

## Fiddler on the Roof Information Sheet

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, *Fiddler on the Roof's* universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness. (<https://www.mtishows.com/fiddler-on-the-roof>)

### THE CHARACTERS:

**Tevye:** As the narrator and main character of this story, Tevye is the father of five daughters (Tzeitel, Hodel, Chava, Shprintze, and Bielke), an impoverished milkman, a leader in his Jewish community, and husband to the headstrong Golde. He is faced with struggles to uphold his traditional Jewish values and the traditions of his people, especially through the marriages of his daughters. Male: B2-E4

**Golde:** As Tevye's wife of twenty-five years and mother of his five daughters, Golde is an efficient helpmate and traditionalist, faced with changes of a "new world." She has a sharp tongue and wit. Her love of family helps her face the challenges that her family encounters. She hopes her daughters have good lives and marry well. Female: Bb3-Db5

**Yente:** The village's matchmaker and busybody who often knows the news of the town. Female.

**Lazar Wolf:** A butcher, and as the wealthiest citizen in town, he would like to marry Tevye's daughter, even though he is the same age or older than Tevye. Widower of Fruma-Sarah, and the man Yente the matchmaker sets as a match for Tzeitel. Male: C3-D4

**Tzeitel:** Tzeitel is the eldest daughter (about twenty years old) of Tevye and Golde. She is the first to challenge the traditional marriage customs and resists Lazar Wolf's attempts to marry her. Her true love is Motel.  
Female: B3-C5

**Motel Kamzoil:** An impoverished tailor and secretly pledged to Tzeitel, Motel gathers the courage to ask Tevye for her hand in marriage. He feels "even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness." They marry and start a family, which also includes the "new arrival" of a sewing machine.  
Male.

**Hodel:** Tevye and Golde's second daughter, Hodel falls in love with Perchik, a student who is not from Anatevka, and they defy tradition by not seeking her father's permission to marry, only his blessing. Later, she leaves Anatevka for Siberia to be with the imprisoned Perchik. Female:  
Bb3-D5

**Perchik:** An outsider to the community, Perchik is a radical student from Kiev that challenges tradition and later Hodel's husband. Perchik leaves Anatevka to work for the revolution in Kiev. He is arrested and sent to prison in Siberia. Male: B2-C4

**Chava:** Tevye and Golde's third daughter, Chava falls in love with Fyedka, a Russian, and is ordered to "never see him again." They elope and her family disowns her, until the end when Tevye momentarily acknowledges them. Female: Bb3-B4

**Fyedka:** A Russian soldier who falls in love with Chava and later Chava's husband. Male.

**Shprintze:** Tevye and Golde's fourth daughter.

**Bielke:** Tevye and Golde's youngest daughter.

**Constable:** A local Russian official, the constable, though he has a good relationship with Tevye, follows his orders to perform an “unofficial demonstration” during Tzeitel and Motel’s wedding, and then forces all the Jewish villagers to leave Anatevka.

**Rabbi:** Anatevka’s Jewish spiritual leader.

**Mendel:** The Rabbi’s son.

**Mordcha:** An innkeeper who runs the bar in town.

**Avram:** A bookseller in town.

**Grandma Tzeitel:** Golde’s late grandmother who appears as a ghost during a dream sequence.

**Fruma-Sarah:** Lazar Wolf’s late wife. She appears as a ghost in Tevye’s dream and is angry that Lazar Wolf wants to marry Tzeitel.

**Nahum:** The town beggar.

**Yussel:** The town hatter.

**Shandel:** Motel’s mother.

**Sasha:** Fyedka’s Russian friend and soldier.

**Priest:** A Christian spiritual leader.

**The Fiddler:** The Fiddler must be an actor who can hold the attention of an entire audience with stylized movement, facial expression and dance. Freedom of movement and expression are the keys to casting this

character. The Fiddler is a silent role, yet an important one. Gender ambiguous.

**Villagers:** The Villagers will portray the people of the village as Papas, Mamas, Sons or Daughters. Also included in this group are the Guests, Inn Patrons, Motel's Parents and Motel's Relations.