

- Lawyer guy: All who know me, consider me an eminently safe man.
- Turkey: a short, puffy Englishman, an elderly man whose work performance declines after lunch. Despite Turkey's erratic behavior in the afternoon, the narrator values his morning work and tolerates his afternoon shortcomings. "Turkey was a short, puffy Englishman of about my own age, that is, somewhere not far from sixty."
- Nippers, a young man plagued by ambition and indigestion. Nippers is irritable and constantly adjusts his desk, unable to find comfort while working. However, his irritability is mostly in the morning, making him a useful employee in the afternoon. "Nippers, the second on my list, was a whiskered, sallow, and, upon the whole, rather piratical-looking young man of about five and twenty."
- Ginger Nut, a 12-year-old office boy, is introduced. He runs errands for the other scriveners, particularly fetching ginger cakes. His nickname, Ginger Nut, comes from his frequent purchase of these cakes. "Ginger Nut, the third on my list, was a lad some twelve years old."
- Bartleby is hired as a new scrivener and impresses the narrator with his initial work. "At first Bartleby did an extraordinary quantity of writing."
- Bartleby begins refusing tasks with the phrase, "I would prefer not to," baffling the narrator. "In this very attitude did I sit when I called to him... Imagine my surprise... Bartleby in a singularly mild, firm voice, replied, 'I would prefer not to.'"
- The narrator grows increasingly perplexed by Bartleby's passive refusals to perform tasks. "I sat a while in perfect silence, rallying my stunned faculties."

**Turkey's Opinion:** Turkey, who is usually calm in the morning but irritable in the afternoon, initially supports the narrator's decision to manage Bartleby's behavior but later becomes aggressive and suggests that he should physically confront Bartleby. His response reflects his afternoon irritability.

- **Quote:** "Think of it?" roared Turkey; "I think I'll just step behind his screen, and black his eyes for him!" (BartlebyTheScrivener\_Me...)

**Nippers' Opinion:** Nippers, who is generally irritable in the morning due to his digestive issues, suggests that Bartleby should be kicked out of the office. This shows Nippers' impatience and frustration with Bartleby's refusals.

- **Quote:** "Nippers... replied in ill-tempered ones... 'I think I should kick him out of the office.'" (BartlebyTheScrivener\_Me...)

**Narrator's Response:** The narrator, caught between these opposing viewpoints, feels perplexed and decides to postpone making a decision about Bartleby's future in the office. This reflects his ongoing struggle to handle Bartleby's passive resistance.

- **Quote:** "I pondered a moment in sore perplexity... I determined again to postpone the consideration of this dilemma to my future leisure."
- Bartleby stops going out for meals and seems to live entirely on ginger nuts, which he has Ginger Nut fetch for him. "He lives, then, on ginger-nuts, thought I; never eats a

dinner, properly speaking; he must be a vegetarian then; but no; he never eats even vegetables, he eats nothing but ginger-nuts."

- he narrator begins to rationalize Bartleby's strange behavior, debating whether to dismiss him. "Even so, for the most part, I regarded Bartleby and his ways. Poor fellow! thought I, he means no mischief; it is plain he intends no insolence; his aspect sufficiently evinces that his eccentricities are involuntary."
- Bartleby refuses to leave the office to run simple errands, and the narrator becomes increasingly perplexed by his behavior. "Bartleby, just step round to the Post Office, won't you? (it was but a three-minute walk,) and see if there is anything for me." "I would prefer not to."
- The narrator discovers Bartleby is living in the office. He finds items like a blanket and a tin basin, which indicate Bartleby never leaves. "I surmised that for an indefinite period Bartleby must have ate, dressed, and slept in my office."
- The narrator reflects on Bartleby's sad existence and feels a deep sense of melancholy. "For the first time in my life a feeling of overpowering stinging melancholy seized me."
- The narrator contemplates how to address Bartleby's behavior, struggling between pity and frustration. "Revolving all these things, a prudential feeling began to steal over me. My first emotions had been those of pure melancholy and sincerest pity; but just in proportion as the forlornness of Bartleby grew and grew to my imagination, did that same melancholy merge into fear, that pity into repulsion."
- Bartleby refuses to share any personal information, deepening the narrator's frustration. "Will you tell me, Bartleby, where you were born? 'I would prefer not to.'"
- Bartleby declines to perform even the simplest tasks, and his refusals become more frequent. The narrator starts to realize that Bartleby's behavior might be affecting his own mental state, as he begins using the word "prefer" involuntarily. "Somehow, of late I had got into the way of involuntarily using this word 'prefer' upon all sorts of not exactly suitable occasions."
- Bartleby refuses to work any further, stating he has given up copying entirely. "Still added days went by... At last, in reply to my urgings, he informed me that he had permanently given up copying."
- "At length, necessities connected with my business tyrannized over all other considerations. Decently as I could, I told Bartleby that in six days' time he must unconditionally leave the office."
- **Quote:** "The time has come; you must quit this place; I am sorry for you; here is money; but you must go."
- **Quote:** "I would prefer not," he replied, with his back still towards me.
- After attempting to dismiss Bartleby, the narrator struggles with feelings of guilt and uncertainty. He is proud of the calm and quiet way he handled the situation but wakes up the next morning doubting whether his plan will work. He wonders if Bartleby will actually leave and feels a mix of relief and regret. "As I walked home in a pensive mood, my vanity got the better of my pity. I could not but highly plume myself on my masterly management in getting rid of Bartleby." "One of the coolest and wisest hours a man has, is just after he awakes in the morning... How it would prove in practice—there was the rub

- Bartleby did not leave. "It was truly a beautiful thought to have assumed Bartleby's departure; but, after all, that assumption was simply my own, and none of Bartleby's."
  - He decides to tolerate Bartleby, convincing himself that his mission is to provide Bartleby with office space for as long as needed.
  - The narrator decides to move his office to escape Bartleby but feels conflicted about abandoning him. "What shall I do? What ought I to do? what does conscience say I should do with this man, or rather ghost?"
  - The narrator tries to reason with Bartleby one last time before moving out. "I resolved to argue the matter over with him again."
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- Bartleby is left behind in the empty office after the narrator moves out. "It was withdrawn; and being folded up like a huge folio, left him the motionless occupant of a naked room."
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- The narrator learns that Bartleby has been arrested for vagrancy and taken to the Tombs. Bartleby was not to be seen. I looked round anxiously, peeped behind his screen; but it was very plain that he was gone."
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- The narrator visits Bartleby in jail and finds him in a state of passive despair. "Revolving all these things... my first emotions had been those of pure melancholy and sincerest pity."
  - Bartleby refuses to eat and eventually dies of starvation in the prison yard. "Ah Bartleby! Ah humanity!"
  - : The narrator reflects on Bartleby's tragic life and the mystery surrounding his behavior. "A fraternal melancholy! For both I and Bartleby were sons of Adam."