**Descriptive Words for Commentary or Analysis of Text**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  |  |  | **Negative** |
| Authentic | Inspirational | Reactionary |  | Absurd |
| Conservative | Ironic | Realistic |  | Commonplace |
| Controversial | Liberal | Recondite |  | Heretical |
| Credible | Melodramatic | Romantic |  | Improbable |
| Cultural | Mystical | Satiric |  | Incredible |
| Didactic | Naturalistic | Scholarly |  | Insignificant |
| Dramatic | Objective | Significant |  | Intolerant |
| Esoteric | Orthodox | Spiritual |  | Pedantic |
| Expressionistic | Philosophic | Subjective |  | Prejudiced |
| Fanciful | Plausible | Symbolic |  | Shallow |
| Humanistic | Pragmatic | Utilitarian |  | Superficial |
| Humorous | Profound |  |  | Trivial |
| Impressionistic | Radical |  |  | Unscholarly |

**Descriptive Words for Characters:  Physical Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  |  | **Negative** |  |  |
| Active | Exquisite | Pretty | Awkward | Hideous | Ugly |
| Adept | Fair | Ravishing | Bizarre | Homely | Ungainly |
| Adroit | Fascinating | Robust | Cadaverous | Horrible | Unkempt |
| Agile | Good-looking | Shapely | Clumsy | Incongruous | Unmanly |
| Attractive | Graceful | Skillful | Coarse | Invidious | Unwomanly |
| Beautiful | Handsome | Spirited | Decrepit | Loathsome | Weak |
| Brawny | Hardy | Spruce | Effeminate | Odious |  |
| Charming | Immaculate | Stalwart | Emaciated | Repellent |  |
| Comely | Lively | Strapping | Feeble | Repugnant |  |
| Dainty | Lovely | Strong | Frail | Repulsive |  |
| Dapper | Manly | Sturdy | Gawky | Sickly |  |
| Delicate | Muscular | Virile | Ghastly | Slovenly |  |
| Dexterous | Neat | Vivacious | Graceless | Spare |  |
| Elegant | Nimble | Winsome | Grotesque | Thin |  |

**Descriptive Words for Characters: Mental Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  | **Negative** |  |
| Apt | Learned | Bigoted | Stupid |
| Astute | Observant | Crass | Ungifted |
| Capable | Precocious | Dull | Unintellectual |
| Clever | Prudent | Fatuous | Unintelligent |
| Competent | Rational | Foolish | Unlettered |
| Crafty | Reasonable | Ignorant | Unschooled |
| Cunning | Sage | Illiterate | Vacuous |
| Educated | Scholarly | Inane |  |
| Erudite | Sensible | Irrational |  |
| Gifted | Shrewd | Narrow-minded |  |
| Ingenious | Subtle | Obtuse |  |
| Intellectual | Talented | Puerile |  |
| Intelligent | Wily | Shallow |  |
| Inventive | Wise | Simple |  |

**Descriptive Words for Characters:  Moral Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  | **Negative** |  |
| Abstemious | Righteous | Base | Iniquitous |
| Austere | Straightforward | Corrupt | Intemperate |
| Chaste | Temperate | Deceitful | Notorious |
| Decent | Trustworthy | Degenerate | Reprobate |
| Exemplary | Truthful | Depraved | Ribald |
| Faultless | Undefiled | Dishonest | Sensual |
| Guileless | Upright | Dishonorable | Unprincipled |
| Honorable | Virtuous | Dissolute | Unscrupulous |
| Idealistic |  | Foul | Vicious |
| Innocent |  | Immoral | Vile |
| Pure |  | Incorrigible | Vulgar |
| Puritanical |  | Indecent | Wicked |
| Respectable |  | Infamous |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Descriptive Words for Characters: Spiritual Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  | **Negative** |  |
| Angelic |  | Agnostic | Materialistic |
| Devout |  | Atheistic | Mundane |
| Faithful |  | Blasphemous | Profane |
| Godlike |  | Carnal | Sacrilegious |
| Holy |  | Diabolic | Skeptical |
| Pious |  | Fiend like | Unregenerate |
| Regenerate |  | Godless |  |
| Religious |  | Impious |  |
| Reverent |  | Irrelevant |  |
| Saintly |  | Irreligious |  |

**Descriptive Words for Characters:  Social Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  | **Negative** |  |
| Affable |  | Acrimonious | Irascible |
| Amiable |  | Antagonistic | Malevolent |
| Amicable |  | Anti-social | Misanthropic |
| Cheerful |  | Boorish | Obsequious |
| Civil |  | Brusque | Peevish |
| Congenial |  | Captious | Perverse |
| Convivial |  | Caustic | Petulant |
| Cooperative |  | Churlish | Provincial |
| Cordial |  | Contentious | Quarrelsome |
| Courteous |  | Crabbed | Rustic |
| Debonair |  | Critical | Shrewish |
| Elegant |  | Crusty | Sniveling |
| Genial |  | Cynical | Sulky |
| Gracious |  | Discourteous | Sullen |
| Hospitable |  | Fawning | Sycophantic |
| Jolly |  | Fractious | Uncivil |
| Jovial |  | Grumpy | Unctuous |
| Polite |  | Ill-bred | Ungracious |
| Politic |  | Ill-mannered | Unpolished |
| Sociable |  | Implacable | Unrefined |
| Suave |  | Impolite | Unsociable |
| Tactful |  | Imprudent | Waspish |
| Urbane |  | Insolent |  |

**Descriptive Words for Characters: General Qualities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  |  |  | **Negative** |  |  |
| Admirable | Gentle | Phlegmatic |  | Apathetic | Indiscreet | Rebellious |
| Altruistic | Gullible | Plucky |  | Arrogant | Inefficient | Recalcitrant |
| Ambitious | Humane | Punctual |  | Artificial | Insensitive | Reckless |
| Aristocratic | Humble | Radical |  | Avaricious | Insidious | Refractory |
| Artless | Illustrious | Reactionary |  | Boastful | Insignificant | Remiss |
| Assiduous | Imperturbable | Refined |  | Brutish | Intolerant | Reprehensible |
| Audacious | Imposing | Reserved |  | Bumptious | Irresolute | Ruthless |
| Benevolent | Impressive | Resolute |  | Bungling | Irresponsible | Sanctimonious |
| Candid | Indifferent | Resourceful |  | Callous | Lackadaisical | Scurrilous |
| Cautious | Indomitable | Responsive |  | Capricious | Lazy | Self-centered |
| Charitable | Indulgent | Reticent |  | Complacent | Lethargic | Self-indulgent |
| Circumspect | Industrious | Saturnine |  | Conceited | Listless | Silly |
| Compassionate | Influential | Saucy |  | Contemptible | Malicious | Slothful |
| Confident | Ingenious | Scrupulous |  | Contemptuous | Malignant | Smug |
| Conscientious | Intrepid | Sedate |  | Cowardly | Mediocre | Squeamish |
| Conservative | Kindly | Self-impassive |  | Craven | Mercenary | Stingy |
| Considerate | Laconic | Self-reliant |  | Cruel | Mischievous | Stubborn |
| Courageous | Liberal | Sensitive |  | Dilatory | Mulish | Timorous |
| Coy | Long-suffering | Serious |  | Disdainful | Niggardly | Traitorous |
| Cultured | Magnanimous | Shy |  | Dogmatic | Obdurate | Treacherous |
| Demure | Meek | Sober |  | Domineering | Obnoxious | Truculent |
| Determined | Melancholic | Solemn |  | Eccentric | Obstinate | Unambitious |
| Diffident | Merciful | Staid |  | Egotistical | Odd | Unreliable |
| Diligent | Moody | Stoical |  | Envious | Oppressive | Unruly |
| Discreet | Munificent | Strong-willed |  | Erratic | Ordinary | Unstable |
| Distinguished | Naïve | Sympathetic |  | Fastidious | Overconfident | Vain |
| Earnest | Natural | Taciturn |  | Fickle | Parasitic | Venal |
| Efficient | Noble | Thrifty |  | Frivolous | Parsimonious | Vindictive |
| Eloquent | Nonchalant | Timid |  | Gluttonous | Perfidious | Voracious |
| Eminent | Patient | Tolerant |  | Haughty | Petty | Wearisome |
| Enthusiastic | Pensive | Unaffected |  | Headstrong | Pharisaical | Willful |
| Flippant | Persevering | Uncompromising |  | Hypocritical | Pompous | Worthless |
| Forbearing | Persistent | Valorous |  | Imperious | Prejudiced |  |
| Frugal | Persuasive | Wary |  | Impetuous | Prolix |  |
| Garrulous | Pert | Well-bred |  | Imprudent | Proud |  |
| Generous | Philanthropic | Whimsical |  | Impulsive | Quixotic |  |
| Genteel | Philosophical | Witty |  | Incompetent | Rash |  |
|  |  | Zealous |  |  |  |  |