

# CPSSMUN XII



## A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Jill Dave and Zahra Syed

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## CONTENT DISCLAIMER

It is important to note that this background guide is based on the novel series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. The imaginative elements that make this narrative possible are solely intended to emphasize the structure and goals of this committee. In consequence of this, this background guide will explore sensitive topics including violence, thievery and illegal acts. These topics serve the purpose of enhancing this committee's direction and engage with delegates in formal debate. These ideas exist in this background guide for the overall success of the committee, and the actions and doings in this committee should by no means be replicated in real-world conduct.

## EQUITY CONCERNS

Bullying and discrimination are unwelcomed practices at CPSSMUN. All attendees of CPSSMUN XII will be made safe, welcomed, and appreciated, thanks to the efforts of our teacher supervisor and the Secretariat team. In the event that any CPSSMUN Staff, Secretariat, or Delegate acts inappropriate, or invokes uncomfortability, please contact our Equity Officer at [cpssmunequity@gmail.com](mailto:cpssmunequity@gmail.com). This can be done at any time leading up to, during, or after the conference.

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

*Dear Delegates,*

Welcome to this year's CPSSMUN XII, a place where Model United Nations has shone like never before! It is our pleasure to welcome you to our committee based on the popular book and television series, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

Within these sessions, you will step into a world of grim, deceitful, and often dangerous lives of the Baudelaire orphans—full of suspicious guardians, fragile alliances, and secrets so catastrophic that the lone mention of them could result in disaster.

Like all unfortunate events, the topics in discussion are intertwined, and actions from one scene may ripple into the next. As delegates, you must navigate through the secrets of the notorious Volunteer Fire Department, persevering through deceit, trickery, and danger to fulfill your own agenda. Alliances are slowly crumbling, villains hide in plain sight, and everyone is actively seeking to gain control over the V.F.D. organization as we know it.

Your fate is in your hands. This committee will test where your loyalties lie and the lengths you will go to succeed. Prepare yourself for the adventure ahead, as what lies ahead will not be pleasant. As Lemony Snicket puts it: "If you are interested in happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book."

Sincerely,

Jill Dave (She/Her) and Zahra Syed (She/Her)

*Directors of A Series of Unfortunate Events*



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the world of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, where misfortune, mystery, and an abundance of secrets prevail, the line between good and evil is becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate, as self-interest begins to cloud everyone's better judgment. Once, the secret organization, Volunteer Fire Department, commonly referred to as V.F.D., had one primary mission: to bring good to the world by preserving the truth. The organization was focused on putting out both literal and metaphorical fires to extinguish cruelty, ignorance, and injustice. Over time, V.F.D. fractured into two factions by a dangerous schism: the Fire-Fighting and Fire-Starting Sides. One continues the legacy of the original organization, while the other utilizes more harmful tactics to start fires for their own selfish motives. In the end, only one thing is true: the two split schisms have put V.F.D. on the very brink of collapse, and it is up to you to reunite it.

Amid the rising chaos of V.F.D.'s collapse, the extravagant Baudelaire mansion becomes nothing more than a pile of ash. The children of the late Baudelaires, notorious for their secrecy and wealth—Violet, Klaus, and Sunny—have narrowly escaped with their lives. The orphaned children are thrust into a devious game of guardianship and greed, as others hope to gain their custody for a chance at the massive Baudelaire fortune left behind. The prime suspect? Count Olaf, a villain with theatrical talents and a notorious unibrow who will go to any length necessary to get his hands on their family fortune. Complicating matters further, the infamous Sugar Bowl has mysteriously gone missing, causing panic among members of the Volunteer Fire Department as rumours of a thief run wild. Not only does this artifact contain hidden secrets and a life-saving antidote for a deadly fungus, but it serves as a symbol of the dangerous knowledge and power that drove V.F.D. apart. Now, with the once-honourable organization in ruin, you, delegate, have been entrusted to reunite V.F.D., find guardianship for the Baudelaire orphans, uncover the truth behind the missing Sugar Bowl, and restore the foundations of the Volunteer Fire Department to ensure past mistakes never repeat themselves.

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

### TOPIC #1: THE FATE OF THE BAUDELAIRES

The Baudelaire Fortune, the emblem of both inheritance and tragedy, is more than a mere sum of money. It is a symbol of legacy, power, and ultimate moral choices. A sum so grand, in hands so little. Although it may technically belong to Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire, all are within reach of such a fortune and some will stop at nothing to get it. The inheritance itself is held in trust by Mr. Poe's bank, Mulctuary Money Management, and is meant to be given to the children once Violet turns 18 years old. However, that is still a time away. For the time being, it is crucial that the Baudelaire orphans are cared for by proper hands in order to tend to their well-being and careful upbringing. With guardianship of the Baudelaires, one may have direct access to the fortune that is destined for the children.

This brings up the ultimate question—who is best fit to take care of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire? In whose hands does the fate of these tragic orphans lie? Further complicating matters, the siblings themselves cannot agree upon a common guardian, causing tensions to arise amongst them. It is important to note that the chosen candidate must be able to provide the best possible life for these children and to not do so out of greed for what comes with them. The issue is pressing, for if a fit guardian is not decided in time, the entire Baudelaire fortune risks getting liquidated as the eldest Violet will not be of age in time to claim it. A sum more than enough to sustain seven lifetimes, will risk being lost forever with no one to claim it. It is vital that the money does not fall into the wrong hands, for misuse of the Baudelaire fortune may cause disastrous consequences and endanger the lives of everyone in V.F.D.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Who is the best fit for taking care of the Baudelaire children? What criteria or strategies will you use to uncover the most suitable person for this great responsibility?
2. What should be done with the massive Baudelaire fortune? How can it be safeguarded?
3. What can be done to ensure the Baudelaires are safe, without repeating past mistakes?

4. Should they be granted independence after enduring so much, or should they be entrusted to an adult to care for their upbringing?



## TOPIC #2: THE STOLEN SUGAR BOWL

The Sugar Bowl: it may appear to be a simple kitchen item used for tea parties. In reality, the sugar bowl is a legendary souvenir craved by both sides of the V.F.D. organization. Originally, this seemingly strange artifact was stolen from Hotel Denouement, where it was in the original possession of the renowned hotel manager, Dewey Denouement. This mysterious artifact may not seem all that important; however, there must be a significant reason why it has torn allies into enemies, left destruction in its wake, and has recently been stolen. The thief hides in plain sight, among these very seats.

Thus far, the details known regarding the Sugar Bowl are scarce. Generally, it is widely believed that within the Sugar Bowl lies a cure to the Medusoid Mycelium, a deadly fungus whose fumes, if inhaled, can kill within the hour. With threats of this fungus being unleashed, the Sugar Bowl can be found in the very center of heated debate, sought after by both factions of the V.F.D. Rumors speculate that the Sugar Bowl may contain powerful secrets, blackmail-worthy knowledge, and perhaps something far worse. Despite its contents, the Sugar Bowl is coveted by all, but for different reasons—some seek power, others justice, while some simply wish to cause trouble. Only one thing is clear: every single person has a motive for stealing the Sugar Bowl—not just for its contents, but for the immense power and control it represents. As delegates, it is your moral obligation to locate the culprit of the Sugar Bowl's disappearance, for if it falls into the wrong hands, it could be the end of civilization as we know it.

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What are some strategies to use to uncover the thief of the Sugar Bowl? How will you work together to devise a plan to find the culprit?
2. What possible secrets or information might be hidden in the Sugar Bowl?
3. What should be done with the Sugar Bowl, if and when found? Can any one delegate or faction truly be entrusted with it?
4. What systems of protections can be put into place to ensure the Sugar Bowl never goes missing again?



Below is a timeline of traces left behind by the thief of the missing Sugar Bowl. Use these clues to uncover the thief and their motives.

## TRACES OF THE *Sugar Bowl*



NOVEMBER 1ST  
**HOTEL DENOUEMENT**

During the aftermath of an important V.F.D. meeting, the members are alerted to a commotion in the hotel lobby. Upon further inspection, the Dewey's main display case was empty of its contents. The highly sought-after sugar bowl had vanished! Hotel staff testified to seeing a disguised figure leaving the scene of the crime.



NOVEMBER 5TH  
**667 DARK AVENUE**

According to report on the Daily Punctilio, rumors are spreading that the prominent and wealthy Esme Squalor was last seen boasting a "stylish bowl" to guests at one of her penthouse parties.



NOVEMBER 10TH  
**PRUFROCK PREPARATORY**

Some students of Prufrock Preparatory School attest to seeing "a pretty teal candy bowl" on Vice Principal Nero's office desk. The school children claim to have seen Carmelita snooping around his office late at night; she is rumored to be withholding important information.



NOVEMBER 14TH  
**LUCKY SMELLS LUMBERMILL**

Workers at Lucky Smells Lumbermill overhear a conversation between Sir and Quigley Quagmire about a top secret business affair. The reports should be taken with a grain of salt, considering the ominous hypnosis of the lumbermill workers—leaving them with an impaired memory.



NOVEMBER 18TH  
**THE GRIM GROTTTO**

During her daily mycology research in her submarine, Fiona Widdershins says to has spotted a familiar submarine on the move out of the Grim Grotto.

### TOPIC #3: V.F.D. - REUNITE OR COLLAPSE?

Once a noble organization committed to the power of knowledge, education and the prevention of fires, the Volunteer Fire Department is now in shambles. The original organization was torn apart by shocking betrayal, damaging secrets and differing ideologies. The group that once held the world's mysteries in its library is now nothing but a pile of ashes. Former allies question each other's longstanding loyalties and new members have trouble trusting and gaining the trust of others. As mysterious fires of feuds continue to burn and coded messages remain unanswered, a decision must be made: Should the V.F.D. reunite under a single vision, or is its collapse inevitable?

It is crucial for delegates to decode encrypted documents whilst navigating shifting alliances and hidden motivations—while perhaps harbouring a few secrets of their own. By the end of the discussion, a single leader must be appointed as the new head of the V.F.D., should reunification be agreed upon. Though beware, if reunification is not the verdict, there runs a risk of the organization's deep secrets and past crimes being revealed to the public. With each passing minute, danger lurks right around the corner and the organization's survival is at stake. Don't forget, your choices will shape the future of the V.F.D.—if there is to be a future at all.

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. With past grudges still in the present, will members of the V.F.D. be able to get over those wounds and reunite? What are some ways you can reconcile and make amends with other members of the V.F.D.?
2. Who can you trust in a world built on codes and secrets? How can you determine ways to identify trustworthy alliances?
3. Should the organization's original policies still be preserved or is it time for a new era? What new policies should be implemented to prevent the schism from happening again?
4. What sacrifices are to be made should the V.F.D. reunite?

# CHARACTER LIST

## THE BAUDELAIRE ALLIANCE

### Violet Baudelaire



Violet Baudelaire, the eldest sibling of the family, is set to inherit the Baudelaire fortune upon coming of age. Along with her siblings, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire, she was recently orphaned due to the tragic death of their parents in a fire. Violet is known for her gifted ability to invent brilliant machines, which she typically uses to help her siblings—whom she is extremely protective of. Kindhearted, she will lend a hand to those in need, but not at the expense of her siblings' well-being. Her goals are to uncover V.F.D. secrets and expose Count Olaf's and his troupe's evil schemes.

#### Strengths:

- Inventive & logical
- Leader under pressure
- Brave

#### Weaknesses:

- Distrustful
- Overprotective
- Impulsive

### Klaus Baudelaire



Klaus Baudelaire is the only son and middle child in the Baudelaire family, aged 12 years. He is a prodigious reader with an encyclopedic memory, making him excellent at decoding riddles, maps, and V.F.D. secrets. Klaus possesses leadership qualities and is very protective of his siblings, Violet and Sunny Baudelaire. Heartbroken and betrayed by none other than Fiona Widdershins, his quest for love has still not reached its end, as she actively works with Olaf's Troupe to upend all he has worked for.

#### Strengths:

- Expert researcher
- Strong memory
- Knowledgeable

#### Weaknesses:

- Overthinks a lot
- Often hesitant
- Reserved



### Sunny Baudelaire



Sunny Baudelaire is the youngest sibling in the Baudelaire family and is merely an infant. She is adept at communicating with her two siblings. Sunny is an expert with culinary skills and is also known for using her sharp teeth for various tasks (and people). Although she is a baby, she has great survival instincts and stays calm in difficult situations.

#### Strengths:

- Observant
- Resourceful
- Quick reflexes

#### Weaknesses:

- Not taken seriously
- Physically limited
- Unauthoritative

### Kit Snicket



Kit Snicket is a member of the V.F.D. organization, and sister to Lemony and Jacques Snicket. She is deeply loyal to the Baudelaire family and strongly fights against anti-V.F.D schemes. Thanks to her years of experience with the V.F.D. organization, she is a natural leader that takes charge during times of crisis. Kit is very courageous and rebellious, sometimes so much that it gets her into trouble.

#### Strengths:

- Wide network of contacts
- Inside knowledge of V.F.D.
- Quick-witted

#### Weaknesses:

- Secretive
- Overconfident
- Haunted by past failures

### Quigley Quagmire



Quigley Quagmire is one of the Quagmire triplets, along with Isadora and Duncan—who, similarly to the Baudelaires, were orphaned after their parents perished in a fire. Initially, everyone assumed him to be deceased after the fire; however, he managed to survive. Now separated from his siblings, Quigley will go to great lengths to help the Baudelaires and reunite with his siblings.

#### Strengths:

- Protective of family
- Resourceful
- Brave

#### Weaknesses:

- Overtrusting
- Distracted by family concerns
- Haunted by guilt



### Dewey Denouement



Dewey Denouement is a V.F.D. member, and is the last surviving brother of the Denouement identical triplets, including Frank and Ernest. Dewey is the head librarian of the Hotel Denouement, as well as one of its founders and managers. As the widely-sought Sugar Bowl was stolen from his very hotel, he is very adamant about finding the culprit and delivering repercussions, as his reputation is on the line.

#### Strengths:

- Access to vital records
- Cool, calm, and collected
- Professional persona

#### Weaknesses:

- Slow at decision-making
- Overly cautious
- Secretive

## THE GUARDIANS

### Arthur Poe



Arthur Poe, financial banker at Mulctuary Money Management, is in charge of both the Baudelaire and Quagmire grand fortunes. Mr. Poe takes on great responsibility, as he manages the well-being and safety of the Baudelaires during unfortunate times. His main objective is to find good, safe guardianship for Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire. Although Mr. Poe has good intentions for them, his naivety and incompetence often puts the Baudelaires in danger. His never-ending stream of coughs often interrupt his speech, raising health concerns from those around him.

#### Strengths:

- Legal authority
- Access to information
- Desire to help

#### Weaknesses:

- Very gullible
- Inexperienced with dangerous situations
- Blind loyalty

### Justice Strauss



Justice Strauss is a high court judge who strives to help the Baudelaire children in legal and parental ways. She hoped to become a legal guardian for Violet, Klaus, and Sunny; however, she was denied since she was not related to them by blood. Despite this, Justice Strauss uses her large library and legal experience to bring the Baudelaires to justice and safety. Though well-spoken and assertive in the courtroom, she appears to be kindhearted with those close to her in her personal life.

#### Strengths:

- Legal expertise
- Strong morals
- Authoritative figure

#### Weaknesses:

- Easily manipulated
- Naive
- Indecisive

### Monty Montgomery



Monty Montgomery, a member of V.F.D., is a renowned herpetologist, specializing mainly in snakes. Despite his financial struggles from poor research funding from the Herpetology Society, Monty strives to become a great guardian for Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire—thanks to his close childhood relationship with their parents. Although he is always buried in loads of books and research, he goes out of his way to provide a comforting hand to others and lighten the mood with his fun, quirky personality.

#### Strengths:

- Herpetology expert
- Close to Baudelaires
- Charismatic

#### Weaknesses:

- Overly trusting
- Very gullible
- Overconfident

### Josephine Anwhistle



Josephine Anwhistle lives in a rather peculiar house, speculated for its instability on the edge of Lake Lachrymose. She has a passion for grammar and is paralyzed by a fear of nearly everything that stemmed from her husband's tragic death. Despite her extreme fright, Josephine strives to make a great home and a safe haven for the Baudelaire children. Though willing to lend a helping hand, one shouldn't rely too much on her for sticking around in high-risk situations.

#### Strengths:

- Grammar expert
- Extremely careful
- Protective

#### Weaknesses:

- Very cowardly
- Poor judgement
- Indecisive

### Sir



The owner of Lucky Smells Lumbermill, Sir shows characteristics of discipline and sternness. His face is almost always obscured by a cloud of cigar smoke. He is obsessed with making great profit and is always keen to maintain his high-ranking reputation. Sir strives to use any means necessary to expand his most prized possession, his lumber mill. However, his methods are controversial, for it has been rumoured that he runs his mill with harsh, exploitative labour practices—particularly on the backs of children.

#### Strengths:

- Business-minded
- Strategic
- Authoritative

#### Weaknesses:

- No value of morals
- Lack of empathy
- Lots of criminal activity at his mill

**Madame Lulu, a.k.a Olivia Caliban**



Manager and head fortune teller at the Caligari Carnival, Madame LuLu is another possible prospect for becoming the Baudelaires' next guardian. Although her alias is Madame LuLu, her real name is Olivia Caliban. She uses this dual identity to partake in various theatrical bits. She is encouraged by her own self-serving motives, as she aims to grow her carnival business. Her job at the Caligari Carnival has opened doors to many interesting connections and alliances, though she prefers to take a neutral stance and not side with anyone.

**Strengths:**

- Manipulative
- Knowledgeable
- Keen intuition

**Weaknesses:**

- Self-serving
- Easily intimidated
- Superstitious

**OLAF'S TROUPE**

**Count Olaf**





Count Olaf is a man who takes on many forms through theatre, smoke, and silence. His true origin remains unknown; however, it is certain that he is no common criminal. Count Olaf's charismatic, comedic, and oftentimes dramatic persona has allowed him to build numerous connections with a wide network of allies. He is a strategist, performer, and manipulator whose actions leave devastating results. Olaf's obsession with the Baudelaires and their fortune does not go unnoticed, though he relies heavily on his Troupe to execute his complex schemes. He will go to any means necessary to get his hands on splendor, even if it means sacrificing his own connections for his benefit.

**Strengths:**



- Master of psychological warfare
- Disguise expert
- Command of his troupe

**Weaknesses:**

- Unstable ego
- Trust issues
- Leaves traces behind

<p><b>Esme Squalor</b></p> 	<p>In a superficial relationship with Count Olaf, Esme Squalor is valued for her social access, financial support and influence in the public world. She is not a backstage player and will do anything for the spotlight. Fashion is one of the most important things to her, and she would not be caught dead in anything that isn't in style. Her involvement is driven by the belief that villainy is quite "in fashion" which gives her dangerous glamour.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 539 1525 808"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 539 997 808"> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financier</li> <li>• Media influencer</li> <li>• Socially aware</li> </ul> </td><td data-bbox="997 539 1525 808"> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfish</li> <li>• Obsession with status</li> <li>• Jealousy towards Olaf</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financier</li> <li>• Media influencer</li> <li>• Socially aware</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfish</li> <li>• Obsession with status</li> <li>• Jealousy towards Olaf</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Fernald, a.k.a The Hook-Handed Man</b></p> 	<p>Fernald was once a promising young man; however, he fell into criminal life after becoming angry with the hypocrisy of authority figures. After losing his hands in a tragic incident, he replaced them with fierce and lethal hooks. Although a well sought-out criminal, very few know of his naivety that caused him to get caught up with the wrong ties. He is publicly feared but carries deep emotional conflict, especially tied to his familial past with Fiona, his sister.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 1225 1525 1473"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1225 997 1473"> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combat specialist</li> <li>• Adaptability</li> <li>• Underestimated intelligence</li> </ul> </td><td data-bbox="997 1225 1525 1473"> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral conflict</li> <li>• Identity crisis</li> <li>• Easily manipulated</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combat specialist</li> <li>• Adaptability</li> <li>• Underestimated intelligence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral conflict</li> <li>• Identity crisis</li> <li>• Easily manipulated</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Carmelita Spats</b></p> 	<p>A spoiled, egotistical child whose personality was formed from past neglect, vanity, and a feeling of entitlement. As a master manipulator, she always knows how to play the cards in her favour. Her belief of her being the center of the universe is displayed through her bratty tantrums to always get her way. She has no sympathy and is a walking doll of superiority. She has a toxic desire for attention, control, and—sugar.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 539 1527 846"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 539 997 846"> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manipulative brat</li> <li>● Petty</li> <li>● Child perks (often gets away with things no adult would)</li> </ul> </td><td data-bbox="997 539 1527 846"> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unstable loyalty</li> <li>● Grudge holder</li> <li>● Lacks empathy</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manipulative brat</li> <li>● Petty</li> <li>● Child perks (often gets away with things no adult would)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unstable loyalty</li> <li>● Grudge holder</li> <li>● Lacks empathy</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Nero Feint</b></p> 	<p>The Vice Principal of Prufrock Preparatory School, Nero once reminisced about musical greatness but instead became a power-hungry bureaucrat. Insecure about his own “normalness”, he lets out his frustration by micromanaging and humiliating others. He rules not with competence, but with cruelty and forced obedience particularly through his obsession with the violin.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 1205 1527 1458"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1205 997 1458"> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Authority figure</li> <li>● Public performer</li> <li>● Strong orator</li> </ul> </td><td data-bbox="997 1205 1527 1458"> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incompetent</li> <li>● Fragile ego</li> <li>● Easily flattered</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Authority figure</li> <li>● Public performer</li> <li>● Strong orator</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incompetent</li> <li>● Fragile ego</li> <li>● Easily flattered</li> </ul>
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**Fiona Widdershins**



Captain of the Queequeg submarine, Fiona is appointed in her stepfather's stead, thanks to his absence. She is an accomplished mycologist and has a great passion for mechanics. Her prior relations with the Baudelaires, especially Klaus, leave her torn and emphasizes her second-guessing nature. Morally conflicted with her position in Olaf's Troupe, Fiona's main objective is to reunite with her brother, Fernald, and to find her missing stepfather.

**Strengths:**

- Scientific and research skills
- Submarine navigation
- Excellent map reader

**Weaknesses:**

- Conflicted loyalties
- Trust issues; fear of betrayal
- Indecisive

## CITATIONS

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