

John Osborne: LOOK BACK IN ANGER

JIMMY PORTER :

- about 25 years old
- graduate from red-brick university
- sweet stall owner
- tall, thin, wearing tweed jacket and flannel's → middle class
- working class speech
- incites pity when he describes his father's death
- his way of speaking is ironic, offensive, affectionate
- behaves chauvinistically towards Alison
- self-centred young man
- feels frustrated each time he compares himself to his father
- his mother played important role in shaping his adult personality → cause his difficulty in accepting and getting along with women
- Alison's mother despise him
- He's sensitive when he's speaking about his life, when Mrs. Tanner's dying
- He can not tolerate Alison when she takes a stance against him

ALISON PORTER:

- about 25 years old
- housewife
- tall, slim, dark; face long and delicate
- wearing expensive skirt → indicates her wealthy family ; Jimmy's shirt → dependence on him, break away from her family
- generally polite
- self controlled
- willing to help (Jimmy & Cliff)
- she feels she can not trust Jimmy
- doesn't communicate directly → not to hurt other people's feelings
- doesn't defend on herself from Jimmy's attacks
- in the end of the book she breaks down → she suffered a lot by being away from Jimmy and losing their child
- reserved, quiet, not used to express emotions

CLIFF LEWIS:

- about 25 years old
- self taught
- helps Jimmy on the market stall
- short, dark, big-boned
- wearing pullower and creased trousers (lazy)
- probably inlove with Alison
- way of speaking → working class
- he can be ironical (comments of what he has been reading)
- considerate young man; usually puts other people before himself
- he hates Helena (might be based on issues of solid class)
- underlines one of the important themes in play- enourmous gap between working class and middle -class ways of behaviour
- talkative- prefers to be a good listener
- considerate to Alison, he advises her about relationship with Jimmy

HELENA CHARLES:

- about 25 years old
- an actress, career woman
- upper class
- sure about her identity
- doesn't allow Jimmy to get close enough to be able to attack her values
- inlove with Jimmy
- manages to defend herself from Jimmy's attacks
- takes Alison's place when she leaves
- less infatuated and can therefore behave more detachledy

COLONEL REDFERN:

- Alison's father
- About 40-50 years old
- Retired
- Upper-class speach
- Served in British Imperial Army in India
- Dwells on the past
- Tries to understand his daughter's way of living

- He even takes Jimmy's side against Alison when he accuses her of liking "to sit on the fence"