

Measure for Measure Characters

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Major Characters:

1. **Duke Vincentio:** He is the Duke of Vienna. He pretends to leave the city. He disguises himself as a friar to watch how Angelo rules.
2. **Angelo:** He is the Duke's strict deputy. He enforces harsh laws. He desires Isabella and acts hypocritically.
3. **Isabella:** She is Claudio's sister. She is about to become a nun. She faces a moral dilemma when Angelo asks her for something in return for her brother's life.
4. **Claudio:** He is Isabella's brother. He is sentenced to death for getting Juliet pregnant before marriage.
5. **Mariana:** She was engaged to Angelo. He abandoned her. She helps the Duke's plan with the "bed trick."
6. **Escalus:** He is a wise lord. He advises Angelo. He believes in mercy and justice.
7. **Lucio:** He is a talkative gentleman. He gossips and often acts foolishly.
8. **Juliet:** She is Claudio's fiancée. She is pregnant with his child.
9. **Mistress Overdone:** She runs a brothel in Vienna. She represents the city's immorality.
10. **Pompey:** He is a clown and servant to Mistress Overdone. He adds humor to the play.
11. **Provost:** He is the prison officer in charge. He sympathizes with Claudio and helps the Duke.
12. **Elbow:** He is a silly constable. He speaks incorrectly and provides comic relief.

Minor Characters:

1. **Friar Thomas:** He helps the Duke disguise himself.
2. **Friar Peter:** He helps the Duke at the end of the play.
3. **Justice:** He works with Escalus and upholds the law.
4. **Barnardine:** He is a long-time prisoner. He refuses to be executed.
5. **Abhorson:** He is the prison executioner.

Non-speaking Characters:

1. **Officers, Lords, and Attendants:** These characters help create Vienna's background. They follow orders and perform small tasks.

LxNotes