

Wright, Richard: 1908–1960

Native Son, 1940 – Characters

Bigger Thomas – The protagonist, a young African American man living in poverty on Chicago's South Side.

Mary Dalton – The daughter of the wealthy Dalton family, for whom Bigger works as a chauffeur.

Mr. Henry Dalton – Mary's father, a rich white landlord.

Mrs. Dalton – Mr. Dalton's blind wife.

Bessie Mears – Bigger's girlfriend, a hardworking woman.

Jan Erlone – Mary's communist boyfriend.

Buckley – The racist, aggressive State's Attorney who prosecutes Bigger.

Boris Max – A Jewish lawyer affiliated with the Communist Party.

Buddy Thomas – Bigger's younger brother.

Vera Thomas – Bigger's younger sister.

Mrs. Thomas – Bigger's mother, a religious woman struggling to hold her family together.