thing.  
18. **Knowlt Hoheimer** – Revolutionary soldier, died on Missionary Ridge.  
19. **Karen Lewis** – a new character created by Luane Davis Haggerty, a modern day protestor accidentally killed by a rubber bullet.  
20. **Lydia Puckett** – an attractive young woman, believes her brush off sent Knowlt Hoheimer to War.  
21. **Flossie Canbis** – an actress, who married a more successful actor and was left to fend for herself in New York City.  
22. **Theodore the Poet** – wanted to use his writing to capture the essence and soul of people.
23. **Margaret Fuller Slack** – deep-set grey eyes, she wanted to be a writer (like George Eliot) but was derailed by marriage and family.

24. **“Ace” Shaw** – a gambler.

25. **TBA** – to be written preferably from an LGBTQ point of view.

26. **Deacon Taylor** – alcoholic minister. He always hid his drinking from the congregation.

27. **Sam Hookey** – ran away to the circus and was cruel to the animals, killed by a lion.

28. **Fiddler Jones** – was given 40 acres and a mule but never got to cultivate it. He was such a good musician, he was always asked to play. He has no regrets.

29. **A.D. Blood** – a hard, conservative man, ready to pull his neighbors into court for perceived slights, funny now his grave is used by young lovers as an assignation place.

30. **Dora Williams** – had 2 husbands die and ended up being poisoned by the 3rd (think “He had it Coming” from the musical CHICAGO).

31. **William and Emily** – lived loved and died together in love.

32. **Thomas Warfield** – to be created, proposed singing “Deep River” in tribute to his Uncle William Warfield and dancing to that music by the Genesee River. This may become a much more interwoven piece of the production requiring many more dancers.

33. **Nancy Knapp** – burned down the family farm.

34. **Barry Holden** – Nancy Knapp’s brother, ended up killing his own wife.

35. **Francis Turner** – (they/their) heart weakened by scarlet-fever died when they first kissed a girl.

36. **Pauline Barrett** – surgery left her unable to have children and she killed herself on her wedding night.

37. **Mrs. Charles Bliss** – forced by society and church pressure to stay in an unhappy marriage.

38. **Mrs. George Reece** – her husband was sent to prison for a crime he didn’t do and she was left to care for the children. She advises the audience to do your work with honor.

39. **Rev. Lemuel Wiley** – a Pastor most proud of keeping the Bliss couple from divorce.

40. **Yee Bow** – Chinese immigrant killed by the minister’s son.

41. **Mary McNeely** – never married, cared for her father all her life.

42. **Daniel McCumber** – loved Mary McNeely but left her in Spoon River when he went to New York and never came back.

43. **Georgine Sand Miner** – a mean stepmother kicked her out of the house, she was battered and became the mistress of Daniel McCumber as well as having a lesbian lover.

44. **Penniwit, the Artist** – photographer with a sense of mischief.

45. **TBA** – a new piece to be written – could be a musical piece, monologue or dance piece

46. **Ralph Rhodes** – the son of the town banker who stole money and let George Reece go to prison in his place.

47. **Rosie Roberts** – a prostitute who killed one of her lover’s from Madam Lou’s, the police thought it was suicide but she wants to admit it.
48. **Lilian Stewart** – lived in a beautiful slate-roofed mansion but the family was poor, no dowry, so she stayed unmarried and took care of her father.

49. **Editor Wheaton** – loved gossip and salacious news. Unhappy with his gravesite.

50. **Widow MacFarlene** – carpet weaver who had a passion for the loom and sees her own shroud in the hidden patterns of the cloth.

51. **Carl Hamlin** – a reporter for the paper who published an opinion piece blasting the justice system when Anarchists were hanged.

52. **The Unknown** – a boy who shot a hawk and was killed, he is in an unmarked grave and wishes to find the soul of the hawk he killed.

53. **Alexander Throckmorton** – believes genius is youth and wisdom.

54. **Seth Compton** – built and ran the Spoon River Library.

55. **Shack Dye** – white men played practical jokes on him all his life.

56. **Henry Tripp** – lost all his savings when the bank collapsed, wanted to run out on his family but got arrested as a witness to a fist fight and never left.

57. **Archibald Higbie** – had ambition and wanted to leave Spoon River, but felt he could never get Spoon River out of his personae.

58. **Tom Merritt** – his wife had an affair and he got shot by her lover.

59. **Mrs. Merritt** – she got 30 years in prison for not witnessing against the lover who murdered her husband.

60. **Elmer Karr** – He was the 19-year old lover of 35-year old Mrs. Merritt, when he shot and killed Mr. Merritt. After 14 years in prison, he repented and the community forgave him.

61. **Ami Green** – (they/their) never looked like an old man...always a young boy, never matured.

62. **Hamlet Micure** – died of a fever.

63. **Lucinda Matlock** – died at 96 and loved life, married Davis Matlock.

64. **Tennessee Claflin Shope** – laughingstock of the town, earned the Bhargava Gita.

65. **Samuel Gardner** – a gardener buried beneath a tree.

66. **Dow Kritt** – ditch-digger, day laborer.

67. **Willie Metcalf** – looked like Doctor Meyers, lived in the stables and felt he was one with the earth.

68. **James Garber** – terrible loneliness.

69. **Arlo Will** – asks how others will use their lifetimes, “Have you ever seen an alligator...”

70. **Captain Orlando Killion** – career military man proud of being a Captain.

71. **“I Can’t Breathe”** – in honor of George Floyd, Eric Gardner and so many others

72. **The Gardner of the Community** – the narrator returns and ends with Robert Panara’s “On His Deafness”