

All the following are taken from Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* monologues written for television. What can you tell about each character from the descriptions provided here? The first one has been done for you. Where there is not much information think about what the playwright might be suggesting by this omission.

He is not severe or outspoken, possibly shy. **He's not a teenager so why is the play in his bedroom? Is it because he does not own the house he lives in?**

He leads a spartan life. **He does not have a partner.**

Graham is a mild middle-aged man. The play is set in his bedroom, a small room with one window and one door. It is furnished with a single bed, a wardrobe, two chairs and nothing much else.

Although we can not make too many assumptions about characters from such a small amount of information we can (and as readers and audiences we do) start to make some assumptions about the character before us; do you think he is: popular? Lonely? Happy? Young in outlook? Content with his life? Enjoys a lot of hobbies?

A	<i>Susan is a vicar's wife. She is thin and nervous and probably smokes. She sits on an upright chair in the kitchen. It is evening.</i>
B	<i>Miss Ruddock is an ordinary middle-aged woman. The room in which we see her is simply furnished and there is a bay window. It is afternoon.</i>
C	<i>Lesley is in her early thirties. She is in her flat. Morning.</i>
D	<i>Muriel is a brisk, sensible woman in her late fifties. She is in a tweed skirt and cardigan with a single row of pearls, and we come on her settled in a corner of her comfortable home. It is afternoon.</i>
E	<i>Maris is in her seventies and the play is set in the living-room and hallway of her semi-detached house. She is sitting slightly awkwardly on a low chair and rubbing her leg. Morning.</i>