

Heart of Darkness

This is a story about two journeys: a journey into the Congo and a journey into the soul of man. **Ideas include:** loneliness, alienation, deception, order, duty, doubt, racism, moral corruption, and violence.

Charles Marlow

- born in England
- represents the author
- on a spiritual journey
- observes and judges
- encourages others to express their opinions
- an experienced and courageous sailor
- recognizes the wrongness of colonialism in Africa

Kurtz

- a journalist
- hypnotic talker
- influences others
- represents the white man's failure in Africa
- we learn about him through the statements from other characters
- journeys to Africa to help
- dark side of his nature comes out
- very ill
- recognizes the evil of his actions in Africa

The Russian

- young sailor
- free agent
- does not work for the company
- simple-minded, innocent, adventurous
- a devoted disciple of Kurtz
- nurses Kurtz during his illness

The Manager

- manages the Company's Central Station
- shows no moral responsibility to the Africans
- does not catch the diseases of the Congo
- disorganized - the office is chaotic
- resents and sabotages Kurtz
- believes he is responsible for Kurtz's death

The Brickmaker

- young aristocrat
- ineffective in his job
- resents Kurtz
- concerned only with improving his status

The Accountant

- efficient in his job
- takes his responsibilities seriously
- immaculate appearance
- admired by Marlow
- thinks highly of Kurtz
- cares more about his job than people