

## CHARACTERS

Tevye—a likable, hard-working, pious dairyman and proud father of five daughters; closely raised according to the old scriptures

Golde—Tevye's strong-willed wife and the backbone of the family; a rather gruff exterior masks sheer dedication to her family

Tzeitel—Tevye's eldest daughter; loyal to her family, but determined to challenge the town's traditions

Hodel—Tevye's strong, independent second eldest daughter; outspoken but respectful

Chava—Tevye's scholarly middle daughter, who loves to read

Shprintze—Tevye's fourth eldest daughter

Bielke—Tevye's youngest daughter

Yente—the meddling matchmaker; a middle-aged widow and village busybody who knows all of the town gossip

Motel—the poor, young tailor; sensitive and nervous, but sincere and friendly

Perchik—a radical student and visitor to Anatevka; strong and outspoken, but likable, charming and ultimately a loyal family member

Lazar Wolf—the feisty, brawny butcher and the town's wealthiest citizen

Mordcha—a friendly, interesting innkeeper

Rabbi—the spiritual center of the community

Avram—a bookseller

Constable—a Russian military official stationed near Anatevka; caught between his good nature towards the people of Anatevka and his duty to the non-Jewish Russian government

Fyedka—a strong, young Russian soldier who falls in love with Chava

Sasha—Fyedka's friend, a fellow Russian soldier

Yussel—a hatter

Fiddler—the silent violinist who captures the themes of the story through stylized movement, facial expression and dance

### ENSEMBLE:

Villagers (Papás, Mamas, Sons, Daughters);  
Inn Patrons; Russian Soldiers; Motel's Parents;  
Motel's Relations; Tevye's Relations; Guests;  
Bottle Dancers; Priest

INNKEEPER(MORDKA), LAZAR WOLF, TEVYE SCENE

LAZAR: REB MORDCHA

INNKEEPER (MORDCHA): YES, LAZAR WOLF.

LAZAR: PLEASE BRING ME A BOTTLE OF YOUR BEST BRANDY AND TWO GLASSES.

INNKEEPER: WHAT'S THE OCCASION, A PARTY?

LAZAR: MAYBE A PARTY. MAYBE EVEN A WEDDING.

INNKEEPER: WELL...RIGHT AWAY!

TEVYE: (ENTERING) GOOD EVENING.

INNKEEPER: GOOD EVENING, TEVYE.

TEVYE: (POINTING TO LAZAR) HE WANTS TO BUY MY NEW MILK COW. GOOD EVENING, REB LAZAR.

LAZAR: AH, TEVYE--SIT DOWN. HAVE A DRINK. TEVYE--I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHY I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

TEVYE: (DRINKS) YES, I DO REB LAZAR, BUT THERE IS NO USE TALKING ABOUT IT.

LAZAR (UPSET): WHY NOT?

TEVYE: WHY YES? WHY SHOULD I GET RID OF HER?

LAZAR: WELL, YOU HAVE A FEW MORE WITHOUT HER.

TEVYE: I SEE! TODAY YOU WANT ONE. TOMORROW YOU MIGHT WANT TWO.

LAZAR: TWO? WHAT WOULD I DO WITH TWO?

TEVYE: THE SAME AS YOU DO WITH ONE!

LAZAR: I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER. YOUR DAUGHTER, TZEITEL!

TEVYE: MY DAUGHTER TZEITEL?

LAZAR: OF COURSE, YOUR DAUGHTER TZEITEL! I SEE HER IN MY BUTCHER SHOP EVERY THURSDAY. SHE'S MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON ME...I LIKE HER AND I WILL BE GOOD TO HER, TEVYE. I LIKE HER...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TEVYE: (TO AUDIENCE) WHAT DO I THINK? YOU CAN HAVE A FINE CONVERSATION WITH HIM IF YOU TALK ABOUT KIDNEYS AND LIVERS...ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT EVERYBODY HAS TO BE A SCHOLAR? MAYBE I MISJUDGED HIM. HE IS A GOOD MAN, HE LIKES HER, HE WILL TRY TO MAKE HER HAPPY. (TURNS TO LAZAR) WHAT DO I THINK? IT'S A MATCH.

# TEVYE + PERCHIK

## TEVYE SPEECH

A FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. SOUNDS CRAZY, NO? BUT IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE OF ANATEVKA, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT EACH ONE OF US IS A FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, TRYING TO SCRATCH OUT A PLEASANT, SIMPLE TUNE WITHOUT BREAKING HIS NECK,...AND HOW DO WE KEEP OUR BALANCE? THAT I CAN TELL YOU IN ONE WORD....TRADITION.

HERE IN ANATEVKA WE HAVE TRADITIONS FOR EVERYTHING...HOW TO EAT, HOW TO SLEEP, HOW TO WEAR CLOTHES. FOR INSTANCE, WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR HEADS COVERED AND ALWAYS WEAR A LITTLE PRAYER SHAWL...THIS SHOWS OUR CONSTANT DEVOTION TO GOD. YOU MAY ASK HOW DID THIS TRADITION START. I'LL TELL YOU---I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S A TRADITION...BECAUSE OF OUR TRADITIONS, EVERYONE KNOWS WHO HE IS AND WHAT GOD EXPECTS HIM TO DO.

## TEVYE AND PERCHIK

PERCHIK: GOOD EVENING, SIR.

TEVYE: GOOD EVENING TO YOU, REB...?

PERCHIK: PERCHIK.

TEVYE: SO, YOU ARE A NEWCOMER HERE! WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

PERCHIK: KIEV..I WAS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY THERE.

TEVYE: SO, WHAT IS THE NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

PERCHIK: TERRIBLE.

TEVYE: HOW TERRIBLE?

PERCHIK; IN A VILLAGE CALLED RAJANKA. ALL THE JEWS WERE EVICTED...FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

TEVYE: FOR WHAT REASON?

PERCHIK: MAYBE THEY WANTED THEIR LAND..MAYBE A PLAGUE...

TEVYE: YOU KNOW, IT'S NO CRIME TO BE POOR.

PERCHIK: IT'S THE RICH WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS. SOMEDAY THEIR WEALTH WILL BE OURS.

TEVYE: THAT WOULD BE NICE. IF THEY WOULD AGREE, I WOULD AGREE.

TZEITEL AND MODEL SCENE

TZEITEL: MOTEL, YENTE WAS HERE

MOTEL: I KNOW, I SAW HER.

TZEITEL: IF THEY AGREE ON SOMEONE THERE WILL BE A MATCH AND THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR US. YOU COULD ASK FOR MY HAND TONIGHT.

MOTEL: WHY SHOULD HE CONSIDER ME NOW? I'M ONLY A POOR TAILOR?

TZEITEL: MOTEL, EVEN A POOR TAILOR IS ENTITLED TO SOME HAPPINESS.

MODEL: ALL RIGHT, I'LL TALK TO HIM.

# Daughters

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## TZEITEL, GOLDE, HODEL, CHAVA SCENE

TZEITEL: WHAT DID SHE WANT. MAMA?

GOLDE: WHEN I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU. FINISH THE FLOOR.

HODEL: I WONDER IF YENTE FOUND A HUSBAND FOR YOU?

TZEITEL: I'M NOT ANXIOUS FOR YENTE TO FIND ME A HUSBAND.

CHAVA: NOT UNLESS IT'S MOTEL , THE TAILOR.

TZEITEL: I DIDN'T ASK YOU.

HODEL: TZEITEL, YOU'RE THE OLDEST. THEY HAVE TO MAKE A MATCH FOR YOU BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE ONE FOR ME.

CHAVA: AND THEN AFTER HER , ONE FOR ME.

TZEITEL: OH, YENTE, ....YENTE...

HODEL: WELL, SOMEBODY HAS TO ARRANGE THE MATCHES.

CHAVA: SHE MIGHT BRING SOMEONE WONDERFUL..

HODEL: SOMEONE INTERESTING...

CHAVA: AND WELL OFF...

## TZEITEL AND MOTEL SCENE

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MOTEL: I KNOW, I SAW HER.

TZEITEL: IF THEY AGREE ON SOMEONE THERE WILL BE A MATCH AND THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR US. YOU COULD ASK FOR MY HAND TONIGHT.

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TZEITEL: MOTEL, EVEN A POOR TAILOR IS ENTITLED TO SOME HAPPINESS.

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# GOLDE + YENTE

## YENTE SPEECH WITH GOLDE

GOLDE DARLING. I HAD TO SEE YOU BECAUSE I HAVE SUCH NEWS FOR YOU. AND NOT JUST EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK NEWS, ONCE IN A LIFETIME NEWS. WHERE ARE YOUR DAUGHTERS? OUTSIDE, NO? GOOD, SUCH DIAMONDS, SUCH JEWELS. I'LL FIND EVERY ONE OF THEM A HUSBAND. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO PICKY...EVEN THE WORST HUSBAND, GOD FORBID, IS BETTER THAN NO HUSBAND, GOD FORBID...

GOLDE: YENTE, YOU SAID YOU HAD NEWS FOR ME.

YENTE; OF COURSE, THE NEWS. IT'S ABOUT LAZAR WOLF, THE BUTCHER. OUT OF THE WHOLE TOWN, HE'S CAST HIS EYE ON TZEITEL.

GOLDE: SUCH A MATCH FOR MY TZEITEL. BUT TEVYE WANTS A LEARNED MAN, HE DOESN'T LIKE LAZAR.

YENTE: HE'LL WIN HIM OVER, HE'S A GOOD MAN AND HE'S WELL OFF. YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME, GOLDE, BECAUSE IT GIVES ME SATISFACTION TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY, SO GOODBYE, GOLDE, AND YOU'RE WELCOME.

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