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S. No 6 B.A.Part-2 English Hons, Topic:Edward II Characters Dr U P Singh,  
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## **Edward II Characters**

### **Edward II**

Edward is, of course, the play's title character, and the plot more or less corresponds to the course of his actual historical reign (though the play significantly compresses the events of his reign), beginning with... (**read full character analysis**)

### **Piers Gaveston**

Gaveston is Edward II's companion and (almost certainly) lover. The two men have known each other for some time by the time the play opens, but had recently been separated by Edward's father.

### **Mortimer Junior**

Mortimer Junior is a powerful member of the English nobility and, eventually, the lead challenger to Edward II's rule. As Marlowe states outright in the play's full title, Mortimer is extremely “proud”.

### **Isabella**

Isabella is a daughter of the King of France, Edward II's wife, and mother to his son, Prince Edward. She is also one of the play's most ambiguous characters.

### **Edmund, Earl of Kent**

Kent is Edward II's brother, and thus spends much of the play torn between loyalty to his family and loyalty to England. Kent initially condemns the English nobles for voicing their dissatisfaction with Edward .

### **Prince Edward/Edward III**

The son of Edward II and Isabella. Prince Edward is absent for the first half of the play, which makes sense given his young age: the real Edward III was fourteen at the time.

### **Mortimer Senior**

Mortimer Senior is the uncle of Mortimer Junior and a powerful member of the English nobility. Although he shares his nephew's frustration with Gaveston's influence, Mortimer Senior is somewhat more inclined to give Edward

### **The Earl of Lancaster**

Other than Mortimer Junior, Lancaster is perhaps the most outspoken of the lords who oppose Gaveston's relationship with Edward.

### **Guy, Earl of Warwick**

The Earl of Warwick is one of the nobles who opposes Gaveston's position at court and (ultimately) the rule of Edward himself. Edward describes Warwick as having "silver hairs".

### **Spencer Junior**

After Gaveston's death, Edward II relies instead on the support and advice of two of Gaveston's former retainers: Spencer Junior and his father, Spencer Senior. Neither man is well born.

### **The Earl of Pembroke**

Pembroke is one of a group of nobles who oppose Edward's reliance on Gaveston.

### **Bishop of Canterbury**

The Bishop of Canterbury is the head of the Catholic Church in England.

### **Bishop of Coventry**

The Bishop of Coventry is a high-ranking official of the Catholic Church who evidently helped persuade Edward II's father to exile Gaveston.

### **Lord Maltravers/Earl of Arundel**

Maltravers is a noble who initially remains loyal to Edward II, delivering the king's request that he be allowed to see Gaveston before the latter is executed.

### **Gourney**

Like Maltravers, Gourney serves as one of Edward II's sadistic jail keepers after the king is deposed.

### **Lightborne**

Lightborne is the assassin Mortimer Junior hires to kill Edward II.

### **Lady Margaret de Clare**

Lady Margaret is the daughter of the Earl of Gloucester, and thus the niece of Edward II.

### **The Earl of Leicester**

Leicester is an English noble who first appears in the play after Edward's defeat, arresting Baldock and Spencer Junior and also conveying the deposed king Edward to Kenilworth.

### **The Mower**

A man, who maintains the grounds around the monastery. He is, literally, a mower of grass and other vegetation.

### **Minor Characters**

#### **Spencer Senior**

Spencer Senior is the father of Spencer Junior, who becomes a favorite of Edward II's after Gaveston's death. Edward similarly favors Spencer Senior and makes him Earl of Wiltshire. In return, Spencer Senior remains loyal to the king and is eventually arrested for supporting him.

### **Baldock**

Baldock is a retainer of Gaveston's who frequently appears alongside Spencer Junior. He is also an Oxford scholar and the tutor of Lady Margaret, who is engaged to marry Gaveston. He remains loyal to Edward II until the king's defeat.

### **Bishop of Winchester**

Although Edward II's actions earn him many enemies within the Church, the Bishop of Winchester is the only religious official who appears to openly side with Mortimer Junior against the king. In fact, he is one of the men sent to persuade Edward to abdicate.

### **Lord Berkeley**

When Mortimer Junior decides the Earl of Leicester may be untrustworthy, he sends Lord Berkeley to Kenilworth to convey Edward II to imprisonment at Berkeley. Nevertheless, Mortimer quickly decides Berkeley is too lenient with Edward as well, and replaces him with Maltravers and Gourney.

### **Sir John of Hainault**

Hainault is a French lord who offers shelter and aid to Isabella even when her brother, the King of France, refuses to side with her in her dispute with Edward II.

### **Abbot of Neath**

The Abbot of Neath is one of the few Church officials in the play who seem to support Edward II. He hides the king, Spencer Junior, and Baldock in his monastery, although the three men's whereabouts are ultimately betrayed.

### **Rhys ap Howell**

A Welsh supporter of Mortimer Junior, who helps arrest Spencer Senior, Spencer Junior, Baldock, and eventually Edward II himself.