

Something Rotten! Jr. — Character Descriptions

Minstrel (boy or girl)

The Minstrel is the lively and charismatic host of the show, opening the story by welcoming the audience into the world of the Renaissance. They set the tone with energy, humor, and strong stage presence, guiding the audience into the theatrical world ahead. This role requires confidence, and a love of performing.

Portia (girl)

Portia is Brother Jeremiah's daughter, raised under strict rules but filled with curiosity, intelligence, and a quiet rebellious spirit. She is passionate about poetry and literature, even though she is forbidden from engaging with them. Portia is warm, thoughtful, and courageous, ultimately choosing to follow her heart. Her belief in Nigel helps him discover his confidence and voice.

William Shakespeare (boy)

Shakespeare is the most famous and celebrated playwright of the time, carrying himself like a theatrical rockstar. He is confident, charming, and a bit arrogant, fully aware of his fame and influence. While undeniably talented, he is also opportunistic, often borrowing ideas when it benefits him.

Nick Bottom (boy)

Nick is a determined but struggling playwright who dreams of achieving the same success as Shakespeare. He is passionate and hardworking but often feels frustrated and overshadowed. As the leader of the troupe, he carries the pressure of success, which sometimes leads him to make questionable decisions. Despite this, Nick has a good heart and genuinely wants to provide for his family and fellow performers.

Nigel Bottom (boy)

Nigel is Nick's kind-hearted and sensitive younger brother. He has a natural gift for poetry but lacks confidence in himself—until he meets Portia. Through their connection, Nigel begins to believe in his abilities and discovers his voice as a writer. He is sincere, romantic, and earnest, bringing emotional depth and sweetness to the story.

Bea (girl)

Bea is Nick's devoted and resilient wife who supports him through financial struggles and uncertainty. She is clever, resourceful, and optimistic, always finding ways to make things work. Bea challenges expectations with her strength and independence while remaining deeply loving and loyal. She brings both humor and heart to the story.

Nostradamus / Nancy (girl)

Nostradamus—also known as Nancy—is an eccentric and energetic time traveler who has experienced the future firsthand. Because of this, she shares what she has seen, though her explanations can be confusing and unpredictable. Nancy is theatrical, quirky, and full of personality, and her time-traveling knowledge ultimately inspires the troupe to create something entirely new: a musical.

Troupe (boy or girl)

Peter Quince, Robin, Tom Snout, Snug, Francis Flute, and others. The troupe members are comedic, energetic performers who bring life and humor to the show. They work closely as a group, singing together and supporting the Bottom brothers' productions. Each has a distinct personality, and several have featured spoken lines. These roles require strong character choices, teamwork, and a willingness to fully commit to physical comedy.

Shylock (boy or girl)

Shylock is a moneylender who has been restricted to their profession, but their true passion is theatre. They are extremely eager and enthusiastic, lighting up at the chance to be involved in the troupe. Shylock brings high energy, humor, and genuine excitement, making them a joyful and memorable presence. They would love nothing more than to support the arts and become the troupe's patron.

Brother Jeremiah (boy)

A strict and intense Puritan, Brother Jeremiah is deeply suspicious of anything he considers sinful—especially the theatre. As Portia's father, he is highly protective and controlling, determined to keep her away from influences he believes are dangerous. He is bold, dramatic, and often comedic in his over-the-top disapproval, serving as a strong obstacle for the Bottom brothers and their troupe.