

Our Town Description

"Our Town" is the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Thornton Wilder performed with minimal scenery and props, exploring the simplicity of daily life, love, and the inevitability of death told over a 10 year period in a small town. Overall, "Our Town" is a reflection on the cyclical nature of life, the value of human connections, and the profound beauty found in everyday moments.

Our Town Character Breakdown

Some of these roles can be played by one actor. We also reserve the right to split cast or double cast.

Stage Manager: (upper teen-adult M/F) Must be a good story teller, able to command the stage & engage the audience. Loves people, easy going and grounded with a clear wisdom. This character is the all-knowing narrator who speaks 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: (upper teen F) Goes from age 16 to 29. 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: (upper teen-adult M) Emily's father. He is highly educated and is the editor and owner of the only local newspaper. Has a strong connection with his daughter and a love for his wife.

Mrs. Myrtle Webb: (upper teen-adult F) The loving but firm mother of Emily and Wally. She is busy and hard working but also loving and a good friend.

Wally Webb: (younger teen M) the younger brother to Emily. Dies young so must possess the ability to show range from the vibrancy of life to the stoic calm of the afterlife

George Gibbs: (upper teen M) He is an idealist and a romantic with his head in the clouds and not much of one for bookwork, but a charming and goodhearted teen who falls in love with Emily. 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. His grief in the last act must be a stark and heartbreaking difference to his joyous and hopeful youth.

Dr. Frank Gibbs: (upper teen-adult M) He is a doctor and family man. Pragmatic and logical, but kind more apt to lead his son to the right choice through thoughtful observations and questions than through a lecture. He loves his wife but can be dismissive of her dreams at times in a "I know what is best for you" sort of way that men had during this time

Mrs. Julia Gibbs: (upper teen-adult F) Mother of George & Rebecca. Strong love for her family. A romantic who dreams of visiting Paris. Strong connection with her son and a friend to Mrs. Webb. Her fierce love of her children is starkly contrasted with the still and disconnected person she becomes at the end.

Rebecca Gibbs: (young teen F) 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. Has a lovely relationship with George, her older brother.

Joe Crowell: (younger teen M/F) Delivers the newspapers and sets up important sense of friendliness among the neighbors of the small town.

Howie Newsome: (Upper Teen-adult M/) Delivers the milk, leading the horse and wagon. Sets up important sense of friendliness among the neighbors of the small town.

Simon Stimson: (upper teen-adult M/F) Leader of the church choir, but has deep problems and a clear drinking problem. Bitter and short tempered, he is possibly depressed. Stimson's drinking is the town's scandalous gossip. He carries his bitterness into the afterlife

Constable Warren: (Upper teen-adult M/F) There to keep the town safe, friendly and helpful, a kind person

Mrs. Soames: (upper teen-adult F) Sings in the choir and loves to spread gossip. Sharp and funny but also charming and lovable

Professor Willard: (upper teen-adult M/F) A professor who provides historical context about Grover's Corners in a bit of a frantic and academic manner.

Crowell: (younger teen M/F) Joe Crowell's younger brother who takes over the paper route

Sam Craig: (upper teen-adult M/F) Emily's cousin who visits from out of town.

Joe Stoddard: (upper teen-adult M/F) The undertaker in Grover's Corners.

Farmer McCarthy: a voice among many who have passed away.

People in the crowd/choir singers/funeral attendees