

YOUNG PETE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Young Pete, 10-12 years old. A withdrawn, observant child trapped in a deeply dysfunctional family. His parents fight constantly while he eats dinner in silence, their violence happening in slow motion above him while he continues eating with a bored, dissociated expression. He's fascinated by moths flying into the bug zapper—drawn to their destructive attraction to light. After his father's sudden death and his controlling grandmother moves in, Young Pete becomes even more isolated and numb. He doesn't cry, doesn't scream—he just watches life happen around him with quiet detachment. This is where adult Pete's darkness begins, in a child who learned too early that love and violence often come together.

SCENE CONTEXT

Young Pete's father has just choked to death on a sausage at the dinner table. Instead of panicking or crying, Pete stands frozen, watching his father die on the floor with a mix of fear, curiosity, and something darker—a detached fascination. His mother rushes in and calls 911, but it's too late. This is a pivotal moment that shapes who Pete becomes—a child witnessing death not with normal grief, but with the eerie calm of someone already emotionally shut down. He's learning that people leave, that violence is normal, and that he's somehow separate from it all.

PETE stares at his dying father on the floor, scared but curious and a little demented, he steps back and keeps on watching.

We need YOUNG PETE to be creepy, he doesn't show many emotions, doesn't talk much, just observes and let's the live go by.

GRANDMA

There is no easy way to say this,
but your mother has passed away.
She left me as your guardian and I
will take care of you from now on.

(breathes and re-
concentrates)

We will stay in this house and you
will go to school and do whatever I
tell you to do until you are old
enough to leave... That's what your
mom would have wanted.

YOUNG PETE
May I ask how she died?

GRANDMA
(thinks) No.