**In Depth Analysis of Major Characters**

**Faustus**

He is a brilliant scholar and central character of the play. He was brought up by relatives for his parent's poverty and sent to the university at Wittenberght up by relatives supernatural knowledge and power drives him to a costly deal with Lucifer. Faustus signs a contract which will free him frony human restraints with Lucifer four years. Despite his desire for repentance, finally he is sent to hell.

Faustus's character poses a duality of thoughts and attitudes throughout the play. He looks sometimes backwards to the medieval world, and sometimes forward to the modern world. Faustus lives in a time of the Middle Ages and the start of the Renaissance. These were two very different historical eras with quite different values, and Faustus is caught in the grip of changing times. On the one hand, he is very aware of the admonitions of the medieval church. On the other hand, Faustus hears Renaissance voices which tell him just the opposite: seek wealth and power, live this life to the full because tomorrow you'll be dead, extend the boundaries of human knowledge. However, he is mostly a Renaissance figure representing geographical discovery and secularity. He wants to reshape the map of Europe and the possession of every woman he wants.

Other key element Faustus represents is ambition. He has studied all the main branches of learning of his time and is satisfied by none of them. As a result, ambition blinds him to the actual meaning of his deal with Lucifer. Sometimes he tells himself that hell is not so bad and that one needs only "fortitude"; at other times, even while conversing with Mephastophilis, he remarks to the disbelieving demon that he does not actually believe hell exists. He is no longer content with the pursuit of knowledge. One can conclude that his flight into hell stems from this unsatisfied ambition.

Still some see Faustus dangling between superhuman ambition and very human limitations. Faustus dreams that magic will make him a god. In his early dealing with Mephistophilis, he talks about himself as if he were a king. He gives commands, dictates terms, and fancies himself on a par with Lucifer, the dreaded regent of hell. Faustus is willing to sign a contract which will free him from human restraints for 24 years. He has a very powerful imagination which can fly free of the earth but his body addresses him as a simple man.

**Mephistophilis**

An agent of Lucifer who acts as part of the deal between Lucifer and Faustus. He is the devil that comes at Faustus' summoning, a devil who serves Faustus for 24 years. Mephastophilis's character poses two odd aspects. Sometimes we see him holding good qualities. He is bluntly honest with Faustus from his very first appearance. He calls his charge "My Faustus," and flies to his side with eagerness. He is a companion in Faustus' adventures and is also Faustus' comforter. He sympathizes when Faustus is sick with longing for heaven. He watches, in quiet distress, while Faustus damns himself. When summoned during the night by Faustus' blasphemous conjuring, he urges Faustus away from his contemplated deal with hell:

**O Faustus, leave these frivolous demands which strike a terror to my fainting soul**.

On the other hand, Mephistophilis represents a hellish and malevolent nature. Mephistophilis lies to Faustus. When Faustus asks for information about the Stars Mephistophilis gives him facts, which the scholar already knows. He manipulates him with threats of torture, and jeers at him when his final hour has come:

**What, weepst thou? 'tis too late: despair. Farewell. Fools that will laugh on earth must weep in hell.**

But finally we see what Mephistophilis gives Faustus is an eternity of torment, not the limitless power that Faustus imagines.

**Lucifer**

Monarch of hell and Mephastophilis's master who is delighted to receive Faustus's devout soul into his dominions in exchange for twenty-four years of luxurious life.

"Lucifer" is another name for Satan, a fallen angel who once dared to revolt against God. Although Lucifer's regal image is tarnished by association with creatures like the Seven Deadly Sins and that jokester, Marlowe holds a considerable esteem for Lucifer. Hence he depicts Lucifer less majestic and terrible than Mephistophilis.

**List of Minor Characters**

**Old Man**

A holy old man who tries to save Faustus by getting him to repent. His role is to serve as a foil for Faustus.

**Good Angel and Evil Angel**

The personifications of Faustus' inner turmoil, who give differing advice to him at key points. Good Angel urges Faustus to repent for his pact with Lucifer and return to God, but Evil Angel poses the devil side of Faustus.

**Clown**

A Clown who becomes Wagner's servant. The clown's antics provide comic relief; he is a ridiculous character, and his absurd behavior initially contrasts with Faustus's grandeur. As the play goes on, though, Faustus's behavior comes to resemble that of the clown.

**Robin**

An ostler, or innkeeper, who, like the clown, provides a comic contrast to Faustus. Robin and his friend Rafe learn some basic conjuring, demonstrating that even the least scholarly can possess skill in magic. Marlowe includes Robin and Rafe to illustrate Faustus's degradation as he submits to simple trickery such as theirs.

**Knight (Benvolio)**

A courtier of the German Emperor who is skeptical of Faustus's power. He seeks revenge because Faustus makes antlers sprout from his head to teach him a lesson.

**Wagner**

A servant to Faustus. He steals Faustus' books and learns how to summon demons. Some think Wagner is foolish, But there's every indication he's really rather clever. He dabbles in magic and conjures demons without going to hell.

**Horse-Courser**

A man who buys Faustus' horse, which vanishes after the horse-Courser rides it into the water, leading him to seek revenge.

**Valdes and Cornelius**

Friends to Faustus, who teach him the wizardry. Cornelius is more timid, content to dabble in magic rather than practice it in earnest. "The spirits tell me they can dry the sea," Cornelius says, never having ventured to try the experiment

**The pope**

The head of the Roman Catholic Church and a power-mad character that is depicted as a symbol of a religious faith Faustus has rejected.