

FIRST THINGS FIRST

CHARACTER DOSSIER CARDS

A printable ten-card companion set featuring the major people who shape Andy and Courtney's final semester, business rivalry, friendships, family conflicts, and growing-up decisions.

SPOILER LEVEL

Moderate to high. Several cards reference later character turns and the outcome of major relationships.

THE SET

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Andy Burke | ● Courtney "Quart" Highfield |
| ● Peter Grossmann | ● Will Carlson |
| ● Rachel | ● Simon Burke |
| ● Uncle Fergus | ● Brother Oaks |
| ● Leotie | ● Mr. Highfield |

Print at 100% for two large cut-apart cards per page.

Companion resource for the novel by Michael D. Young

ANDY BURKE

Protagonist | Burke's Best Beverages



THE WOULD-BE ADULT

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Ceramic angel

STRENGTHS

Inventive, loyal, generous, resilient, able to learn from failure.

STRUGGLES

Procrastination, pride, jealousy, impulsive retaliation, confusing privilege with readiness.

RELATIONSHIPS

Courtney is his oldest friend and business partner; Simon is the father he wants to impress; Peter and Will begin as rivals.

TURNING POINT

He gives up the business rather than win at any cost, then decides that missionary service belongs in the future he actually wants.

DOSSIER

COURTNEY "QUART" HIGHFIELD

Best friend | Designer | Business partner



THE HEART OF THE TEAM

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Burke's logo

STRENGTHS

Creative, perceptive, loyal, principled, emotionally courageous.

STRUGGLES

Jealousy, grief, family conflict, hiding painful information, wanting Andy to see her differently.

RELATIONSHIPS

Andy is her lifelong friend; Peter becomes a romantic possibility; Leotie is the mother she must learn to understand again.

TURNING POINT

After painful misunderstandings, she reconciles with Andy and begins looking toward college and learning more about her heritage.

DOSSIER

PETER GROSSMANN

Rival entrepreneur | The Best of the Worst



THE BETTER SPORT

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Honey bun

STRENGTHS

Thoughtful, gracious, observant, romantic, willing to warn others.

STRUGGLES

Loyalty to Will versus discomfort with the rivalry's darker tactics.

RELATIONSHIPS

Will is his business partner; Courtney grows close to him; Andy initially sees him as both romantic and commercial competition.

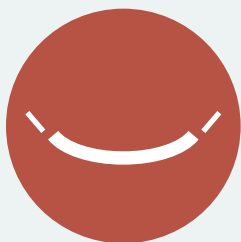
TURNING POINT

He warns Courtney that trouble is coming, later grows closer to her, and begins taking missionary discussions.

DOSSIER

WILL CARLSON

Rival entrepreneur | The Best of the Worst



THE ANGRY RIVAL

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Wurst cart

STRENGTHS

Driven, persistent, business-minded, fiercely motivated.

STRUGGLES

Resentment, hostility, suspicion, pride, allowing rivalry to become personal.

RELATIONSHIPS

Peter is his partner; Andy is the rival he views as a spoiled rich kid; Rachel later becomes closely connected to him.

TURNING POINT

Andy offers him the chance to buy Burke's Best, forcing Will to confront generosity he does not expect from his rival.

DOSSIER

RACHEL

Andy's girlfriend, then ex-girlfriend



THE VOLATILE EX

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Cherry slushy

STRENGTHS

Bold, socially adept, capable of decisive action.

STRUGGLES

Jealousy, resentment, manipulation, escalating retaliation.

RELATIONSHIPS

She dates Andy early in the story; Mr. Larsen is her father; she later appears unexpectedly close to Will.

TURNING POINT

Her connection to Mr. Larsen and Will becomes part of the evidence that exposes the later sabotage campaign.

DOSSIER

SIMON BURKE

Andy's father | Businessman



THE TEST-GIVER

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Mission scriptures

STRENGTHS

Patient, principled, reflective, financially successful, willing to let Andy solve his own problems.

STRUGGLES

Can be indirect, demanding, and so focused on lessons that Andy does not always understand what he wants.

RELATIONSHIPS

Andy is the son he is trying to prepare; Uncle Fergus is part of the family support system.

TURNING POINT

He reveals that Andy's final choices - not simply winning the contest - prove he is ready to be treated as an adult.

DOSSIER

UNCLE FERGUS

Family helper | Chauffeur | Bagpiper



THE SCOTTISH WILDCARD

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Bagpipes

STRENGTHS

Loyal, resourceful, humorous, observant, steady in a crisis.

STRUGGLES

Subtlety is not his specialty, especially where bagpipes are concerned.

RELATIONSHIPS

Andy treats him as an eccentric uncle and dependable ally; Courtney also comes to rely on him.

TURNING POINT

When Courtney is hurt, he refuses to trivialize it and pushes Andy toward a more thoughtful plan to repair the friendship.

DOSSIER

BROTHER OAKS

Seminary teacher | Mentor | Veteran



THE HARD-WON MENTOR

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Stripling Warrior cocoa

STRENGTHS

Perceptive, compassionate, direct, spiritually grounded, experienced under pressure.

STRUGGLES

Carries the lasting physical and emotional cost of military service.

RELATIONSHIPS

He becomes one of Andy's most trusted adult advisers and a bridge between business problems and spiritual choices.

TURNING POINT

He reveals his prosthetic leg and the wartime experience that brought him back to faith, reframing Andy's losses and choices.

DOSSIER

LEOTIE

Courtney's mother



THE WOUNDED MOTHER

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Family memories

STRENGTHS

Protective, resilient, honest when she finally opens up, deeply connected to family and heritage.

STRUGGLES

Grief, anger, estrangement, and the long consequences of a damaged marriage.

RELATIONSHIPS

Courtney is the daughter she loves but often clashes with; Mr. Highfield is the husband whose hidden choices wounded her.

TURNING POINT

She finally tells Courtney the truth about the marriage, allowing mother and daughter to move from blame toward forgiveness.

DOSSIER

MR. HIGHFIELD

Courtney's father | Firefighter



THE ABSENT CENTER

SIGNATURE DETAIL

Firefighter helmet

STRENGTHS

Remembered as brave, generous, and capable of saving others; Peter credits him with saving his family.

STRUGGLES

Leotie's later account reveals serious hidden failures in the marriage that Courtney did not know about.

RELATIONSHIPS

Courtney loved him deeply; Leotie carried the private cost of their broken marriage; Peter's family owes him their lives.

TURNING POINT

After his death, Courtney learns that the father she adored was both heroic and deeply flawed, forcing her to hold both truths at once.

DOSSIER