

# Appendix

## Important characters

This chapter provides an essential inside into the prominent characters to introduce their relationships and motivations. The novel is mainly based on a single family and its dynamics. Therefore, the worldview provided in *Klara and the Sun* is limited and mainly restrained to this high-ranking family and its environment.

### **Klara**

Klara is an artificial intelligence humanoid designed to be a companion for children. She is a B2 AF model and the narrator of the story itself. Klara has great observation and mimicking skills that allow her to understand human emotions and relationships. These abilities enable her to establish a deep connection with Josie. She shows signs of religious beliefs towards the Sun, whom she adopts as a sort of God. Klara manifests the signs of a genuinely advanced AI as she is self-aware, sentient, and overall exhibits human-like behaviour.

### **Josie**

The book begins when Josie is about 14 years old. Josie suffers from a disease which is later heavily implied to have been caused by gene editing. Josie's older sister presumably passed away as a result of this illness. Josie does her schooling through distance learning as, apparently, all her genetically modified peers do. From the beginning of the book, Josie is very respectful towards Klara. As the book progresses, Josie overcomes her predicament and recuperates. The book terminates with Josie at college.

### **The Mother**

Josie's mother is a high-ranking member of the contemporary society. Initially, she is apprehensive towards Klara because of her uneasiness about having to substitute her only remaining daughter with an AI humanoid. She desires Klara to "continue Josie" after her passing because she cannot imagine life without her. She hires a worker to create an AF skeleton resembling Josie, into which Klara's mind would be uploaded. Having learnt Josie's habits, manner of moving, and voice, Klara would act as Josie.

### **The Father**

Josie's father is an engineer, and the mother's ex-husband. He dislikes having Klara act as a substitute for his daughter to the extent that he is determined to sabotage her. He apparently exploits Klara's worry about Josie and directs her into self-sacrifice, and takes away an essential component of her to damage the so-called "Cootings machine", though he claims that it was not his intention to damage her (Ishiguro 251). Meanwhile, Klara believes that she is fighting pollution as a sacrifice for the Sun so that it would cure Josie. The father is portrayed as a loving, however somewhat distant parental figure.

### **Rick**

Rick is, apart from Klara, Josie's only friend. He is a young boy that was not "lifted", did not undergo artificial gene editing, and struggles with the consequences in this heavily stratified society. Though immensely intelligent, he struggles to get into college as this genetic engineering procedure is one of the prerequisites, making education extremely elitist.

### **Miss Helen**

Miss Helen is Rick's mother and an unstable parental figure. She is heavily implied to be under the influence of alcohol, or otherwise impaired, throughout the narrative. Miss Helen functions as a contrast to the group she refers to as fascists. This vaguely depicted group is implied to be a cult of the supremacy of "lifted" former elites.