

Dictionary of American Literary Characters

Benjamin Franklin V

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**Edited by
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Associate Editors
Gary Geer and Judith Haig**

A Bruccoli Clark Layman Book

 **Facts On File**
New York • Oxford • Sydney

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Dictionary of American literary characters/edited by
Benjamin Franklin V; associate editors, Gary Geer and
Judith Haig.

p. cm.

"A Bruccoli Clark Layman book."

ISBN 0-8160-1917-7

1. American fiction—Dictionaries. 2. Characters
and characteristics in literature—Dictionaries. I.
Franklin, Benjamin, 1939- . II. Geer, Gary. III.
Haig, Judith Giblin.

PS374.C43D5 1990

813.009'2303—dc20

89-25820

CIP

British CIP information available on request

Designed by Quentin Fiore

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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To my lunch companions, James Dickey and Don Greiner, who don't need this book.

Preface

This book describes the major characters in significant American novels—in addition to those in some uncelebrated novels and in a sampling of best sellers—from William Hill Brown's *The Power of Sympathy* (1789) through 1979. By “novels” I mean long works of fiction, or what is presented as fiction, although a few of the books are often referred to as novellas, and some as “non-fiction novels.” Because a novelist is included does not mean that characters from all of his or her novels are described. I stopped with the year 1979 in order to permit critical consensus to evolve. Space limitations have dictated omitting some nov-

els that otherwise would have been included. The entries are factual: they contain little interpretation. Users of this book who cannot recall the name of a character in a novel, and therefore cannot turn directly to the desired character's entry, should consult the index, where characters are listed alphabetically by novel. Although some characters, such as Babe Ruth and George Washington, are historical figures, they are treated in precisely the same manner as obviously fictional characters. Unnamed characters are not included.

**Dictionary of
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A

A. Daughter of Nimni and Ohiro-Moldona-Fivona in Herman Melville's *Mardi*.

Captain (Aarfy) Aardvaark. Fraternity man and navigator in Yossarian's squadron; rapes an Italian chambermaid and throws her out a window to her death to avoid a blot on his reputation in Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*.

Aaron. Hebrew son of Amram, brother of Miriam (and perhaps of Moses), and first high priest of the Israelites; killed and entombed by Moses on Mount Hor in Zora Neale Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain*.

Jimmy Aaron. Young black man who is murdered when he returns to the plantation to organize and lead his people during the civil rights movement in Ernest J. Gaines's *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.

Mother Abigail. See Abigail Freemantle.

Horace Abbeville. Bigamist and debtor; commits suicide after settling accounts with Lee Chong the grocer by exchanging a fish-meal storage building for his debt in John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*.

Elizabeth (Liz, Gillespie Emerson) Abbott. Woodcarver and clock winder who reconstitutes the Emerson family and salvages their neglected Baltimore home; as Gillespie, becomes the wife of Matthew Emerson and the mother of two children in Anne Tyler's *The Clock Winder*.

Horace Abbott. Gentle husband of Sally Page Abbott; dies of a heart attack as a result of a Halloween prank in John Gardner's *October Light*.

John Abbott. Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Ellington, North Carolina, and father of Elizabeth Abbott in Anne Tyler's *The Clock Winder*.

Julia Abbott. Wife of John Abbott and mother of Elizabeth Abbott in Anne Tyler's *The Clock Winder*.

Sally Page Abbott. Eighty-year-old liberal who in self-defense plans the injury or death of her brother, James Page, until she nearly kills her niece, Ginny Hicks; widow of Horace Abbott in John Gardner's *October Light*.

Abby. See Abigail Freemantle.

Aunt Abby (Nab). Maiden sister and ward of John Bellmont; tries to protect Frado from Mrs. Bellmont in Harriet E. Wilson's *Our Nig*.

Abe. Elderly government lawyer running away from corrupt politics and grief over the death of his wife and son; befriended by Anne and Phil Sorenson before plunging off a cliff to his death in Frederick Busch's *Manual Labor*.

Abe. Son of Lucy; slave who is sent to sea, where he dies trying to assist distressed sailors in John Pendleton Kennedy's *Swallow Barn*.

Uncle Abednego. Elderly black from the almshouse who is the Birdsongs' gardener in Ellen Glasgow's *The Sheltered Life*.

Abel (Abelito). American Indian and World War II veteran who is imprisoned for murder in N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn*.

James Abel. Poor Farm inmate and witch digger in Jessamyn West's *The Witch Diggers*.

Mary Abel. Poor Farm inmate and witch digger; sets the fire that kills Christian Fraser in Jessamyn West's *The Witch Diggers*.

Carol Abernathy. Wife of Hunt Abernathy and mistress of Ron Grant; head of Hunt Hills Little Theatre and occultist in James Jones's *Go to the Widow-Maker*.

Hunt Abernathy. Husband of Carol Abernathy and friend of Ron Grant; general manager of a brickmaking and lumberyard establishment in Indianapolis in James Jones's *Go to the Widow-Maker*.

Abilene. Pool shark, oil-well driller, and richest man (in cash) in Thalia, Texas, in Larry McMurtry's *The Last Picture Show*.

Mike Abrams. Lawyer; early romantic interest and later good friend of Salley Gardens in Susan Cheever's *Looking for Work*.

Dr. Abe Abramson. Physician; older cousin and surrogate father of Zeke Gurevich; patron of free-thinkers in Greenwich Village in William Herrick's *The Itinerant*.

Abrazza. Bachelor king of Bonovona in Herman Melville's *Mardi*.

Abyssinia (Sister 'ssinia). Dressmaker who travels with Arista Prolo as a costume designer; confides the story of Arista's life and death to Black Will in Carlene Hatcher Polite's *Sister X and the Victims of Foul Play*.

Josh Ace. Son of a team of Hollywood screenwriters from the 1930s and lover of Isadora Wing in Erica Jong's *How to Save Your Own Life*.

Achille. See Lafitte.

Achilles. Greek hero and lover of Helen; joins her in Egypt in H. D.'s *Helen in Egypt*.

Charlie Achorn. Cracker-barrel philosopher, temporary farmhand, and resident of Pretty Pass in Peter De Vries's *I Hear America Swinging*.

Noah Ackerman. Lonely Jewish social worker whose marriage to Hope Plowman deeply enriches his life; drafted into the army during World War II, where he is subjected to anti-Semitic taunts and distinguishes himself as a hero, in Irwin Shaw's *The Young Lions*.

Robert Ackley. Ill-groomed student who lives next to Holden Caulfield at Pencey Prep in J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Acoraci. Guard at the exit from NESTER in Scott Spencer's *Last Night at the Brain Thieves Ball*.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Acton. Guileless sister of Robert Acton; marries Clifford Wentworth in Henry James's *The Europeans*.

Mrs. Acton. Invalid mother of Robert and Lizzie Acton in Henry James's *The Europeans*.

Robert Acton. Sophisticated, well-traveled cousin of William Wentworth; courts Eugenia Münster in Henry James's *The Europeans*.

Ace Adair. Husband of Jewel Adair; killed by a train in William Goyen's *Come, The Restorer*.

Addis Adair. Adopted son of Ace and Jewel Adair; searches for his biological father and becomes a saintlike figure in the wilderness in William Goyen's *Come, The Restorer*.

Jewel Adair. Wife of Ace Adair; seeks to fulfill her lustful desires in William Goyen's *Come, The Restorer*.

Walter (Wat, Watty) Adair. North Carolina Tory sympathizer who betrays Arthur Butler; captured following the battle of King's Mountain; dies of a bite from a rabid wolf in John Pendleton Kennedy's *Horse-Shoe Robinson*.

Adam. Texas soldier who has an affair with Miranda; dies from influenza in Katherine Anne Porter's *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*.

Captain Jacob R. Adam. Owner of the S.S. *Thespian*, home of Adam's *Original and Unparalleled Floating Opera*, and master of ceremonies of the minstrel show in John Barth's *The Floating Opera*.

Alice (Lady Alicia, Alys Tuttle) Adams. Daughter of Virgil Adams; has a summer-long romance with Arthur Russell, but gives up her dreams of a life in high society and enrolls in a business college in Booth Tarkington's *Alice Adams*.

Amos Adams. Philosophic and idealistic editor of the *Harvey Tribune*; husband of Mary Adams, father of Grant Adams, and grandfather of Kenyon Adams in William Allen White's *In the Heart of a Fool*.

Carter Adams. American acquaintance who introduces Charlie Stark to the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands in Peter Matthiessen's *Raditzer*.

Mrs. Charles Fine Adams. Elderly woman who brings to the narrator's library a book on growing flowers in hotel rooms by candlelight in Richard Brautigan's *The Abortion*.

Grandfather Adams. Grandfather of Pookie Adams; supplies Pookie with "Casey Ruggles" comic strips in John Nichols's *The Sterile Cuckoo*.

Grandfather Adams. Grandfather of Stephen Grendon; takes Grendon's side in arguments and teaches him that "all love is just a fight against time" in August Derleth's *Evening in Spring*; also appears in *The Shield of the Valiant*.

Grant Adams. Father of Kenyon Adams; carpenter, reformer, and labor organizer in love with Laura Nesbit Van Dorn and killed by an anti-union mob in William Allen White's *In the Heart of a Fool*.

Jake Adams. Streetwise eighteen year old who makes his living in the drug underworld of St. Louis; main character in Herbert Simmons's *Corner Boy*.

John Adams. See Alexander Smith.

John R. Adams. Major, veteran of the Philippine campaign, and commander of the 1st Marine battalion in France during World War I in Thomas Boyd's *Through the Wheat*.

Kay Adams. College girlfriend and later the second wife of Michael Corleone in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*.

Kenyon Adams. Illegitimate son of Grant Adams and Margaret Müller; reared as the son of Amos and Mary Adams; musician and artist who marries Lila Van Dorn in William Allen White's *In the Heart of a Fool*.

Marian and Bob Adams. Aunt and uncle of Pookie Adams; their Los Angeles home is a haven for Pookie in John Nichols's *The Sterile Cuckoo*.

Mary Sands Adams. Wife of Amos Adams and mother of Grant Adams; with the help of James Nesbit, claims her grandson Kenyon Adams as her own son in William Allen White's *In the Heart of a Fool*.

Mildred Adams. See Mildred Adams Gale.

Mrs. Adams. Wife of Virgil Adams and mother of Alice and Walter Adams; nags her husband to start his own factory so she and their daughter can join high society in Booth Tarkington's *Alice Adams*.

Old Man Adams. Father of Jake Adams; factory worker close to retirement in Herbert Simmons's *Corner Boy*.

Phil Adams. Boyhood friend of Tom Bailey; teaches Bailey self-defense; becomes the consul at Shanghai in Thomas Bailey Aldrich's *The Story of a Bad Boy*.

Pookie (Pooks) Adams. Girlfriend of Jerry Payne; whimsical storyteller who falls in and out of love and finally commits suicide in John Nichols's *The Sterile Cuckoo*.

Virgil (Virg) Adams. Father of Alice and Walter Adams; longtime loyal employee of J. A. Lamb; starts his own glue factory, but is eventually bought out by Lamb, in Booth Tarkington's *Alice Adams*.

Walter (Wallie) Adams. Son of Virgil Adams; despises the high society his mother and sister Alice aspire to; takes up with disreputable companions and becomes an embezzler in Booth Tarkington's *Alice Adams*.

Captain Willie Adams. Boat owner who warns Harry Morgan that Morgan's bootlegging has been discovered in Ernest Hemingway's *To Have and Have Not*.

Gerard (Gerry) Adamson. Chairman of the English department at Quirn College, philosopher-poet, and husband of Louise Adamson, who leaves him for Vadim Vadimovich, in Vladimir Nabokov's *Look at the Harlequins!*

Louise Adamson. Young wife of Gerry Adamson, whom she leaves for a less than felicitous marriage to Vadim Vadimovich, whose third wife she becomes, in Vladimir Nabokov's *Look at the Harlequins!*

Frances (F. Jasmine, Frankie) Addams. Twelve-year-old protagonist infatuated with her brother and his bride; disrupts their wedding in an attempt to accompany them on their honeymoon in Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding*.

Jarvis Addams. Older brother of Frankie Addams; bridegroom in Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding*.

Royal Quincy Addams. Jewelry store owner, father of Frankie and Jarvis Addams, and employer of Berenice Sadie Brown in Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding*.

Judah Addison. Investor in Frank Cowperwood's natural gas project in Theodore Dreiser's *The Titan*.

Adele. Daughter of Lillian in Anaïs Nin's *Ladders to Fire and Seduction of the Minotaur*.

Adelina. Mexican wife of Harrison; asphyxiated in Nicholas Delbanco's *News*.

Adeppi. Young orphaned street singer in the Italian village of Castiglione; befriends Nino and lives with Arsella and Pipistrello in John Hawkes's *The Goose on the Grave*.

Adler. Member of Ward Bennett's crew seeking and failing to reach the North Pole; loyally remains with Bennett afterwards, encouraging him to make another voyage to the Arctic, in Frank Norris's *A Man's Woman*.

Dr. Adler. Vain physician and professor of internal medicine who lives in comfortable retirement in New York's Hotel Gloriana; uncaring father of Tommy Wilhelm in Saul Bellow's *The Victim*.

Liza Adler. Marxist who corresponds with Paul Hobbes in John Clellon Holmes's *Go*.

Myron (Mike) Adler. Successful and even-tempered businessman who, out of friendship and concern, reveals Joseph's decline into bad temper in Saul Bellow's *Dangling Man*.

Adraste. Maid of Helen; becomes pregnant by Damastor in John Erskine's *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*.

Boris (B., King B.) Adrian. Critically respected film director who directs a pornographic movie in Terry Southern's *Blue Movie*.

Anthony (Toni) Adverse. Illegitimate son of Maria Bonnyfeather and heir of John Bonnyfeather; has many adventures in his travels as he makes his fortune in Hervey Allen's *Anthony Adverse*.

Aegisthus. Lover of Clytemnestra; conspires with her to murder Clytemnestra's husband, Agamemnon; killed by Orestes in John Erskine's *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*.

Aeore (Child-Star, Riri'an). Niaruna Indian warrior who becomes a jaguar-shaman and chief rival of Lewis Moon in Peter Matthiessen's *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*.

African Flower. See Abeba Williams Lavoisier Torch.

After Birth Tycoon. See Salvador Hassan O'Leary.

Agamemnon. Brother of Menelaos and husband of Clytemnestra; killed by Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus in John Erskine's *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*.

Robert Agar. Specialist in keys and safecracking and an accomplice of Edward Pierce, whom Agar turns in to the police, in Michael Crichton's *The Great Train Robbery*.

Agatha. Beauty parlor assistant and girlfriend of Raymond; at Raymond's request, she visits the ailing Jake Brown in Claude McKay's *Home to Harlem*.

Bill Agatson. Former Harvard University student who drinks heavily and craves excess; killed in the New York subway in John Clellon Holmes's *Go*.

Aglone. Former slave who lives with the Pinseau family after the Civil War as their cook and housekeeper in Grace King's *The Pleasant Ways of St. Médard*.

Roland (Rollie) Agni. Talented rookie outfielder forced to play on the worst team in the Patriot League and bat eighth all year; reminds Angela Whittling Trust of her only true love, Luke Gofannon, in Philip Roth's *The Great American Novel*.

Agocho (Agocho Koh Tli-chu, Fig Tree John, John, Red Fire Bird). Apache Indian who seeks revenge on all whites for his wife's murder in Edwin Corle's *Fig Tree John*.

Mme. Agoropoulos. Woman kept from the social gatherings of the Cabala; honored when Alix d'Espoli accepts her invitation in Thornton Wilder's *The Cabala*.

Agravaine. Brother of Gawaine in Thomas Berger's *Arthur Rex*.

Ahab. Captain of the *Pequod* whose pursuit of Moby Dick leads to the death of everyone aboard the ship except Ishmael in Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*.

Gil Ahab. Night-shift worker whose truck is used to transport workers to the Past Bay Manufacturing Company factory during the strike; religious fanatic in Robert Cantwell's *The Land of Plenty*.

Mickey Ahearn. Unmarried mother of a child she calls Willy and sends via railroad freight to Will Brady in Wright Morris's *The Works of Love*.

Ah Fong. Chinese baker on Manukura who dies in the hurricane before he can return to China in Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall's *The Hurricane*.

K. Y. Ahmed. See Salvador Hassan O'Leary.

Forney Aiken. Alcoholic photographer who darkens his skin while researching his latest book on black life in the South in Walker Percy's *The Last Gentleman*.

Aimata. See Pomaree Vahinee I.

Mollie Ainslie. Massachusetts teacher who becomes a major landowner in Kansas; marries Hesden Le Moyne in Albion W. Tourgee's *Bricks without Straw*.

Oscar Ainslie. Brother of Mollie Ainslie; makes Mollie promise, as he is dying of consumption, that she will remain in a healthful Southern climate in Albion W. Tourgee's *Bricks without Straw*.

Noel (Saul Ehrmann) Airman. Songwriter with a crooked arm who is the social director and head of the entertainment staff at South Wind, an adult camp; love of Marjorie Morningstar in Herman Wouk's *Marjorie Morningstar*.

Robert Aitken. Philadelphia printer who hires Thomas Paine to start the *Pennsylvania Magazine*, only to fire him when Paine starts writing too plainly about American independence, in Howard Fast's *Citizen Tom Paine*.

A. J. (Merchant of Sex). Financier of Islam Inc.; international playboy and practical joker in William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*; sponsor of Homer Mandrill for president in *Exterminator!*; also appears in *The Soft Machine* and *The Wild Boys*.

Ajax. See Albert Jacks.

Alamo. Lead steer of the Del Sol trail herd that travels from Texas to Abilene in Emerson Hough's *North of 36*.

Alan. Husband of Sabina in Anaïs Nin's *A Spy in the House of Love*.

Alanno. Chief of Hio-Hio who criticizes King Bello in Herman Melville's *Mardi*.

Arthur Alarcon. Los Angeles Superior Court judge who replaces Alfred Peracca in the second trial of Gregory Powell and Jimmy Smith in Joseph Wambaugh's *The Onion Field*.

Bert Albany. Former miner who works in Zar's saloon; courts and marries a prostitute, with whom he leaves *Hard Times* when Clay Turner returns to raze the town, in E. L. Doctorow's *Welcome to Hard Times*.

Albert. Friend of Cecil Braithwaite in John Edgar Wideman's *Hurry Home*.

Alberta. Maid with mixed blood who is the object of Gamaliel Bland Honeywell's early desires in Ellen Glasgow's *The Romantic Comedians*.

Salathiel (Little Turtle) Albine. Child captured and reared by Indians; eventually works his way from life in the forest to one of civilization in Philadelphia in Hervey Allen's *The Forest and the Fort*, *Bedford Village*, and *Toward the Morning*.

Helen Albury. Sister of Robert Albury determined to prove her brother's innocence in Dashiell Hammett's *Red Harvest*.

Robert Albury. Assistant cashier of the First National Bank in Personville who is desperately in love with Dinah Brand, embezzles money to court her, and is charged with the murder of Donald Willsson in Dashiell Hammett's *Red Harvest*.

Maria Katerina Lorca Guerrera (Kat) Alcazar. American lesbian of Cuban descent; hired by Angel Stone as companion, secretary, bodyguard, and detective; narrator of M. F. Beal's *Angel Dance*.

Harriet Bumstead Alden. Mother of Oliver Alden in George Santayana's *The Last Puritan*.

Nathaniel Alden. Boston landlord and half brother of Peter Alden in George Santayana's *The Last Puritan*.

Oliver Alden. Idealistic student of philosophy; the "last Puritan" in George Santayana's *The Last Puritan*.

Peter Alden. Father of Oliver Alden in George Santayana's *The Last Puritan*.

Roberta (Mrs. Clifford Golden, Mrs. Carl Graham, Ruth Howard) Alden. Lover of Clyde Griffiths and pregnant by him; falls from a boat and drowns as Griffiths fails to attempt her rescue in Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*.

Thomas (Tom, Tommy) Alden. Davenport author who sponsors Felix Fay at literary activities, even though Fay is a socialist, in Floyd Dell's *Moon-Calf*.

Sir John Alderston. An owner of South Eastern Railway in Michael Crichton's *The Great Train Robbery*.

Karen Susan Aldrich. Former mental patient who finally succeeds in committing suicide in Judith Guest's *Ordinary People*.

Aline Aldridge. See Aline Aldridge Grey.

Rodney Aldwick. Friend of Neil Kingsblood; turns against his friend when Kingsblood's black ancestry is discovered in Sinclair Lewis's *Kingsblood Royal*.

Aleck Sander. Black friend of Chick Mallison in William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust* and *The Town*.

Aleema. Priest from Amma who is killed by Taji in Herman Melville's *Mardi*.

Fred Aleman. Sober businessman to whom Joan Mitchell is engaged in Shirley Ann Grau's *The House on Coliseum Street*.

Alex (Uncle Alex). Alabama farmer, husband of Caroline, and employer and benefactor of Ollie in George Wylie Henderson's *Ollie Miss and Jule*.

Dr. Alexander. Assistant lecturer in Biodynamics and government agent; brings Adam Krug to a university meeting the night Krug's wife, Olga, dies; later exterminated for bungling in Vladimir Nabokov's *Bend Sinister*.

Roland Alexander. Four-year-old boy who dies after accidentally swallowing rat poison left in his bedroom; as a result of this tragedy, his father almost beats his mother to death before being locked up by police in Alexis Deveau's *Spirits in the Street*.

Suicide Alexander. Manager of the California baseball team that signs Henry Wiggen when Wiggen is released from the New York Mammoths in Mark Harris's *It Looked Like For Ever*.

Aunt Alexandra. Sister of Atticus Finch and aunt of Scout and Jem Finch; moves into the Finch home to help turn Scout into a southern lady in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Leonid Andreich Alexandrov. Self-effacing Russian professor of engineering blinded by Peter Greene in John Barth's *Giles Goat-Boy*.

Alexis. Budding playwright and narrator who records the thwarted lives of young people living in her Harlem neighborhood in Alexis Deveau's *Spirits in the Street*.

Alexis. See James Potts.

Alex Alexson. Second husband of Sophia Grieve Ryder in Djuna Barnes's *Ryder*.

Alfonso. Male canary Birdy buys from Mr. Lincoln to mate with Birdie in William Wharton's *Birdy*.

Alfonso (Fonso). Wife beater and cousin of Eva Medina Canada in Gayl Jones's *Eva's Man*.

Alfrado (Frado, Nig). Spirited mulatto girl indentured to the Bellmont family; tells the story of her mistreatment and growth to adulthood in Harriet E. Wilson's *Our Nig*.

Alfred (Alfy). Bouncer, protector, and watchman of the Bear Flag restaurant, a bar and brothel, in John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*.

Algernon. White mouse used for experiments involving increased intelligence who is treated by Charlie Gordon, another experimental subject, as Gordon's only peer in Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon*.

Ali (Eli). Divorced Jewish father; first man Theresa Dunn allows to pick her up in a bar in Judith Rossner's *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*.

Alice. Wife of an unnamed sailor stationed in Newport; wants a baby so badly that she urges Theophilus North to impregnate her in Thornton Wilder's *Theophilus North*.

Alisande de la Carteloise. See Sandy.

Alix. Soon-to-be second wife of Ted in Reynolds Price's *Love and Work*.

John F. Alkahest. Bizarre paraplegic in violent pursuit of drug dealers in *The Smugglers of Lost Souls' Rock*, the interior novel within John Gardner's *October Light*.

Allan. Wealthy white radical, now a recluse in Vermont, in Nicholas Delbanco's *News*.

Kirby Allbee. Anti-Semite and weak-willed drunk who blames Asa Leventhal for his own moral degeneration, persecuting and finally attempting to murder him in retaliation, in Saul Bellow's *The Victim*.

Betsy Allbright. Romantic, much-married, and retired actress in Ludwig Bemelmans's *Dirty Eddie*.

Bobbie Allen. Waitress and prostitute who is Joe Christmas's first love in William Faulkner's *Light in August*.

Ethan (Ticonderoga) Allen. Enormous prisoner of war in Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, England, whom Israel Potter observes, in Herman Melville's *Israel Potter*.

Jim Allen. Fellow employee of Falton Harron at Watkins & Company, manufacturer of microscopes, in Susan Sontag's *Death Kit*.

Liddy Allen. Maid of Rachel Innes; believes murder and break-ins are the work of ghosts in Mary Roberts Rinehart's *The Circular Staircase*.

Madge Allen (Kramer). Puma trainer who goes on a short trip to Mexico with Frank Chambers in James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.

Miss Allen. Nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital; befriends and loves Jason Wheeler in Albert Halper's *Union Square*.

Reverend Allen. Hypocritical minister in Winston Churchill's *Richard Carvel*.

Risa Allen. Woman with whom Edwin Locke becomes romantically obsessed in Joyce Carol Oates's *Cybele*.

Abigail Allerton. Friend of Hamm Rufe; forced to resign her university history assistantship because of her frankness in writing the political history of the town of Franklin in Mari Sandoz's *Capital City*.

Landon Allgood. Uncle of Mildred Sutton; sleeps in a church pew waiting for his niece's funeral in Reynolds Price's *A Long and Happy Life*.

Svetlana Alliluyeva. Daughter of Joseph Stalin; neighbor of George Levanter in Princeton in Jerzy Kosinski's *Blind Date*.

Anna Allston. Cousin and friend of Cornelia Wilton; becomes ill and dies following the disappearance of her husband, Lewis Barnwell, shortly after their wedding in Caroline Gilman's *Recollections of a Southern Matron*.

Joseph (Joe) Allston. Retired literary agent who befriends the Catlins; narrator of Wallace Stegner's *All the Little Live Things*; goes to Denmark to learn about his mother; narrator of *The Spectator Bird*.

Ruth Allston. Wife of Joe Allston in Wallace Stegner's *All the Little Live Things* and *The Spectator Bird*.

Almanni. Warrior who rules Odo during Media's absence in Herman Melville's *Mardi*.

The Greek Almas. Partner in the Regents Sportsmen's Club, Inc., and loan shark to whom Jerry Doherty owes \$18,000; kills Croce Torre in a gun battle in George V. Higgins's *The Digger's Game*.

Elizabeth Almond. Aunt of Catherine Sloper; hosts a party at which Catherine meets Morris Townsend in Henry James's *Washington Square*.

Marian Almond. Pretty cousin of Catherine Sloper; marries Arthur Townsend and introduces Catherine to Arthur's cousin, Morris Townsend, in Henry James's *Washington Square*.

Almsbury. See John Randolph, Earl of Almsbury.

Lady Emily Almsbury. Meek and faithful wife of John Randolph, Earl of Almsbury, in Kathleen Winsor's *Forever Amber*.

Frank Alpine. Gentile drifter who becomes assistant storekeeper in Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*.

Gerald (Jerry) Alsop. Self-styled moral advisor with deep respect for conventions and clean living whose close friendship with George Webber breaks down at Harvard when Webber begins to question Alsop's values in Thomas Wolfe's *The Web and the Rock*.

Isaac Alston. Elderly town patriarch disabled by a stroke in Reynolds Price's *A Long and Happy Life*.

Marina (Miss Marina) Alston. Elderly and eccentric sister of Isaac Alston in Reynolds Price's *A Long and Happy Life*.

Alva. Son of an American mulatto mother and Filipino father; employed as a presser in a costume house; has an affair with Emma Lou Morgan and fathers an illegitimate child by Geraldine in Wallace Thurman's *The Blacker the Berry*.

Captain Alvarado. Friend of Madre María del Pilar; urges Esteban to go to sea with him as an escape from the loss of Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.

Madame (Manuela [Manuelata] Hernandez) Alvarez. Ambitious, aristocratic, Spanish-born wife of President Alvarez of Olancho in Richard Harding Davis's *Soldiers of Fortune*.

Manuel (Manny) Alvarez. Friend of Ruben Fontanez and Marty; dances in the subway for money in Jay Neugeboren's *Listen Ruben Fontanez*.

Maria Alvarez. Child patient at Sacred Heart Hospital, where she is a victim of attempted rape; dies of pneumonia in Edward Lewis Wallant's *The Children at the Gate*.

Pepe Alvarez. Prizefighter once managed by Ed Sansom; former lover of Randolph Lee Skully and the focus of his life in Truman Capote's *Other Voices, Other Rooms*.

President Alvarez. President of Olancho who aspires to establish a dictatorship but is overthrown and executed in Richard Harding Davis's *Soldiers of Fortune*.

Barone Alvarito. Duck-hunting companion of Col. Richard Cantwell in Ernest Hemingway's *Across the River and into the Trees*.

Elizabeth Thornwell (Betty) Alvin. Granddaughter of Cornelia Thornwell; leaves her parents' comfortable home to live modestly with her grandmother; becomes an antiestablishment activist; marries a socialist journalist and fights to save Sacco and Vanzetti from execution in Upton Sinclair's *Boston*.

Blessed (Bles) Alwyn. Favorite pupil of Mary Taylor; lover and later husband of Zora; fails as a Washington politician and returns to Alabama to help blacks free themselves from the sharecropping system in W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*.

Lady Amalthea. Unicorn who leaves the forest to discover if she is the last of her kind; turned into Lady Amalthea by Schmendrick in order to save her from Red Bull in Peter S. Beagle's *The Last Unicorn*.

John (Johnny, Squirrel) Amato. Compulsive gambler who plans the robbery of a mob-run card game with Frankie and Russell; killed by Jackie Cogan in George V. Higgins's *Cogan's Trade*.

Amber. Female healer who befriends Teray in Octavia E. Butler's *Patternmaster*.

Amber. See Amber St. Clare.

George Amberson. Brother of Isabel Amberson Minafer and uncle of George Amberson Minafer; former congressman and a business failure in Booth Tarkington's *The Magnificent Ambersons*.

Isabel Amberson. See Isabel Amberson Minafer.

Major Amberson. Head of a prominent family whose fortunes dwindle so much that he leaves no estate in Booth Tarkington's *The Magnificent Ambersons*.

Ambrosius. Young Franciscan monk who, in 1680, murders Benedicta, the hangman's daughter, to save her from a romance with Rochus in Ambrose Bierce's adaptation of *The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter*.

Amelia. Black maid and youthful friend of the narrator of Aline Bernstein's *The Journey Down*.

Prince Amerigo. Italian nobleman who marries Maggie Verver and who had a previous attachment

to Charlotte Stant in Henry James's *The Golden Bowl*.

Bob Ames. Cousin of Mrs. Vance; encourages Carrie Meeber to become an actress in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*.

Cathy Ames. See Cathy Ames Trask.

Charlotte Ames. See Charlotte Ames Emory.

Charlotte Ames. Wife of Harry Ames and, on one occasion, sexual partner of Max Reddick in John A. Williams's *The Man Who Cried I Am*.

Dalton Ames. Lover of Caddy Compson and the father of Quentin Compson II in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

Harry Ames. Leading Afro-American novelist of his time; murdered by the CIA in order to suppress publication of a contingency plan, code named King Alfred, for removing the minority population of the United States into concentration camps in John A. Williams's *The Man Who Cried I Am*.

Lacey Debney Ames. Obese mother of Charlotte Emory and wife of Murray Ames in Anne Tyler's *Earthly Possessions*.

Mat Ames. Youth who leads a group of boys in the snowball fight against the boys led by Jack Harris in Thomas Bailey Aldrich's *The Story of a Bad Boy*.

Murray Ames. Dour photographer father of Charlotte Emory and husband of Lacey Debney Ames in Anne Tyler's *Earthly Possessions*.

Catherine Amesbury. See Cathy Ames Trask.

Amigo. Mexican cowhand for Major Willard Tetley; convinces the lynch mob to seek the rustlers on a trail different from that pursued by Sheriff Risley in Walter Van Tilburg Clark's *The Ox-Bow Incident*.

Jasper Ammen. Egoist who, as a "study," plots the murder of a stranger in Conrad Aiken's *King Coffin*.

Amos. Minister who attempted to burn down his own church; golf partner of Thomas Marshfield at the retreat in John Updike's *A Month of Sundays*.

Amos. Prosperous member of the Chicago Stock Exchange who disapproves of his impractical and nonmaterialistic brother, Joseph, in Saul Bellow's *Dangling Man*.

Amos. Television character who turns in moochers Kingfish Stevens and Andy Brown to the police for robbing his place in Ishmael Reed's *The Last Days of Louisiana Red*.

Mr. Amos. Valet of Congressman Doolittle; keeps Sara Andrews informed of his employer's failing health in W. E. B. Du Bois's *Dark Princess*.

Amram. Hebrew father of Aaron and Miriam, and perhaps of Moses as well; slave in Goshen in Zora Neale Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain*.

Harriet Shippen Amron. Philadelphia blue blood married to Saul Amron in Paule Marshall's *The Chosen Place, the Timeless People*.

Saul Amron. American anthropologist who goes to the Caribbean as the leader of a research project designed to improve life for the poor people of Bourne Island; husband of Harriet Shippen Amron in Paule Marshall's *The Chosen Place, the Timeless People*.

Mrs. Amsden. American expatriate and friend of Evalina Bowen; concerned with the affairs of others in William Dean Howells's *Indian Summer*.

Jack Amsterdam. Corrupt construction contractor for the Catholic church and business and golf partner of Desmond Spellacy; arrested for the murder of Lois Fazenda in John Gregory Dunne's *True Confessions*.

Jules Amthor. "Psychic consultant" in Raymond Chandler's *Farewell, My Lovely*.

Amula. Young woman jealous of the attention Rochus gives Benedicta; comforts Ambrosius before his execution in Ambrose Bierce's adaptation of *The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter*.

Amy. Aunt of Miranda; romanticized by her family as a model of Southern beauty; marries Gabriel Breaux, her longtime suitor, and dies shortly thereafter of tuberculosis in Katherine Anne Porter's *Old Mortality*.

Amyas le Poulet. See Clarence.

Anacleto. Eccentric Filipino manservant excessively devoted to Alison Langdon; disappears shortly after her death in Carson McCullers's *Reflections in a Golden Eye*.

Jack Analysis. Journalist of Greek parentage and former lover of Molly Calico in Peter De Vries's *The Mackerel Plaza*.

Dame Anaïtis (Lady of the Lake). Ruler of the enchanted island Cocaigue; becomes Jurgen's first wife when he begins a yearlong dalliance in the dream realm in pursuit of his wife Dame Lisa in James Branch Cabell's *Jurgen*.

Albert Ancke. Times Square night person and drug addict in John Clellan Holmes's *Go*.

Francisco Domingo Carlos Andres Sebastián (Frisco) d'Anconia. Successful industrialist who destroys his international copper empire when he joins the strike in Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*.

Frau Anders. Mistress of Hippolyte; sells her into slavery in Susan Sontag's *The Benefactor*.

John Anders. Police captain who investigates the murder of Angela Black in Michael Crichton's *The Terminal Man*.

Alfred (Al) Anderson. Proprietor of Al's Lunch Wagon; sympathetic to the Communist labor organizers; helps feed the strikers in John Steinbeck's *In Dubious Battle*.

Andy Anderson. Chief bugler of G Company; feels his position threatened by Robert E. Lee Prewitt; coauthors *The Re-Enlistment Blues* with Prewitt and Sal Clark in James Jones's *From Here to Eternity*.

Argustus (Mr. Andy) Anderson. Father of Mae Douglas; musician and supporter of his grandson, Raymond Douglas, in Herbert Simmons's *Man Walking on Eggshells*.

Bess (Bessie) Anderson. Daughter of Tillie and Ern Anderson and sister of Nonnie and Ed Anderson; college-educated maid in Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*.

Betty Anderson. Daughter of mill workers; becomes pregnant by Rodney Harrington and is bought off by his father, Leslie Harrington, in Grace Metalious's *Peyton Place*.

Brigham M. (Brig) Anderson. Senior senator from Utah and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the nomination of Robert Leffingwell in Allen Drury's *Advise and Consent*.

Charley Anderson. World War I Ace who has a mercurial career as an airplane parts manufacturer after the war; his obsession with the stock market and his lack of moral principles lead to his ruin in John Dos Passos's *U.S.A.* trilogy.

Dolly Anderson. Self-loathing teenaged daughter of Viola Anderson; given to flights of fantasy which are a pretext for her murder in Hal Bennett's *The Black Wine*.

Ed (Eddie) Anderson. Son of Tillie and Ern Anderson, brother of Nonnie and Bessie Anderson, and killer of Tracy Deen in Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*.

Ern Anderson. Husband of Tillie Anderson and father of Nonnie, Bessie, and Ed Anderson in Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*.

Homer Anderson. Sociologist and factory personnel administrator and neighbor of Gertie and Clovis Nevels in Harriette Arnow's *The Dollmaker*.

Jan Anderson. Strong-willed young protagonist who shoots Uncle Hake Nolan to protect his sister, Timmie Anderson, in Fred Chappell's *The Inkling*.

Jaw Buster Anderson. Neighbor of Nunn Ballew, fox hunter, and owner of a logging truck often used to transport neighbors to town from their isolated community in Harriette Arnow's *Hunter's Horn*.

Jenny Nolan Anderson. Widowed mother of Jan and Timmie Anderson and sister of Hezekiah Nolan; gradually loses control of her household and eventually dies of cancer in Fred Chappell's *The Inkling*.

Leon Anderson. Communications expert at NESTER in Scott Spencer's *Last Night at the Brain Thieves Ball*.

Mrs. Anderson. Neighbor of Gertie and Clovis Nevels and wife of Homer Anderson; brings Gertie the message that the wife of a factory executive wants dolls to be carved for a Christmas bazaar in Harriette Arnow's *The Dollmaker*.

Nonnie (Non) Anderson. Daughter of Tillie and Ern Anderson and sister of Bessie and Ed Anderson; black lover of Tracy Deen and mother of their unborn child in Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*.

Dr. Robert Anderson. Principal of a southern black school; moves to New York, where he meets and marries Anne Grey, in Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*.

Tillie Anderson. Mother of Nonnie, Bessie, and Ed Anderson and wife of Ern Anderson; works in white households as a cook in Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*.

Timmie Anderson. Violently insane sister of Jan Anderson; tries to deflect Jan's penetrating gaze by persuading him to wear glasses and hopes to give him insight by cutting eyelike gashes in his hands and feet in Fred Chappell's *The Inkling*.

Viola Anderson. Friend of Eloise McLindon, cynical political activist, whorehouse madam, and mother of Dolly Anderson in Hal Bennett's *The Black Wine* and *Seventh Heaven*.

Wilbur Anderson. Son of Argustus Anderson and uncle of Raymond Douglas; trumpet player who buys Douglas his first trumpet and helps to influ-

ence his musical style in Herbert Simmons's *Man Walking on Eggshells*.

Andreas. Franciscan Superior of the Monastery of Berchtesgaden in Ambrose Bierce's adaptation of *The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter*.

Andrés. Member of Pablo's partisan group in Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Andrew. Suitor and spiritual advisor of Mary Pinesett, husband of Doll, elder at Heaven's Gate Church, blacksmith, and carpenter at Blue Brook Plantation in Julia Peterkin's *Scarlet Sister Mary*.

Captain Donald Andrews. Math expert and friend of Captain Nathaniel Hicks; Acting Chief of the Statistical Section in James Gould Cozzens's *Guard of Honor*.

Elizabeth (Polly) Andrews. Medical technician and first employer of Libby MacAusland; member of the Group in Mary McCarthy's *The Group*.

Gerald Andrews. Neighbor of Adah Logan and friend of the Mitchells; soldier killed during World War II in Susan Glaspell's *Judd Rankin's Daughter*.

Sara Andrews. See Sara Andrews Towns.

Thomas T. (Dad) Andrews. Father of Todd Andrews; commits suicide on February 2, 1930, after the collapse of his personal finances in the stock market crash of 1929; cofounder of the law firm Andrews and Bishop in John Barth's *The Floating Opera*.

Todd Andrews. Fifty-four-year-old lawyer who attempts suicide; narrator and central figure in John Barth's *The Floating Opera*.

Walter Andrews. Man who, seventy years earlier, owned the property and mansion which is the poorhouse in John Updike's *The Poorhouse Fair*.

Andrei Androfski. Brother of Deborah Bronski, friend of Alexander Brandel and Christopher de Monti, and lover of Gabriela Rak; leads the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt in Leon Uris's *Mila 18*.

Nick Andros. Deaf-mute chosen to lead *The Stand*, but who is killed unexpectedly, in Stephen King's *The Stand*.

Andy. Freedman who tells Comfort Servosse about the local chapter of the Union League; caretaker at Warrington Place who tends to the dying Servosse in Albion W. Tourgee's *A Fool's Errand*.

Miss Ange. Drag queen in New Orleans who dresses as Scarlett O'Hara, Desdemona, and Drusilla Duncan in John Rechy's *City of Night*.

Stella Bast Angel (Engels). Cousin of Edward Bast; schemes to gain control of her family's General Roll Corporation in William Gaddis's *JR*.

Sister Angelica. Nun who is Father Trask's apprentice; helps lead the wake for Chalmers Egstrom in William Goyen's *In a Farther Country*.

Angélique. Discarded mistress of Count Armand de Sacy; courtesan living in forced exile at Bréda in Arna Wendell Bontemps's *Drums at Dusk*.

Dr. Angelo. Handsome middle-aged Italian physician at the Diamond County Home for the Aged; treats George Lucas's chronic ear infection in John Updike's *The Poorhouse Fair*.

Max Angelo. Sculptor; sometime lover of Salley Gardens in Susan Cheever's *Looking for Work*.

Angel of Death. See John Sallow.

Angie (Ange). Married woman who claims she is pregnant by her lover Billy Phelan in order to test Phelan's love for her in William Kennedy's *Billy Phelan's Greatest Game*.

Earl Angstrom. Husband of Mary Angstrom and father of Rabbit and Miriam Angstrom; works as a printer in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* and *Rabbit Redux*.

Harry (Rabbit) Angstrom. Husband of Janice Springer Angstrom and father of Nelson Angstrom; talented former basketball player entangled in adult responsibilities in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* and *Rabbit Redux*.

Janice Springer (Jan) Angstrom. Wife of Rabbit Angstrom and mother of Nelson Angstrom; accidentally drowns her infant daughter in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run*; has an affair with Charlie Stavros in *Rabbit Redux*.

Mary Angstrom. Wife of Earl Angstrom and mother of Rabbit and Miriam Angstrom in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run*; suffers from Parkinson's disease in *Rabbit Redux*.

Miriam (Mim) Angstrom. Younger sister of Rabbit Angstrom in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* and *Rabbit Redux*.

Nelson Frederick Angstrom. Son of Janice and Rabbit Angstrom in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* and *Rabbit Redux*.

Rebecca June Angstrom. Infant daughter of Janice and Rabbit Angstrom; drowns in a bathtub in John Updike's *Rabbit, Run*.