

Investigating the characters

Suskind depicts many characters throughout the novel and presents them to us in a variety of ways.

1. Look back through the text and find descriptions of each of the characters below:

Part One

Grenouille's mother (never given a name)
 Jeanne Bussie (a wet nurse)
 Father Terrier (given Grenouille by Jeanne Bussie)
 Madame Gaillard (foster mother)
 Monsieur Grimal (the tanner)
 Grenouille's first murder victim (nameless)
 Giuseppe Baldini (perfumer and glover)
 Chénier (Baldini's assistant)
 Pélissier

Part Two

Marquis de la Taillade-Espinasse
 Runel

Part Three

Madame Arnulfi
 Dominique Druot
 A fifteen year old girl (Grenouille's second victim)
 Two more murdered girls
 Anonymous murdered girls
 Antoine Richis
 Laure Richis
 Monsieur Papon

Part Four

Group of villains

2. Consider whether there are ways in which the characters can be categorised: perhaps through gender; work; whether or not we are invited to sympathise with them; what happens to them; whether they are individual, part of a couple or a group.
3. Why do you think Suskind has chosen to depict the characters in particular ways?