

Stage Manager – age and gender open. Must be a good story teller, able to command the stage and engage the audience. Loves people, easy going and grounded with a clear wisdom. This character is the all-knowing narrator who may be speaking for the author. The Stage Manger literally sets the stage, describes the action and introduces the actors. Steps in and out of the action as other characters: a minister, a drug store owner, a neighbor lady passing by.

Emily Webb – female. Goes from age 16 to 20. In 1901 the age 16 was more sincere and innocent than today. The love story with her and George is the spine of the action of the play. She has the strongest love of life and enthusiasm. Emily's appears in Act 3 after her death, and she desires to relive everything that was so wonderful, but finally comes to a bittersweet wisdom about the fleeting and ephemeral state of living.

Mr. Charles Webb – male age between 30 and 55 or so. He is highly educated and is the editor and owner of the only local newspaper. Has a strong connection with his daughter.

Mrs. Myrtle Webb – female age between 30 and 55 or so.

Wally Webb – young boy age 11 to 13.

George Gibbs – male. Goes from age 16 to 20, (and is 32 in the final act appearance). It is a 16 of 1901 which is a sincere and naïve age. He is an idealist and a romantic. The love story with him and Emily is the spine of the action of the play. He strongly and sincerely desires to be the best person he can be for the love of his life.

Dr. Frank Gibbs – male age between 30 and 55 or so. He is a doctor and family man. Romantic and in love with his wife.

Mrs. Julia Gibbs – female age between 30 and 55 or so. Mother of George & Rebecca. Strong love for her family. A romantic who dreams of visiting Paris. Strong connection with her son.

Rebecca Gibbs – young girl age 11 to 13. Has a strong sense of energy and wonder about the world. Amazed at the stars and the earth's place in the galaxy. Has a strong & important short speech about this at the end of Act 1.

Joe Crowell – male (or female) age 14 or so. Delivers the newspapers and sets up important sense of friendliness among the neighbors of the small town. Actor will also play one or two ensemble roles.

Howie Newsome – male (or female) age 14 or so. Delivers the milk, leading the horse and wagon. Sets up important sense of friendliness among the neighbors of the small town. Actor will also play one or two ensemble roles.

Simon Stimson – adult (usually male, open to female casting) unspecified age. Leader of the church choir, but has deep problems and a clear drinking problem. Attitude is acerbic, he/she is possibly depressed. Stimson's drinking is the town's scandalous gossip.

Constable Warren – adult male, age unspecified. Actor will also play one or two ensemble roles.

Mrs. Soames – adult female, age unspecified. Sings in the choir and loves to spread gossip. Actor will also play one or two ensemble roles.