

Babbit: Chapter 1, summarized by David P.

At the beginning of the first chapter the scene of the novel, the city Zenith, is described. The city is modern, predominantly wealthy as well as economically strong. One of its inhabitants is the real estate agent George F. Babbitt. The author illustrates his behavior when getting up in the morning and his appearance similar to how most people would imagine one of those middle-aged, middle-class, chauvinist agents. The description of his dull, bloated face that is pink as a piglet, his chubby figure and the fact that he is very unfriendly to his family because he is suffering from a hangover give the reader an intense impression of this person. In the text many of Babbitt's possessions are pointed out. At first for example a very modern alarm clock and the large and exclusive bathroom, later in the chapter his expensive clothes and made-to-measure suits are described in an ironic way. Even though Babbitt appears to be not very educated (~~to the reader at least~~) he tries to make a very cultivated impression on other people and also likes to show his possessions and gimmicks like a good watch or a golden pocket knife.

another very good example by Sebastian W.

The story renders a morning of an upper middle class citizen in America at the turn of the 19th century. He is awoken by several irritating noises, but can successfully integrate them into his sleep so that he must not awake from his slumber. Finally the alarm wakes him. He wakes with an awful hangover and feels only resentment for his family, himself and the evening before. He gets up shaves and despises his family more and more. Slowly he slips into his everyday routine and begins to dress for the day ahead. Whilst doing so he converses with his wife over trivial things like creases in his trousers and which suit he should wear. Babbit soon begins dressing up more fancily, making sure the accessories fit the occasion and sufficiently back his role as higher classed citizen. By putting on layers of unnecessary junk like medallions, watches and such, he tries to hide the real weak, stupid man hiding beneath. It is a perfect description of a typical American Republican in early 1900, infatuated with an idealistic picture of holy America, instead of himself, his wife and his children, who seem unimportant, unnecessary and boring to him.