

## Character Descriptions

**Joe Keller** (late 50s, early 60s) Lead role. Husband of Kate, father of Chris and Larry (who was missing in action during World War II). Owner of a factory that manufactured cylinder heads for the military during the war, a defective batch of which caused the deaths of 21 pilots. Joe was convicted, but later exonerated on appeal. His partner, Steve Deever, wasn't so lucky; he is still in jail. Joe is gregarious, freewheeling, somewhat coarse and very dominating.

**Kate Keller** (Early 50s) Large role. Wife of Joe. Mother of Chris and Larry. Loving and well liked, motherly. Very protective of her family. Believes that Larry is still alive and will lash out at anyone, including family members, who argue differently. Opposes Chris's intent to marry Anne.

**Chris Keller** (Early 30s) Son of Joe and Kate, brother of Larry. Lost most of the men he led during the war and has had his innate idealism damaged by it. Fiercely loyal but has an inner unease about his father's involvement in the cylinder head incident. Wants to find the best in people. In love with Anne, the daughter of Joe's partner and former neighbor (still in prison from the cylinder head incident), she had been Chris's missing brother Larry's girlfriend. Has invited Anne to propose to her and won't let any obstacle get in his way.

**Anne Deever** (mid-20s) Daughter of Joe's imprisoned partner and grew up next door to the Kellers. Had been Larry's girlfriend, but kept up a correspondence with Chris following Larry's disappearance. Is now in love with Chris and will do anything to marry him. Intelligent. Strong and determined, but feminine.

**George Deever** (Early 30s) Anne's older brother and son of Joe's imprisoned partner. Also grew up next door to the Kellers. Appears in the second act to try and break up Anne's relationship with Chris because he now believes that Joe was guilty and his father made to take the fall. Under the circumstances of the scene, George comes in very tense and intense, spoiling for a fight. He still has great affection for Kate (who calms him down in the scene) and once had been good friends with Chris, who he respected. Had a crush on Lydia growing up.

**Dr. Jim Bayliss** (late 30s, very early 40s) Current neighbor to the Kellers, bought the Deever house after Joe's partner went to prison and the family moved out of town. Husband of Sue and has a young son (not in the play). Wry sense of humor barely covers a sad weariness that he is trapped in a life that he is unhappy with (wants to be a researcher but there is no money in it). Friend of Chris.

**Sue Bayliss** (late 30s, very early 40s) Wife of Jim, neighbor to the Kellers. On the heavy

side. Very frank, a realist. She can be cruel and sarcastic when she wants to be. Resentful of the Kellers and wants Jim to stay in his current lucrative career as a practicing physician.

**Frank Lubey** (early 30s) Neighbor of the Kellers. Husband of Lydia. Friendly, good natured, handy but not particularly bright or tactful.

**Lydia Lubey** (mid to late 20s) Wife of Frank and neighbor of the Kellers. Attractive, bright personality, loves to laugh. Also friendly and good natured but, like Frank, not particularly bright. Romantic relationship with Frank started after George left the area.

**Bert** (about eight) Neighborhood child that Joe plays “detective” with. Makes two appearances in the first act.