Panfilo is a lover of everything, but he also shows the need to look deep into someone’s actions by telling stories with characters that hide their true intentions. Panfilo is the voice of Boccaccio and so Panfilo’s suggestion to judge characters fully to find a true meaning mirrors Boccaccio’s suggestion to readers: it is necessary to look into the stories for advice.

Dioneo is the transgressor of the group. He is allowed to tell stories that stray awaythe theme of the day, instead telling one that is most pleasing to him. He is witty in his storytelling, frequently using puns and wordplay. When he is king, he chooses a theme considered to be one of the most controversial: tricks played by women on their husbands. He is also considered to be an ideal lover, demonstrated through his song on  
the fifth day.

Lauretta is the storyteller who reminds the reader of the harshsexist realities of the 14th century; she believes that women must obey men at costs. Her stories counter those featuring assertive women. She is particularly offended when Dineo rules that the theme of the day is women betraying their husbands through trickery.

Filomena is the storyteller who crowns Pampinea as the ruler of the first day and sets the rules for the storytelling: the ruler of the day will choose the theme of the stories. She also gives Dioneo the permission to narrate and disregard the theme of the day. Filomena’s stories are usually accompanied by a moral, one of the most memorable being a discussion about the insincere practices of religious figures. She also stresses that women must speak concisely and with wit because they are not allowed to say much in their society.

Pampinea is the oldest of the group, which makes her the leader. Due to her suggestion in the Santa Maria Novella church, the young adults escape the horrors of a plague-ridden Florence to the fresh countryside of Fiesole.

Neifile is shown to have some sort of Ghibelline tendencies particularly regarding authority. Her stories reflect a bias in favor of authority figures such as kings, guardians, fathers, etc. Neifile thinks that the hierarchical, patriarchic society should be respected because it has been in place for hundreds of years.

Fiammetta is believed to have been modeled after a woman Boccaccio loved. She is the most assertive and competitive of the storytellers. Her qualities include cleverness, resourcefulness, and independence and so she frequently tells stories in which strong female characters exhibit these characteristics.

Elissa belongs to the Ghibelline political faction. She is known as a passionate, young woman. When the women are deciding whether or not to flee Florence, she agrees with Filomena who says that women are unable to rule themselves and she wonders where they will find reputable men to accompany them to the countryside.

Filomena is described as a “young lady of excellent judgment” and it is she who sets the rules for storytelling and themes, stating that the day’s ruler will choose a theme. She allows Dioneo to narrate last each day, also giving him the power to tell a story that does not correspond to the day’s theme. In the church, Filomena is the one who doubts that the group of seven women will be successful because women are "fickle, quarrelsome, suspicious, cowardly, and easily frightened." She is described as being prudent.