

# Characters in Sinclair Lewis's *Main Street*

Note: There are some minor characters who appear in the book whom I have not included on this list, but I believe this list includes everyone a reader needs to know to be able to understand the story

Following conventions of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, some of the married women are referred to as "Mrs. Husband's Name" (i.e., Mrs. Will Kennicott). Others are referred to by their given name (i.e., Mrs. Carol Kennicott). I have endeavored to include the first names of all women whose first names are given in the novel.

## The Kennicotts

Carol Kennicott: The heroine and protagonist of *Main Street* through whose consciousness the story unfolds. An idealistic young woman who marries a small-town doctor and moves to his hometown of Gopher Prairie, Minnesota, harboring dreams of reforming and improving the town.

Will Kennicott: The doctor she marries. Rather stodgy and more conservative than Carol might have hoped he would be.

Hugh Kennicott: Their son, born about midway through the book. (Carol later gives birth to a daughter also, but the daughter is not named in the book)

Mrs. Kennicott: Will's mother, who appears in the book only briefly

Whittier and Bessie Smails: Will Kennicott's uncle and aunt, who move in with Will and Carol for a time, much to Carol's chagrin

## Townpeople (Major Characters)

Bea Sorenson (Bjornstrom): The Kennicotts' hired girl, who moves to Gopher Prairie the same day Carol does; later marries Miles Bjornstrom

Vida Sherwin (Wutherspoon): Teacher at the Gopher Prairie High School, Carol's foil and sometimes best friend. Later marries Raymie Wutherspoon of the Bon Ton store.

Guy Pollock: A local attorney who shares some of Carol's cultural ambitions.

Mrs. Bogart: A sour, gossipy old widow

Cy Bogart: Her jackass of a son

Erik Valborg: A tailor and would-be artist and actor for whom Carol develops a fondness

Miles Bjornstrom: Handyman and village atheist who seems to hate everything about Gopher Prairie; called “the Red Swede” by many in town

Percy Bresnahan: A Gopher Prairie native who moved east and became president of the Velvet Motor Company; aside from one scene, he is mostly just referred to by the residents of Gopher Prairie

Fern Mullins: A new schoolteacher in Gopher Prairie who becomes embroiled in a scandal

### **Townspeople (Minor Characters)**

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Dawson: wealthy landowner and moneylender in Gopher Prairie and his wife.

Ezra Stowbody: Town banker.

Miss Ella Stowbody: His daughter, reputed to be great elocutionist

Nat Hicks: Town tailor.

Mr. Harry and Mrs. Juanita Haydock: Owner of the Bon Ton Store and his lively wife. Mrs. Haydock is president of the Jolly Seventeen, a club of prominent women in Gopher Prairie

Raymie Wutherspoon: Works for Harry Haydock at Bon Ton Store. Later marries Vida Sherwin.

Mr. Sam and Mrs. Ethel Clark: Owner of the local hardware store and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Cass: Owner of a local flour mill and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Champ Perry: An elderly couple who have lived in Gopher Prairie since pioneer days

Mr. Dave and Mrs. Maud Dyer: A druggist and his wife

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Flickerbaugh: A wealthy attorney and his wife

Dr. and Mrs. Westlake: An elderly doctor in competition with Will Kennicott and his wife

Dr. and Mrs. McGanum: Dr. Westlake’s partner and son-in-law, and his wife

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Dillon: A dentist and his wife, whom Carol befriends

The Rev. Leonard and Mrs. Warren: The Congregationalist pastor and wife. The latter is president of the Thanatopsis Club

Loren Wheeler: Editor of Gopher Prairie's newspaper, the *Dauntless*

Peter and Helga Rustad: A Scandinavian farmer and his wife whom Will Kennicott treats

Miss Ethel Villets: Town librarian

Oscarina: The hired girl who replaces Bea when Bea marries Miles Bjornstrom

James Blausser: A profession booster hired to "boost" Gopher Prairie