Mr. Whitechapel

Plantation owner

Maintains an unorthodox and criticised approach to slaves that seems more 'humane'

Lydia

Daughter of Mr Whitechapel the plantation owner

Falls in love with Chapel after teaching him to read

Chapel

An ambitious youthful slave

Taught to read and write by Lydia

Flees plantation when his mother. Cook, dies and is caught and beaten for it

Sanders Junior

Brutal Slave overseer

Whips Chapel causing his death, Unaware at the time that he was his half-brother

Whitechapel

Central character

Old Slave that has seen many years of slavery believes in submission to survive

Loyal

Cook

Slave

Finds happiness with Whitechapel

Mother to Chapel

Sanders Senior

Widower

Overseer of slaves

Chapel's father after forced relations with Cook

Plantation owners

Harsh and business like slave owners that criticise Mr Whitechapel for his leniency with slaves

Self-justified and supported by The Virginian paper

Editor of The Virginian

Editor of paper

Discusses issues around slavery but maintains that slavery is acceptable

Publishes letter form Lydia but criticises her for taking equality too far.