



The Godfather

Letters from your 'The Godfather' Dais

Hello delegates! It is time to get ready for the Godfather Committee; but first, let's get some things out of the way. First we'll introduce ourselves!

I am Joseph Yusuf, your chair, and I am a junior at Stuyvesant High School. I watched the Godfather movies for the first time in freshman year, and since then, have considered them the best movies I've ever seen, hands down - except for the third one, that one kinda sucked :(- and will probably continue to think so for a while. Model UN is a huge part of my life (Wow! Big surprise!), and I've formed all my strongest friendships with people from this club. I also love playing ice hockey (Ice-breaker haha), and hope to maybe be a diplomat one day! I'm super excited for this committee, because I've always felt that the three (really two) movies were not enough. I'm sure we will expand on the story, and create something beautiful!

I am Julia Pepper, your director, and I am also a junior at Stuyvesant High School. I love mafia stories, and when I read *The Godfather* for the first time in sophomore year, I was immediately hooked. I've been on Stuyvesant's Model United Nations team since freshman year, and Model UN has definitely played a huge role in making me the person that I am today. I also love to paint and can play the piano. In the future, I hope to study international relations and am interested in working in either law or the CIA. I'm really excited to be directing this committee and I look forward to seeing what you guys come up with!

We would like to remind you, the delegates, that although this committee is based on the Godfather films/novels, by no means does that mean that the events that will take place in our committee will be completely based on the films/movies. It is vital to this committee that all delegates have some understanding of the overall plot of the movie, and preferably the details.

For this committee, research does not involve scouring articles for statistics or finding deconstructing historical issues, however fun that may be. An ideally prepared delegate will have watched the films (they're considered by some to be the best films ever made, this is by no means a chore), perhaps skimmed through *sections* of the novel, and taken time to construct their own character to understand the way their character makes decisions and what their character wants. Each delegate has the responsibility of embodying their character, and that can only be done by taking everything that we already know about the character, and building off of that, making decisions like the character would. If a picture says a thousand words, a moving picture says a million. If a character doesn't appear all that much in the films, one can still understand everything they need to understand to embody the character from what the filmmakers, the directors, and the authors give us.

This committee will belong to you, the delegates, so we ask you to be as creative as possible, and try to think as your characters would. We're really *REALLY* looking forward to seeing how our committee can expand on what is already a masterpiece of modern film, and are super excited to spend a day diving into such a beautiful story with 20 other motivated, creative individuals. A spot in this committee is sure to be *an offer you can't refuse ;).*

In attesa di sue notizie,

Joseph Yusuf y Julia Pepper

Vocabulary and Phrases

Caporegime: a ranking member of a crime family, similar to a captain or senior sergeant in a military unit. Responsible for coordinating units of hitmen.

Consigliere: an advisor to a crime boss, usually a trusted member of the family.

Don: the title given to the head of a crime family.

Enforcer: a made member or associate of a crime family, usually responsible for dealing with people who do not follow mob policies; this usually involves threats, blackmail, and actions of violence, as well as beatings and murder.

Go to the mattresses: a phrase used to refer to going to war with a rival family. It refers to when a mafia family sends someone out to obtain apartments and mattresses for soldiers of the family to sleep on as they await orders.

Made member: a fully initiated member of the mafia

Omerta: a code of silence about criminal activity, and a refusal to give evidence to the authorities

Regime: a unit of soldiers of the family.

Soldado: a soldier protecting and working for the family.

Characters

Michael Corleone

Michael Corleone is the youngest son of Don Vito Corleone, and the Don's favorite.

Unlike his brothers, Sonny and Fredo, at first Michael wanted nothing to do with the family business. He enrolled in Dartmouth College, but dropped out in 1941 to enroll in the Marine Corps when the United States entered World War 2. He is currently involved in a relationship with Kay Adams. In the summer of 1945, Michael is thrown into the world of the Mafia that he so long avoided after Don Vito Corleone is seriously wounded in an assassination attempt by Virgil Sollozzo, a drug lord. Michael Corleone has the advantage of a close relationship with the Don. In addition, he was uninvolved in the crime world for a long time, which means he has no pre-existing criminal record and that no one else has yet been able to gauge his strengths and weaknesses. However, he is still inexperienced in the world of crime in which the family business is run, and is still viewed as a novice by other members of the family and the crime world. Thus, it will be necessary for him to use his wits and the element of surprise to prove his worth as a member of the Corleone family.

Santino Corleone

Santino Corleone, also known as “Sonny,” is the oldest son of Don Vito Corleone, and brother to Fredo and Michael. Since he was a teenager, he has been involved in the family business, training with his godfather, Peter Clemenza, since age 16 and making his bones at the age of 19. He is eventually promoted to *caporegime*, and by the end of World War 2 he is the Don’s underboss and the apparent heir to the family business. He currently has a wife, Sandra, and four children. Santino also has a close relationship with his brother, Michael, his sister, Connie, and the Don. He was also the one responsible for Don Vito Corleone’s informal adoption of Tom Hagen. Throughout his career in the Corleone family, he has garnered a reputation as a ruthless killer, but is also incredibly hot headed and quick to incite violence. However, he also has a soft side and is morally opposed to harming women, children, or those unable to defend themselves.

Tom Hagen

Tom Hagen is Don Vito Corleone’s informal adopted son, qualified lawyer, and current *consigliere* to the Don. At the age of 11, he was brought into the Corleone household by Santino, and informally adopted by the Don. Hagen has always held the Don to be his true father because of this. Don Corleone financed Hagen’s law education, and after graduation he chooses to become involved in the family business in a legal capacity. Though he immersed himself in the Sicilian-American lifestyle and speaks Sicilian, he is actually of German-Irish ancestry. His appearance is advantageous because it allows him to conduct family business openly without the threat of potential witnesses remembering him; however, his non-Italian heritage prevents him from being a formal member of the mafia family. When he is made *consigliere* after the death of Genco Abbandando, the other families start referring to the Corleones as “The Irish Gang.” Hagen is the mild-mannered voice of reason in often-chaotic family affairs and has a close relationship to the Don and to Santino, whom he idolizes. However, he has to constantly deal with his status as an outsider, due to both his non-Italian heritage and the fact that he was adopted.

Peter Clemenza

Peter Clemenza is one of Don Vito Corleone’s two original *caporegimes* and one of the Don’s oldest friends. As a *caporegime*, Clemenza leads a unit of soldiers known as a *regime* and has a lot of power and influence within the family. Clemenza rules over the family’s territory in the Bronx and is responsible for executing most of the family’s operations there. He is also very close to Don Vito’s sons. He is godfather to the Don’s oldest son, Santino, a duty which he takes great pride in. In addition, he acts as an uncle to Michael, teaching him how to cook and how to properly carry out an assassination.

Though he is ruthless and has violent tendencies, Clemenza also has a reputation as a talented storyteller with a good sense of humor, a trait which helps endear him to the family. One of his key attributes is his unwavering loyalty to the Corleone family. No matter what the circumstances, Clemenza would never betray the family.

Hyman Roth

Hyman Roth is an investor and key business partner of Michael Corleone. He was discovered by Peter Clemenza when he was working as a car mechanic in Little Italy in the early 1920s. He developed close ties with the Corleone family during prohibition and got his start in crime smuggling molasses from Havana to Canada. He was also a close friend and ally of Moe Greene, who was responsible for developing Las Vegas. Don Vito Corleone never fully trusted Hyman. However, through his right-hand man Johnny Ola, Hyman is able to develop close ties to Fredo Corleone, which gives him inside information about the family business. Hyman doesn't have many men under his control, which enables him to not attract much attention from the authorities. His main strength lies not in his fighting power, which is negligible, but in his business dealings. Roth's ability to generate enormous profits from his plans for both him and his partners has given him immense influence in the underworld; most of his partners and even his most bitter rivals realize that he is too valuable of an asset to lose, and are willing to provide him with the muscle he needs to protect himself. Thus, Hyman Roth will need to be able to creatively utilize his business ties, which include ties to the gambling industry, to achieve his goals.

Robert F. Wagner

Robert F. Wagner is the mayor of New York at the time the Corleone family is in power. Since the Don was instrumental in helping him get enough votes to win the election, he is now in the Don's debt and occasionally helps the family with political favors. The mayor's office administers all city services, public property, police and fire protection, most public agencies, and is in charge of enforcing all state and federal laws within the city. The mayor has major political influence within the city that he can use to both advance his own goals and to benefit the family. He will have to choose between using this power for his own self-interest and using it to benefit the residents of the city.

Vinny Bartolucci

Vinny Bartolucci is an influential judge in New York City at the time this committee takes place. When he was in law school, he turned to the Don for help in paying his tuition and received a generous loan. In return, he now uses his considerable influence in New York City's judicial system to aid the family business. As a major player in the NYC judiciary, Bartolucci has the power to complete legal favors that help advance the

family's agenda. For example, if a family member or operative ran into legal trouble with the authorities, Bartolucci can help them obtain a pardon. Thus he is a resource the family can use to aid them in tricky legal situations and can use his judicial authority to have significant influence in family affairs.

Captain Mark McCluskey

Captain Mark McClusky is a corrupt police captain under the service of the Tattaglia family. He wanted to be in the police force from an early age, inspired by his father, a police sergeant. He was taught bribes from an early age by his father, who would take him out to collect bribes from storekeepers. Though he is corrupt, McCluskey is a fair cop who gives his stores a lot of protection and services. He is close friends with Bruno Tattaglia, and the two men often do favors for each other. He rose quickly in the NYPD and has considerable influence in the police force. He has a wife and four children who he cares deeply for.

Luca Brasi

Luca Brasi is one of Don Vito Corleone's most trusted and vicious enforcers. He has a dark reputation among the underworld as a savage killer, and is renowned for his ruthlessness. When his then-girlfriend, Kelly Rourke, became pregnant, Luca tried to force her to have an abortion. When she refused, he forced the midwife delivering their child to throw the baby in the furnace, and murdered her. Afterwards, before his arrest, he took an overdose of pills which left him with permanent brain damage, slurred speech, and slowed thought patterns. After Don Vito Corleone intervened and covered up his crime, Brasi swore his undying loyalty and service to the Don and the family. Brasi is the Don's strongest fighter and is able to complete jobs that would normally take a few soldiers alone. His strengths lie in his immense physical strength and fighting ability, as well as his street smarts and intense loyalty to the Don.

Frank Pentangeli

Frank Pentangeli is a *caporegime* in the Corleone family. He worked with Don Vito Corleone in the early days of his olive oil business, and is thus one of the Don's close associates and friends. He is also Clemenza's right hand man, and the two work closely together. Pentangeli is prone to making rash decisions and won't easily back down from a fight when challenged, particularly in regards to matters of honor. In addition, he is devoted to his family and has a soft spot for young children. As a *caporegime*, he has access to a considerable amount of fighting power, and also has a close relationship with Clemenza that he can take advantage of.

Archbishop Gilday

Archbishop Gilday is an Irish archbishop of the Catholic church, and is also the head of the Vatican Bank. The vatican bank holds a large share in the real estate company *International Immobiliare*, a large conglomerate that the Corleones aspire to one day own and profit from. Because of this, the Vatican Bank and the corleone family are in contact, and Gilday acts as the intermediary between the two parties.

Fredo Corleone

Fredo Corleone is, as can be seen by his surname, is the second oldest of the biological Corleone brothers, sons of Vito Corleone. While second oldest, Fredo does not have important responsibilities in the family business, and never has. He is not as quick witted and intelligent as his brothers or father, but inherited his father's gentle disposition and calm demeanor, which none of his brothers seem to have. Because of this, he is often subordinated and sometimes ignored when he tries to get involved in matters pertaining to the family business, and isn't given any meaningful roles. Although he seldom mentions it, the fact that Fredo is one of the oldest of the brothers but gets little respect from his family and others in his life makes him uneasy, and contributes to his character. He is always trying to prove himself to his brothers and his father, sometimes in ways that end up hurting the family altogether.

Connie Corleone Rizzi

Connie Corleone, later Connie Corleone Rizzi, is the sole daughter of Vito Corleone, and is the sister of the Corleone brothers. She is often seen around the brothers, participating in family affairs, but not in the family business. As a woman, she does not get the same respect and responsibility as the rest of her siblings. Her brothers and her parents are very protective of her, and she often feels that the male members of her family have too strong of a hold over her. Connie wants more than anything to make her own decisions, and be treated with respect. After being introduced to Carlo Rizzi, a friend of Sonny's, she will later marry him.

Johnny Fontane

Johnny Fontane is a wildly popular Italian-American singer and overall media personality during the time (think Frank Sinatra), and has seen immeasurable success in the entertainment industry. This success, however, he owes in large part to the Corleone family, and Don Vito Corleone in particular. When Fontane was just beginning his career, Don Vito Corleone pulled a few strings using his connections in Hollywood, as a favor to Fontane, freeing Fontane from a contract held by a greedy bandleader that stifled Fontane's ambitions. It was almost entirely due to his connection with the Godfather that Fontane was able to enjoy such success.

Amerigo Bonasera

“I believe in America. America has made my fortune.” These iconic first lines of *The Godfather* have went down in history as the opening to one of the greatest stories ever told, and they were spoken By Amerigo Bonasera. A proud, wealthy Italian-American businessman, Bonasera, born in Italy, migrated to America and worked so that his children’s future may be comfortable. He holds his dignity and culture above all, and tries not to associate with the mafia, but when his daughter is sexually assaulted and the law fails to punish the assailants, he turns to the Godfather. Bonasera asks that the Godfather, on the day of his daughter’s wedding, arrange that the boys who harmed his daughter be killed. It is through his response to this request that we begin to see how much tact and sensitivity Vito Corleone has. He sees to it that the boys are beaten, not killed, by his men, but through Bonasera and his request, the Godfather’s power and consideration for his community are first illuminated.

Carmela Corleone

Carmela Corleone is the wife of Vito Corleone, and the mother of Santino, Michael, Fredo, and Connie Corleone, as well as the non-biological mother of Tom Hagen. She is the matriarch of the family, and although she is not involved in the family business, everyone in the family sees her as somewhat of a mother, whether she is their mother or not. Carmela provides support and counsel to the Corleone men in times of distress and personal conflicts. She is loved by her sons, daughters and husband, and they all feel the obligation to protect and relieve her. She married Vito in 1914, before he had anything to his name, and they built the family out of nothing together, two Italian immigrants living in in their tiny New York City apartment. She has been at Vito’s stage in every stage of his adult life, offering aid and comfort along the way.

Kay Adams-Corleone

Kay Adams-Corleone is the girlfriend of Michael Corleone, the youngest of the Corleone brothers. She begins to see Michael while both attended Dartmouth college, and stays with him while he serves for the United States Marines during WWII. She is introduced to the family when Michael takes her to Connie’s wedding. Kay is slightly off put by the dishonest nature of the way the family makes money and about the crime that runs deep in the family business, but Michael reassures her that he will be different, an educated war hero who wouldn’t participate in such dirty affairs. She is the daughter of a baptist minister from New Hampshire, and is a complete outsider to the world of organized crime, and as a non-Italian, represents Michaels initial desires to lead a more Americanized, honest life than his father.

Carlo Rizzi

Carlo Rizzi was a friend of Sonny's and the husband of Connie Corleone. Connie and Carlo meet at the Corleone house one day when Sonny brings Carlo home, and they later get married. Carlo is frustrated with the way that his in-laws treat him, so he beats Connie and cheats on her regularly. The state of their marriage quickly deteriorates, and when Connie complains to Vito, he does not intervene on principle. Sonny, however, gets upset with Carlo. Carlo is not a member of the family business, but his treatment of Connie turns the opinions of the family against him. It is important that Carlo tread lightly, as he doesn't want to upset the leaders of one of the most powerful mafia families in New York.

Enzo the Baker

Enzo the Baker is a young man from Sicily who was sent to the US after being captured by the American Army as an Italian Soldier in WWII. He visited the Godfather, Vito Corleone, in the hospital after the attempt on Vito's life, to offer his condolences and show his gratitude for Vito, as Vito is the one who arranged for Enzo to stay in America after the war. Michael was also at the hospital, guarding his father from assassins that he knew would try to finish their job, and kill his father. Enzo had no ulterior motives, and even stood guard with Michael, risking his own life for the Godfather's. He represents one of many pure, kind man that admire and respect the Godfather.

Paulie Gatto

Paulie Gatto is one of Clemenza's most trusted soldados, and shows promise in Clemenza's ranks. He was one of the men that carried out the attack on the men who sexually assaulted Amerigo Bonasera's daughter, and because of this, he has garnered respect from the family, and from Clemenza. Gatto has been around the Corleones all his life, being in the same sixth grade class as Michael. He is the Godfathers personal chauffeur, splitting the job with the Godfather's son, Fredo. Although is is against the family rules, with Clemenza's permission, Gatto carries out stick-ups for some extra cash. Currently, he seems to be Clemenza's successor, as he is Clemenza's true protégé, and is learning the way that things are done in the Corleone family.

Background

The year is 1945, and we are in beautiful New York, New York, "the big apple". The war just ended, grazie al cielo, and so the family business is able to go on as usual. We tried not to let the war get in the way too much, but too many young men have died away for things to go perfectly smoothly. Connie is getting married, but matters

pertaining to the family business must still be addressed. Thankfully, none of our relations are too hot right now. The godfather has political protection from his friends in Washington, The other families in NY are content and operating in tandem with us, and our business is functioning. The family is growing by the day, but all is not well.

The war was a significant strain on the resources of our nation. Our family will hopefully continue to operate normally, but we must discuss ways to keep up with the times. If we stay stagnant and don't gain more influence, we will be obsolete, and left in the dust by the other families. First matter of business: Tom Hagen, although not a Corleone by blood, is more Corleone than almost anyone else in our family. The intelligent, quick person he is, Tom would make an excellent advisor, therefore as of now, he is the Corleone family consigliere.

With that out of the way, we can move on. The Corleone family has effectively unlimited resources at the moment. Our business is generating enough capital to fund any ventures that the family agrees are worth the time and money it takes to establish/support them, but it is important that we begin to modernize and act now.

This war has not stopped us from operating at our normal pace, but it has halted our growth, as it has with every other family in the city. We need to be the first ones back after the war, this way we will come out on top once things have settled down. There are many matters to be considered in the interest of the future of our family. The Don is leading the family to even larger power and greater wealth than before, but he will not be strong forever. Our soldados have heard rumors that the other families are making big plans for their futures as well, some possibly involving attacking other families. While we won't execute unwarranted acts of aggression, if something were to go wrong with the family, god forbid with Don, we must plan accordingly

Here is where we should start:

- The Don is capable and strong, but he may not be forever. We must make arrangements for his succession. Whether we leave the decision entirely to him, or decide amongst ourselves and make a suggestion, we must take action.
- We need to lay out our plans in the near future to modernize. We need new ideas, new ventures, new occupations to keep our family relevant and wealthy. If we let the other families do this first, the Corleones will become obsolete.
- Some of the other families may be mounting plans to attack or infiltrate each other. We don't know if we are involved in these plans, but we need to be ready if we end up going to the mattresses. Our forces are strong, if they are needed
- Although not as pressing as the other matters at hand, we should consider cleaning up some aspects of our business. If our affairs become too

illegitimate, we'd risk losing the political protection that the Don worked hard to get.

With the given circumstances, I think we have enough on our hands to take the future of this family into our hands, and work hard to preserve the good Corleone name and reputation. *Buona fortuna!*