

The Brothers Karamazov

Dramatis Personae

Ivan and Alyosha are conducting the conversation in the excerpt we are reading, but the names of several others come up in passing.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Description</u>
Ivan Fyodorovich Karamazov	Ivan	Ivan is well educated, an atheist and cynic. He has been trying very hard to steal his older brother Mitya's fiancé; she appears to be in love with Ivan but refuses to break her commitment to Mitya. Ivan is the first son of Fyodor Pavlovitch's second wife.
Alexey Fyodorovich Karamazov	Alyosha	Youngest of the three sons of Fyodor Pavlovitch, Alyosha is pious and good, truly and utterly selfless, one of those people whom you instinctively like and want to imitate. At the time of the excerpt, he is a novice at the local monastery. Alyosha is the second son of Fyodor Pavlovitch's second wife.
Dmitri Fyodorovich Karamazov	Mitya	Eldest of the three sons of Fyodor Pavlovitch, Mitya is an undisciplined rake, eternally short of cash because of his spendthrift habits and because he has been disinherited. He has been trying to borrow money from Ivan Fyodorovich and anybody else he can think of. The son of Fyodor Pavlovitch's first wife, Mitya is not (or at least doesn't think he is) in love with his fiancé, to whom he is bound by a prior, hasty commitment that she is unwilling to break.
Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov		Patriarch of the Karamazov clan, a minor aristocrat, Fyodor Pavlovitch is a randy, drunken old goat with neither shame nor morals. Married twice, with three sons, both his wives are dead. Not that he bothered to be faithful to them while they were alive...
Father Zossima		Father Zossima is dying. He has been Alyosha's mentor, and is one of the revered monks ("elders") apparently common in Russia at the time of the story. Dostoevsky says that the institution of "elders," to whom other monks defer and sometimes confess their sins even if the "elder" is not their confessor, has been present in Orthodox monasteries for a thousand years.
Father Paissy		A learned monk, one of Father Zossima's circle of friends and disciples.