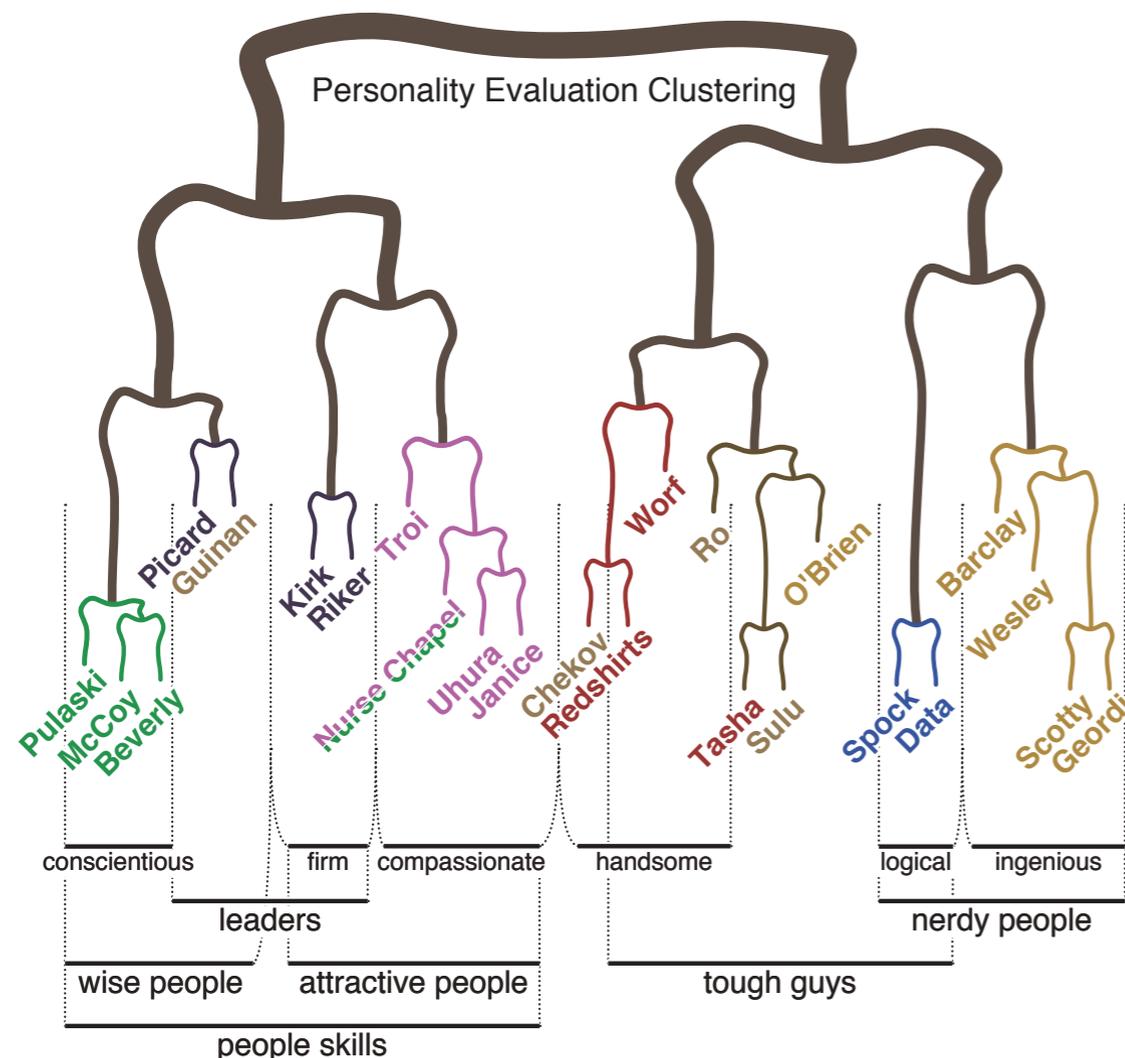


The Characters

Heroic commanders, fierce warriors, sagacious leaders, stunning beauties, villainous foes and hot alien hunks; ingenious scientists, clever mechanics, emphatic medics, redshirts, lone geniuses and insufferable brats—Star Trek has them all and more: Let's not forget the clairvoyant bartender and the hypochondriac engineer!



- The Medics ■
- The Commanders ■
- The Babes ■
- The Fighters ■
- The Scientists ■
- The Engineers ■
- The Others ■

Who are they?

In TOS/TAS the protagonists are the crew of the starship USS Enterprise NCC-1701, led by the fearless Captain Kirk. Similarly in TNG the protagonists are the crew of the starship USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D, led by the sagacious Captain Picard. Many of them are recurring: they each appear in more than one episode. There is also a wealth of recurring and non-recurring antagonists and supporting characters.

TOS/TAS Core Protagonists

Captain Kirk is a passionate and bold man, willing to lead his crew through thick and thin on nothing more than gut feeling. Time permitting he will seek the counsel of Spock and McCoy before making any tough decision. Spock functions as Kirk's faculty of reason and tends to advocate the logical, cold-hearted course of action. McCoy contrastingly functions as Kirk's conscience and emphasizes compassion. Conflict typically ensues when Kirk is compelled to choose a middle ground between the two.

TNG Core Protagonists

Captain Picard, on the other hand, is a rational and prudent man possessed of keen ability to evaluate any given situation and act decisively with unsurpassed acuteness. His supporting cast includes Riker the ladies' man, Data the logical android, Beverly the career woman and single mother, Worf the Klingon warrior, and Troi the sensitive empath. Their characteristics are somewhat patterned on TOS: Picard and Riker, authority and vigor, are different sides of Kirk. Data is logical and (on the surface) devoid of emotion like Spock. Beverly, as does McCoy, often emphasizes humane and compassionate ethics.

Other Protagonists

The supporting characters are not merely mouth pieces for the various faculties of the captains. On the contrary, they have elaborate back-stories and tend to experience growth and change over the course of the series. In Spock, for example, we find a male of mixed Human and Vulcan descent struggling to suppress his human emotions behind a stic Vulcan facade.

Counselor Troi develops from a sexy and vulnerable young woman into a self-assured, career-mind-

ed professional. Doctor Beverly undergoes something of the reverse; we are presented with a rather plain looking, single mother in a lab coat who gradually takes on an evermore glamorous persona and comes to habitually involve herself with hunky men.

The chief engineers, Scotty and Geordi, have as yet escaped mention on the ground that neither is typically included in their captain's brain trust. They both struggle in their relationships with women, feeling more at ease in the company of a good warp engine. Geordi, on the top of this, is coping with a physical disability (blindness) that is occasionally the topic for a story.

There is an abundance of other characters, often defined by a single stereotype each. In TOS, Chekov is the spirited Russian ensign; Sulu, the steady-handed Japanese helmsman; and Uhura, the black woman in a position of authority. In TNG there are: The sombre Irish transporter chief Miles O'Brien, his Japanese wife Keiko, the bumbling reclusive Engineer Barclay, the ingenious teenager Wesley, the clairvoyant alien bartender Guinan, and the once convicted antihero Ro Laren.

Antagonists and bystanders

While there are many more character, few others appear in more than one episode. In TOS/TAS, the human space swindler Mudd is worth noting. In TNG the most important ones are Q and Lore. The former is a mischievous alien of unimaginable power; the latter is Commander Data's jealous android brother.