EDUCATION

Game Of Thrones Character Guide

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Game of Thrones Character Guide: Navigating the Realm of Westeros

Welcome to the most comprehensive **Game of Thrones character guide** you will find. Whether you are a first-time viewer trying to untangle the vast web of alliances, betrayals, and dragons, or a seasoned fan seeking a refresher on key players, this guide is for you. Based on George R. R. Martin's epic *A Song of Ice and Fire* series, **Game of Thrones**introduced us to a sprawling cast of characters, each with their own ambitions, flaws, and fates. From the icy lands beyond the Wall to the sun-scorched sands of Dorne, this character analysis will help you understand who is who and why their stories matter in the brutal struggle for the Iron Throne.

In this **Game of Thrones character guide**, we will break down the major houses, their key members, and the crucial roles they play. We will also explore the factions such as the Night's Watch, the Dothraki, and the Free Folk, as well as the forces of magic and myth. By the end, you will have a clear map of Westeros's most unforgettable personalities.

The Great Houses of Westeros

House Stark: The Wolves of Winterfell

No **Game of Thrones character guide**is complete without the Starks. Their motto, "Winter is Coming," sets the tone for the entire series. House Stark embodies honor, loyalty, and the harsh realities of the North.

- Eddard "Ned" Stark – The honorable Lord of Winterfell and Warden of the North. Ned's unwavering sense of justice leads him to King's Landing as Hand of the King, a move that ultimately costs him his head. His death is the spark that ignites the War of the Five Kings.
- Catelyn Stark – A fierce mother and wife, Catelyn fights to protect her children. Her decisions, from capturing Tyrion Lannister to releasing Jaime, have lasting consequences. She meets a tragic end at the Red Wedding.
- Robb Stark – The King in the North, Robb is a brilliant military commander but a poor politician. His broken vow to marry a Frey leads to his assassination. Robb's story serves as a cautionary tale about love and duty.
- Sansa Stark – Starting as a naive girl dreaming of princes, Sansa transforms into a political survivor. She endures abuse in King's Landing and later becomes the Lady of Winterfell, using her wits to outmaneuver enemies like Littlefinger.
- Arya Stark – The wild child who refuses to be a lady. Arya's journey takes her from a faceless assassin in Braavos to a vengeful warrior who avenges the Red Wedding. Her list of names to kill is a fan favorite.
- Jon Snow – The brooding bastard of Winterfell (though later revealed to be Aegon Targaryen). Jon's arc is central: he rises to Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, unites the Free Folk, and eventually fights the Night King. His honor and leadership define him.
- Bran Stark – After a fall leaves him paralyzed, Bran discovers his powers as the Three-Eyed Raven. He becomes the living memory of Westeros and is ultimately crowned king.
- Rickon Stark – The youngest Stark, whose tragic death at the hands of Ramsay Bolton serves as a plot device to lure Jon Snow into battle.

House Lannister: Hear Me Roar

The lions of Casterly Rock are rich, cunning, and ruthless. The Lannisters are the primary antagonists for much of the series, but they also give us some of the most complex characters in this **Game of Thrones character guide**.

- Tywin Lannister – The patriarch, a ruthless strategist who values family legacy above all. Tywin's cruelty is matched only by his competence. He is killed by his own son Tyrion, a shocking act of parricide.
- Cersei Lannister – The queen who will do anything to hold power. Cersei's love for her children and her brother Jaime drives her to monstrous acts, including blowing up the Great Sept of Baelor. Her reign ends in the rubble of King's Landing.
- Jaime Lannister – The Kingslayer begins as an arrogant knight who pushed Bran from a tower. Yet his journey with Brienne of Tarth reveals a man capable of honor and love. His redemption arc is one of the finest in the series.
- Tyrion Lannister – The witty, intelligent dwarf often called "the Imp." Despite his family's disdain, Tyrion proves himself as a capable Hand of the King, first to Joffrey, then to Daenerys. His sharp tongue and strategic mind save him time and again.
- Joffrey Baratheon – Officially a Baratheon but biologically a Lannister. Joffrey is a sadistic, cruel boy-king whose death at his own wedding is celebrated by viewers.

House Targaryen: Fire and Blood

The exiled dragonlords who once ruled Westeros return with fire and fury. Their storyline intertwines magic, prophecy, and conquest.

- Daenerys Targaryen – The Mother of Dragons. Daenerys begins as a timid bride sold to Khal Drogo and evolves into a liberator who breaks chains across Essos. Her turn to tyranny in King's Landing is controversial. She frees slaves, gathers an army, and ultimately burns the capital.
- Viserys Targaryen – The "Beggar King," who trades his sister for an army. His arrogance and abuse lead to his death when Drogo pours molten gold on his head.
- Rhaegar Targaryen – Deceased before the series begins, Rhaegar's actions (eloping with Lyanna Stark) set the stage for Robert's Rebellion and the identity of Jon Snow.

House Baratheon: Ours is the Fury

The stag of Storm's End is a house defined by rebellion and war.

- Robert Baratheon – The rebel king who enjoyed fighting more than ruling. His reign is marked by debt and neglect. Robert dies in a hunting "accident" orchestrated by Lannisters.
- Stannis Baratheon – The stern, just brother with a claim to the throne. Stannis is consumed by his duty and the influence of Melisandre, leading him to burn his own daughter. His failed attack on Winterfell ends his campaign.
- Renly Baratheon – The charismatic younger brother who declares himself king with support from the Tyrells. He is assassinated by a shadow baby created by Melisandre.

House Greyjoy: We Do Not Sow

The ironborn are raiders and reavers from the Iron Islands, valuing strength over honor.

- Balon Greyjoy – The rebellious lord who attempts to break away from the Iron Throne. His death under mysterious circumstances leads to his brother Euron taking power.
- Theon Greyjoy – A complex character: taken as a ward by the Starks, Theon betrays them to prove himself to his father. After torture by Ramsay Bolton, he becomes "Reek." His eventual redemption arc leads him to protect his sister and die fighting the Night King.
- Yara Greyjoy – The strong-willed daughter of Balon, Yara seeks the Salt Throne. She allies with Daenerys, but her fleet is targeted by Euron.
- Euron Greyjoy – A terrifying pirate with mystical ambitions. Euron kills his brother Balon and becomes a formidable foe, wielding the dragon-binder horn and capturing ships.

House Martell: Unbowed, Unbent, Unbroken

The Dornish are fierce defenders of their independence. In this **Game of Thrones character guide**, the Martells

represent a more passionate, vengeful force.

- Oberyn Martell – "The Red Viper" seeks vengeance for his sister Elia's murder by the Mountain. He fights Tyrion's trial by combat but lets his desire for a confession cost him his life.
- Ellaria Sand – Oberyn's paramour, who continues his revenge against the Lannisters. Her methods are brutal, leading to the deaths of Myrcella and Prince Doran.
- Doran Martell – The cautious prince of Dorne, whose secret alliance with Daenerys is cut short by his assassination by Ellaria.

House Tyrell: Growing Strong

The wealthy lords of Highgarden use soft power and alliances to climb the ladder.

- Margaery Tyrell – A master manipulator who marries three kings (Renly, Joffrey, Tommen). Her charm and political acumen make her a threat to Cersei. She dies in the explosion at the Great Sept.
- Olenna Tyrell – The Queen of Thorns, a sharp-tongued matriarch who engineers Joffrey's poisoning. Olenna's final stand against the Lannisters is defiant.
- Loras Tyrell – The Knight of Flowers, a skilled fighter and lover of Renly. He is imprisoned by the Faith Militant and dies in the Sept explosion.

Key Factions and Independent Characters

Night's Watch and the Free Folk

The men who guard the Wall against the threats beyond. This section of the **Game of Thrones character guide** explores the defenders of the realm.

- Samwell Tarly – A cowardly but intelligent brother of the Watch who becomes a maester. He discovers the secret to killing White Walkers (dragonglass) and proves that bravery comes in many forms.
- Mance Rayder – The King-Beyond-the-Wall, uniting wildlings to escape the White Walkers. He is burned alive by Stannis.
- Tormund Giantsbane – A fierce wildling leader who becomes a loyal friend to Jon Snow. His humor and strength make him a fan favorite.
- Ygritte – A wildling woman who captures Jon Snow's heart. Her line "You know nothing, Jon Snow" echoes throughout the series.
- Jeor Mormont – The Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, killed by his own men in a mutiny.

The Dothraki

The nomadic horse lords of the Great Grass Sea serve Daenerys.

- Khal Drogo – A fearsome warlord who marries Daenerys. His death from an infected wound forces Daenerys to hatch her dragons.
- Jorah Mormont – An exiled knight who serves Daenerys out of love and a quest for redemption. Jorah's arc spans from spy to loyal protector. He dies saving Daenerys from the wights.

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