**The characters in The Cone Gatherers are varied by class, manners, employment, background and their importance to the plot. You should bear this in mind. Not all characters are good or evil; some are more complex. They may start off as being of good character then become possessed of lesser morals. Within the novel they may command our attention as readers whilst others slide in and out of the plot without being noticed much.**

**Lady Runcie Campbell:**

“She was the mistress of this estate: if respect and honour were due to her on that account, they must be earned; the accidental possession of greater material wealth was not sufficient.” Page 146

“Of the mansion behind its private fence if giant silver firs.” Gives connotations of luxury and wealth and the word private suggest others such as the cone gatherers/poor people are not allowed within this boundary. “Fence” is also a symbol that there is real division between the rich and poor and finally “giant” gives connotations of this division being huge.

There are two sides to Lady Runcie Campbell-

Her Christian conscience and upbringing inherited from her father a judge – which suggests that she should look after the Cone Gatherers in the same way Jesus looked after the poor and also her social standing influenced by her husband Sir Colin Runcie Campbell, which suggests that The Cone Gatherers are her inferiors. She is torn between the two.

**Roderick and Sheila (Lady Runcie Campbell’s son and daughter):**

Roderick is unlike his mum. He likes the cone gatherers - “It is one of the very big trees at the end of the park; a silver fir” (p.163)

Roderick chooses the climb a tree which is symbolic of the huge barrier between classes. He wishes to join the cone gatherers and pick cones – he aligns himself with the “green abundant future” of the new wood, not the barren past or the anguished present. However he also wants the cone gatherers to get back in favour with LRC, he hopes that if they help him she will let them stay.

Sheila on the other hand has taken after her father and believes that she is above others. She is the 12-year-old younger sister of Roderick and a representation of all that is bad about the aristocracy. She is the hard face of the upper classes: spoilt, mocking and lacking in any compassion.

**Tulloch:**

“As Mr Tulloch walked through the woods to visit the cone gatherers” chapter 12 - page 133. This shows that Tulloch listens to what he is told to do by Lady Runcie Campbell. He wants to be of a higher rank so tries to put an effort in with the Campbell’s.

**Runcie Campbell’s servants - for example, Graham, Harry, Charlie, etc.**

Although they are considered to be of a much lower rank than Lady Runcie Campbell, they are considered to be above the cone gatherers. However Charlie in particular does not discriminate against the cone gatherers and we know this from the following quote-

“Charlie studied the cone gatherers without bias; he gave them a nod each.” Page 64

This shows Charlie’s non-judgemental views on Neil and Calum as he sees them as equals.