

The Bell Jar – Characters

Esther Greenwood – the protagonist and narrator of the novel

Mrs Greenwood – Esther's mother

Buddy Willard – Esther's college boyfriend

Mrs Willard – a friend of Esther's mother

Doreen – Esther's companion in New York

Betsy – A pretty, wholesome girl from Kansas

Jay Cee – Esther's boss at the magazine

Lenny Shepard – Doreen's love interest in New York

Constantin – A UN simultaneous interpreter

Philomena Guinena – a famous, wealthy novelist

Dodo Conway – the Greenwood's neighbour

Jody – a friend of Esther's

Eric – a past acquaintance of Esther's

Irwin – Esther's first lover, a tall, intelligent math professor at Harvard

Marco – A tall, dark, well-dressed Peruvian

Doctor Gordon – Esther's first psychiatrist

Doctor Nolan – Esther's psychiatrist at the private mental hospital

Joan Gilling – Esther's companion in the mental hospital

Valerie – A friend of Esther's in the private mental hospital