

# Dramatis Personae

## main characters

### Protagonist(s): hero(s) / heroine(s)

- someone who either suffers from actions of antagonist(s), or
- who senses some kind of lack, or
- who agrees to liquidate misfortune or lack of another person
- someone who is supplied with magical agent, or helper, and
- who makes use of it or is served by it
  - only sibling
  - youngest of three siblings
  - step-sibling
  - lazy / "fool"
  - special from birth
  - brother / sister
  - husband / wife

### Antagonist(s): villain(s)

- someone whose actions cause protagonist(s) to suffer
  - sibling(s)
  - step-parent
  - step-sibling(s)
  - spouse
  - servant(s), clerk(s)
  - robber(s)
  - merchant(s)
  - evil - tsar / tsarina / knyaz / knyagina
  - night spirit(s)
  - forest spirit(s)
  - water spirit(s)
  - witch
  - dragon
  - koshchei (the deathless)

### Dispatcher:

- someone who sends protagonist(s) away in search or exile
  - tsar / tsarina
  - knyaz / knyagina
  - elder(s)
  - parent(s)
  - protector(s)
  - spouse
  - sibling(s)

### Donor:

- someone encountered accidentally (in forest, on road), and
- who provides the [magical] agent that eventually liquidates misfortune or lack, but
- first tests protagonist(s) before providing agent
  - animal
  - magical animal
  - wise spouse
  - elderly person
  - wise counselor
  - forest spirit
  - witch
  - baba jaga

### Helper(s): magical agent(s)

- someone who assists, rescues, solves and/or transfigures protagonist(s)
  - wise spouse
  - animal (bear, wolf, pike, falcon)
  - magical animal (firebird)
  - magical servants (sees-far, runs-fast, eats-all)

- magical object (replenishing sack / tablecloth, animated club)
- forest spirit
- water spirit
- prophetic

**Person Sought-For(s):**

- someone who exists as a goal and often recognizes and rewards protagonist(s) and / or punishes antagonist(s)
  - tsar / tsarina
  - knyaz / knyagina
  - parent(s)
  - sibling(s)
  - spouse

**False Protagonist(s): false hero(s)**

- anti-protagonist(s) or usurper(s)
- someone who claims to be the protagonist(s), often seeking and reacting like a real protagonist
  - older siblings
  - step-sibling
  - false "friend"
  - military companion

**supporting characters**

**family members(s):**

- elder(s)
- parent(s)
- protector(s)
- sibling(s)
- step-sibling(s)
- spouse

**connector(s): advance the plot**

- one character finds out something from another, and
- thereby links one function to the next — advancing the plot
- information is usually announced, overheard or seen
- informers
- complainers, slanderers
- betrayers
  - beggars
  - servants
  - animals
  - magical objects

*Dramatis Personae definitions based on those from: "Morphology of the Folktale by Vladimir Propp" (University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1968), pp.71-91*

[close](#)