**Masculinity**

**Eddie**

* Alpha man – ‘Head of the House’
* Obsessed with his reputation in the community (honour and respect)
* Eddie is the breadwinner of the family
* Eddie’s chair is an important symbol – he is powerful within the house
* Eddie feels intelligent – he offers Catherine & Beatrice advice on how to behave (Vinny’s story)
* He is extremely protective of Catherine (similar to Marco with his brother)
* He is an aggressive character in words and actions – the chair scene, boxing match, kissing Catherine and Rodolfo, threatening Rodolfo
* Eddie is an over-reacher – he does not have total control

**Marco**

* Marco is a family man – he is well respected in Red Hook (Louis/Mike)
* Marco is a realist (in contrast to Rodolfo who is a dreamer)
* Marco is strong and this impressed other men at the docks
* Marco is respectful towards women
* Marco is traditional Italian – in looks and behaviour (this helps him fit into the community)
* Marco is protective of Rodolfo – chair scene demonstrates this
* Marco is powerful and damaged Eddie’s reputation

**Rodolfo**

* Effeminate – “canary”, “paper doll”, “blondie” – This affects Eddie’s reputation in the community
* Contrasted with Marco – weaker, non-traditional
* Gay? Eddie distrusts him.
* Rodolfo is a dreamer – this relates to him becoming an American - Broadway
* He is cook, dressmaker, singer – all typically female jobs
* He is younger than his brother – like Catherine he still needs to grow up

**Alfieri**

* He is a wise, knowledgeable figure in the community
* He is a problem-solver and Eddie turns to him in his time of need
* Although he is an important figure, he is powerless to change the events in the play