**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 |   |   |   |   |