

West Side Story Character Descriptions

The Sharks - A Puerto Rican Gang

Maria - A hopeless romantic and innocent young girl. She falls in love with Tony and finds herself at the center of the conflict between the two gangs. Bernardo's younger sister. (*Soprano*)

Anita - Feisty and assertive. She gives "older sister" advice to Maria and tries to shield her from the dangers of the gangs. Bernardo's girlfriend and Maria's friend. (*Alto*)

Bernardo - A proud, strong, handsome man. Bernardo seeks to carve out territory as a sense of identity for him and his friends. Maria's brother and Anita's boyfriend. Leader of the Sharks. (*Baritone*)

Chino - An angry and at times, naive Shark who turns murderous and vengeful. Suitor to Maria and friend of Bernardo's.

Pepe - Gang member. (*Baritone*)

Indio - Gang member. (*Tenor*)

Luis - Gang member. (*Baritone/Bass*)

Rosalia - Indio's girlfriend, more demure, not too bright. (*Soprano*)

Consuela - Tough, young. Pepe's girlfriend. (*Alto*)

Francisca - Young, Luis' girlfriend. (*Soprano*)

The Jets - A Caucasian Gang

Tony - A romantic young man and former leader of the Jets, he has found a new lifestyle now that doesn't involve gangs. Tony finds himself violently torn between his friendships and love. Falls in love with Maria. Genuinely sweet and sincere. (*Tenor*)

Riff - An athletic, quick-tempered leader of the Jets. He seeks to eliminate the sharks and establish his own gang's dominance. Tony's best friend. (*Tenor*)

Anybodys - A spunky tomboy who is desperate to become a member of the Jets. The other Jets mock her for her ambitions, but generally appreciate her company. Full of energy and heart.

Diesel - Second-in-command of the Jets. Becomes leader after Riff's death. (*Baritone/Bass*)

Action - The most quick-tempered member of the Jets, always ready for a fight. (*Tenor*)

A-Rab - Slightly less quick tempered than Action. Baby John's best friend. (*Baritone*)

Baby John - The youngest Jet, is beaten up during the opening sequence. (*Tenor*)

Velma - Riff's girlfriend. (*Soprano*)

Graziella - Diesel's girlfriend. She is confident to a fault and headstrong. (*Soprano*)

The Adults

Officer Krupke - The local beat cop. He has no patience for the gang's conflict and tries to keep tensions from erupting between them. A little dorky, he is regularly mocked by the local gangs. (*Speaking role*)

Detective Schrank - A local police detective frustrated by the ongoing violence between the Jets and Sharks. Blunt, brash, racist, and unapologetic. (*Speaking role*)

Doc - The adult owner of the store where the Jets hang out. He tries to guide the Jets youthful angst and provides a safe haven for Tony. Old fashioned and wise in his ways. (*Speaking role*)

Glad Hand - Nerdy, overly cheerful and ill equipped social director at the school dance. (*Speaking role*)