

The basic characters that we track in Volume 1 of *Story of the Stone*

Comments based on the assumption that most are reading the Penguin edition English translation.

Bao-yu: Jia Baoyu. Usually called “**Bao-yu**”. (贾宝玉 / 賈寶玉; Jiǎ Bǎo yù ; Chia Pao-yu, Meaning: Precious Jade)

Dai-yu: Lin Daiyu. Usually called “**Dai-yu**”, sometimes called by her nickname “**Frowner**.” (林黛玉; Lín Dài yù ; Lin Tai-yu, Meaning: Black Jade)

Bao-chai: Xue Baochai. Usually called “**Bao-chai**.” (薛宝钗 / 薛寶釵; Xuē Bǎo chāi ; Hsueh Pao-chai, Meaning: Precious Virtue)

Xi-feng: Wang Xifeng. While usually called “**Xi-feng**,” when others are talking about her she is usually called “**Mrs. Lian**.” She has a nickname, “Peppercorn” that is sometimes used as well, especially in this first volume. Also, “Sister Feng” or “**Cousin Feng**”. (王熙凤/王熙鳳; Wáng Xī fèng; Wang Hsi-feng, Meaning: Splendid Phoenix).

Aroma: Hua Xiren. Some older translations use “Xiren.” (花袭人/ 花襲人; Huā Xírén, Meaning: "Flowers Assail Men"—I have seen “Invading Fragrance” as her name in some English texts.)

Qin Shi: Qin Shi but on the spiritual plane Qin Ke-qing (秦可卿; Qín Kě qīng; Ch'in Ko-ching. Her name is a word play on Qin Keqing = qing ke qing: love can be taken lightly / can overthrow: 情可輕 / 情可傾)

Yuan-chun: Jia Yuanchun. Usually called “**Her Grace**” or the “**Imperial Concubine**.” (贾元春/賈元春; Jiǎ Yuán chūn ; Chia Yuan-chun, Meaning: First of Spring)

Adamantina: in some older translations her Chinese transliterated name is used: “Miaoyu.” (妙玉; Miào yù ; Miao-yu, Meaning: Wonderful/Clever Jade)

Caltrop: Later renamed “Lily.” In Volume 1 we know her first as **Yinglian**, then later as Caltrop. She has several other name changes, however. Here is a paste-in from a wiki site: Xiangling (香菱, "Fragrant Water Caltrop") — the Xues' maid, born Zhen Yinglian (甄英蓮, literally "The real outstanding lotus", a homophone with "deserving pity"), the kidnapped and lost daughter to Zhen Shiyin (甄士隱), the country gentleman in Chapter 1. Her name is changed to Qiuling (秋菱) by Xue Pan's spoiled wife, Xia Jin'gui (夏金桂).