Quotes:

* "In old, faded ink, and in the most beautiful hand...a woman's." (5)

This shows that the story which is going to be told is going to be biased and not as accurate as it could be.

* "A creature so charming as to make it a great fortune to have to do with her." (13)

This description of Flora by the Governess is showing that she is already becoming attached emotionally to the child.

* "There had been a moment where I believed I recognized, faint and far, the cry of a child." (14)

This is a foreshadowing of what is to come in the novel.

* "The fellow was a hound." (55)

This was Grose describing Peter. Hound having somewhat of a sexual connotation and was described to have a relationship with miles meaning he is a threat to the child.

* "There was something in the boy that suggested to you...his covering and concealing their relation."(61)

Grose explained that Jessel did not mind Miles and Peter spending time with the other and Miles hiding it was bad because he lied about it.

* "Peter Quint - you devil!" (148)

This is the most ambiguous line in the text. You don’t really know if Miles is talking to the Governess or if he is calling Peter that.

Characters:

* Douglass:
  + The character who is telling the story
  + Is younger than the Governess by 10 years
  + In love with the Governess
* Governess:
  + Is the main character who looks after Miles and Flora
  + Overprotective of the children
  + Can see the ghosts of Peter Quint & Ms. Jessel.
* Peter Quint:
  + Is a ghost who supposedly has an influence on Miles
  + Had an affair with Ms. Jessel
  + Former servant whose been dead a year
* Bachelor
  + The uncle of the children
  + Tells the governess to never contact him
* Mrs. Grose
  + Housekeeper and confidante of the Governess.
  + Long time servant at Bly
* Ms. Jessel
  + The former governess whose been dead a year
  + Apparently has an influence on Flora
* Miles
  + 10-year-old boy
  + Got expelled from his previous school
  + Is seen as innocent by the Governess
* Flora
  + About an 8-year-old girl
  + Thinks she is a beautiful and very innocent
* “I”
  + The person who is hearing the story

Events:

* Governess is hired in London by the Bachelor
* When arrives at Bly, Grose meets her and introduces her to Flora
* A letter arrives from Miles’ Headmaster saying he is dismissed from the school
* Sees a man in the tower on a walk then also in the dining room window
* Finds out the man is Peter Quint, convinced he is looking for Miles
* Sees a woman in black by the lake and thinks it’s Jessel & swears Flora saw her
* Sees Peter on the stairway & stares him down then checks on Flora who was hiding behind the curtain.
* Miles and the Governess talk, & she hugs him, the candle goes out and he shrieks.
* The next day Miles plays the piano, Flora is missing & they find her by the lake, the Governess points out Jessel, the other two deny seeing her & Flora calls her cruel. The Governess falls into hysteria
* Miles and the Governess talk at dinner & Miles confesses then the Governess sees Peter, points it out, Miles screams, “Peter Quint- you devil,” and dies in her arm.

Themes:

* The supernatural is important to the story because the Governess could be imagining all the ghosts or that they could be real which plays along with the ambiguity.
* Innocence is important because Miles and Flora are assumed innocent because of their youth which is not the case, Miles and Flora have experienced a lot which plays along with their characters and the relationship they have with the ghosts.

Paradox:

* The idea that Miles is innocent and pure because he is a child but everything in the beginning points away from that.
* The Governess constantly thinking she is doing he job well when in the end one of the children wind up dead.