<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Character/character traits</th>
<th>Evidence – drawn from both language and images</th>
<th>Significance to the novel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ubby</td>
<td>Natural leader (Ubby's Underdogs)</td>
<td>Gang members defer to her automatically – ‘Whatcha reckon, Ubby?’ (third page). ‘She’s a great leader and she doesn’t know how to lose,’ says Fin.</td>
<td>Immense significance in white patriarchal society to have a young, black woman leading a multicultural gang of men/boys.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
|           | Resourceful | Immediately realises value of recruiting Sai Fong to the Underdog gang. | Sai Fong enhances Underdogs immeasurably by:  
- Being another young female.  
- Possessing magical powers and an intelligence to match Ubby’s. |
|           | Brave/strong | Tackles bigger boys of Pearl Juniors in Game of Gruff. Conversation prior to Dolby Dance challenge, ‘You ever know Ubby to turn down a challenge?’ | Ubby’s strength inspires her own gang of Underdogs and intimidates their main rivals, the Pearl Juniors. She is a known force to be reckoned with in the town of Broome. |
| Fin       | Irish (therefore anti-British) white and has already defected from the all-white Pearl Juniors to become a loyal member of the Underdogs. | “Why are you all spitting?” Sai Fong. “It’s something you do when you mention the British. My Dad does it all the time.” Fin. | The British were the colonial power who controlled everything and everyone in Australia in the mid-20th century. As Broome was a ‘melting pot’ of different nationalities, the social heirachy would be important. With Irish ethnicity, Fin would be much higher up in the pecking order than Ubby – but not all powerful, despite being white. |
|           | Helpful and dependable | Helps Gabe chase Gunada even though he (Fin) has no reason to do so. Gunada only ever acts as a distraction. Goes in first in the Dolby Dance contest. | Fin acts as Ubby’s deputy. He is always in the middle of all the action and his knowledge of the Pearl Juniors is invaluable. |
|           | Fin is funny. He is famous for pickpocketing and he also picks his nose. | Only ever visually depicted. | Provides a very human face – especially for someone who has a ‘white’ background. Endearing. |
### Gabe
- **Easily distracted**
  - Keeps chasing after Gunada to get his teeth back.
- **Loyal and brave**
  - Gets the snake off Sel in the Dolby’s Dance scene, “It’t all right mate, I got ‘em.”
- **Tolerant**
  - Frequent scenes depicting Gabe being affectionately hassled by the much bigger Sel.
- **Descended from Maori warriors.**
  - Adds to the multinational cast of figures.
- **Provides humour with his lisp,** persistent search for his teeth and endearing interactions with Sel, which are never mentioned, only depicted.

### Sel
- **Big Malaysian giant but also vulnerable**
  - Phobia about black socks. Bullied by white girls at the Sun Movies
- **‘I’m a rhino remember, they won’t get past me.’**
- **Invaluable member of the Underdogs. Another older (than Ubby) man under her spell.**

### Sai Fong
- **Central character – newcomer in town.**
  - Chinese with mysterious illness and equally mysterious powers. She is intelligent, strong and a worthy offsider for Ubby.
  - Demonstration of special powers on numerous occasions.
  - Stands up to her uncle, Yupman Poe, in joining the Underdogs.
  - The fact that Ubby’s Underdogs recruit Sai Fong before she can get recruited by the Pearl Juniors is an important coup for Ubby.
  - Being an outsider to the Broome social scene, Sai Fong is a useful commentator e.g. when Ubby says, ‘We’re not allowed in there because we’re different colour, them’s white mob,’ Sai Fong states, ‘Your heart beats too. Why does such a thing matter?’

### Scotty
- **Leader of Pearl Juniors and son of Paul Donappleton who owns/runs the Broome Pearling Industry.**
  - Scotty has a ‘born-to-rule’ arrogance.
  - ‘Greetings Alberta. How is your playgroup today?’
  - Cheating in the Game of Gruff.
- **Racist**
  - ‘Little Miss China here...’ referring to Sai Fong.
  - The central theme in this graphic novel is racism. Being black and leading a successful gang is Ubby’s revenge for the indignities suffered by her fellow people.
- **Scotty plays the part of the antagonist to Ubby.**
  - He is represented as being opposite to her in every way: white/black, powerful/powerless, privileged/disadvantaged, conniving/straightforward, cowardly/courageous.

### Paul Donappleton
- **Wealthy business man who runs the pearling industry – Scotty’s father.**
  - ‘What is it Clancy? I have things to do and people to fire –’
  - Representative of the British colonial system controlling all aspects of life in Broome and Australia – then and now. White male!
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<tr>
<th>Corrupt</th>
<th>Arranges for his servant thugs, Casper and Bruno, to illegally search Yupman’s premises.</th>
<th>Illustrates the old adage that power corrupts.</th>
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<td>Yupman Poe</td>
<td>Chinese guardian of Sai Fong – has come to Australia to find a cure for Sai Fong.</td>
<td>Yupman Poe takes the huge risk of traveling by boat to a strange country in order to help his young charge – to whom he shows nothing but compassion and kindness.</td>
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