

Fiddler on the Roof Character Descriptions

Please note ages are a guide only for the characters age, not the actors. These are also dependent on pairing with other characters

There is a large ENSEMBLE of Villagers that will make up all different kinds of families. Russian Soldiers and Dancers as well. Both speaking and non-speaking roles are available. The ensemble is heavily used in this show.

Female Roles

Golde, Tevye's Wife

Character Age Range: 40 – 55

Vocal Range: Mezzo/Alto (A3 – Eb5)

Songs: *Tradition, Sabbath Prayer, The Dream, Sunrise, Sunset, Do You Love Me ?, Anatevka*

Golde is Tevye's strong-willed wife who hopes for good matches for her daughters, so they have easier lives than she and Tevye. She is the strength behind Tevye and keeps the household going.

Tzeitel, Eldest Daughter

Character Age Range: 18 – 20

Vocal range: Soprano/Alto (B3 to D5)

Songs: *Matchmaker, Tradition, Anatevka, plus some chorus songs*

Tzeitel is the first daughter to challenge tradition. She is madly in love with Motel, The Tailor and in a desperate crying scene persuades her father to let her marry Motel in spite of the fact that Tevye has made her a match with Lazar Wolfe who is old enough to be her father.

Hodel, 2nd Eldest Daughter

Character Age Range: 16 – 20

Vocal Range: Soprano with strong chest voice (B3 – E5)

Songs: *Far From the Home I Love (solo) , Matchmaker, Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, Now I Have Everything*

Hodel becomes involved with Perchik and eventually leaves Anatevka to be with him in Siberia where is imprisoned for his reform activities. She and Perchik defy tradition by not asking permission to wed, only Tevye's blessing. Hodel sings the haunting solo *Far from the Home I Love* as she says goodbye to her father at the train station.

Chava, 3rd Eldest Daughter

Character Age Range: 16-18

Vocal Range: Soprano/Alto

Songs: *Matchmaker, Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, Anatevka*

Chava is Tevye's scholarly, middle daughter who loves reading. She falls in love with the Russian soldier Fyedka and elopes with him. This huge break from tradition breaks her father's heart and Chava becomes dead to him.

Shprintze, 4th Eldest Daughter

Character Age Range: 10 - 14

Vocal Range: Soprano/Alto

Movement: move well

Shprintze takes lessons at home from Perchik and appears in several scenes

Bielke, Youngest daughter

Character Age Range 9– 12

Vocal Range: Soprano/Alto

Bielke takes lessons at home from Perchik and appears in several scenes

Yente, The Matchmaker

Vocal Range Soprano/Alto (F3 – F5)

Songs: *Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, The Rumour, Anatevka*

Yente is the village matchmaker. She is a widow and a meddling busy-body who makes it her business to know all of the town gossip.

Grandma Tzeitel

Vocal range: Mezzo/Alto (C#4 – D5)

Songs: *The Dream*

Grandma Tzeitel is Golde's deceased grandmother who appears as a ghost in the Dream Sequence. She has a great solo in which she endorses the marriage of Tzeitel to Motel. The person who plays this role may double as chorus as well.

Fruma-Sarah

Vocal Range: Mezzo/Alto (C4 – Eb5)

Songs: *The Dream*

Fruma-Sarah is Lazar Wolfe's dead wife who appears as a ghost in the dream sequence to warn Tevye and Golde not to allow Tzeitel to marry her husband or dire results will befall the family. Her solo is a show stopper and the actor must carry this challenging solo. The person who plays this role may double as chorus as well.

Shaindel – Motel's mother

Small acting role and part of chorus.

Male Roles

Tevye

Character Age Range: 40 – 55

Vocal Range: Tenor/Baritone (Ab2 – F5)

Acting: VERY strong actor who must carry the show and have a strong connection to the audience. He is the heart and conscience of Fiddler on the Roof.

Songs: *Tradition, If I Were a Rich Man, Sabbath Prayer, To Life, Tevye's Monologue, The Dream, Sunrise Sunset, Tevye's Rebuttal, Do You Love Me, Chava Sequence, Anatevka*

Tevye is the humble but wise narrator and main character of the story. His stature comes from his integrity and zest for life. An impoverished milkman in the small village of Anatevka, Russia circa 1905, he is the father of five daughters, husband to Golde, and a leader in his Jewish community. He is faced with many struggles to uphold the traditions of his people, especially concerning the marriages of three of his daughters. Tevye is a likeable, hard-working, pious man (somewhat of a dreamer) who sees the positive side of life. He is humorous and usually relaxed, but when pushed, shows stubbornness and rage.

Motel, The Tailor

Character Age Range: 18 – 30

Vocal Range: Strong Tenor (E3 - F#4)

Songs: *Miracle of Miracles (solo), Tradition, Anatevka*

Motel is the meek and very poor village tailor. He seeks the hand of Tevye's eldest daughter Tzeitel. He must challenge the tradition of parents choosing a mate and in the process comes into his own by standing up for his feelings for Tzeitel.

Perchik, The Student

Character Age Range: 18 – 25

Vocal Range: Tenor (B2 – E4)

Songs: *Now I Have Everything (solo), Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset*

Perchik is a visitor and outsider to Anatevka. He brings with him radical views that challenge traditions. Perchik and Hodel (Tevye's second oldest daughter) fall in love and again challenge Tevye's beliefs.

Fyedka, The Russian Soldier

Character Age Range: 20 – 30

Mainly speaking role with featured Tenor solo in "To Life" (Soloist could be cast separately)

Dances a Russian dance in "To Life". Russian accent a plus.

Fyedka is a Russian soldier who falls in love with Chava, Tevye's third oldest daughter. He and Chava elope because Tevye cannot accept this total break in Jewish tradition.

Lazar Wolfe – The Butcher

Character Age Range: 40-60

Vocal Range: Baritone (C3 – F#4)

Songs: *Tradition, To Life, Sunrise, Sunset, Anatevka*

Lazar Wolfe is the brawny and feisty butcher of Anatevka. He is the town's wealthiest citizen. He is the same age, if not older than Tevye and by the tradition of parental arranged marriages, is matched with Tzeitel, Tevye's eldest daughter. He loses Tzeitel to Motel and is very resentful.

The Constable

Character Age Range: 35 – 60

Non-singing Role

The constable is a Russian military official stationed near Anatevka. He knows the villagers well and even likes some of them, especially Tevye. These superficial relationships do not prevent him from violence against the Jewish villagers and eventually he carries out orders for a pogrom in which the Jewish citizens are forced to leave Anatevka.

The Rabbi

Age Range: 50 – 80

Small mostly acting role

Songs: Tradition, The Dream, Anatevka

The Rabbi is the Jewish spiritual leader.

Mendel, The Rabbi's Son

Small mostly acting role and part of chorus

Songs: Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, The Rumour, Anatevka

Mordcha, The Innkeeper

Small acting role and part of chorus

Songs: Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, The Rumour, Anatevka

Mordcha runs the local bar and is a friend of Tevye

Avram, The Bookseller

Small acting role and part of chorus

Songs: Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, The Rumour, Anatevka

Russian Soloist in "To Life"

Age Range: 20 – 50

Vocal Range: Tenor Very strong Russian soloist

Other Small Male Roles

Nachum, The Beggar ; **Yussel**, The Town Hatter; **Russian Priest**