

## Descriptive Words for Commentary or Analysis of Text

### Positive

|                 |               |             |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Authentic       | Inspirational | Reactionary |
| Conservative    | Ironic        | Realistic   |
| Controversial   | Liberal       | Recondite   |
| Credible        | Melodramatic  | Romantic    |
| Cultural        | Mystical      | Satiric     |
| Didactic        | Naturalistic  | Scholarly   |
| Dramatic        | Objective     | Significant |
| Esoteric        | Orthodox      | Spiritual   |
| Expressionistic | Philosophic   | Subjective  |
| Fanciful        | Plausible     | Symbolic    |
| Humanistic      | Pragmatic     | Utilitarian |
| Humorous        | Profound      |             |
| Impressionistic | Radical       |             |

### Negative

Absurd  
Commonplace  
Heretical  
Improbable  
Incredible  
Insignificant  
Intolerant  
Pedantic  
Prejudiced  
Shallow  
Superficial  
Trivial  
Unscholarly

## Descriptive Words for Characters: Physical Qualities

### Positive

|            |              |           |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Active     | Exquisite    | Pretty    |
| Adept      | Fair         | Ravishing |
| Adroit     | Fascinating  | Robust    |
| Agile      | Good-looking | Shapely   |
| Attractive | Graceful     | Skillful  |
| Beautiful  | Handsome     | Spirited  |
| Brawny     | Hardy        | Spruce    |
| Charming   | Immaculate   | Stalwart  |
| Comely     | Lively       | Strapping |
| Dainty     | Lovely       | Strong    |
| Dapper     | Manly        | Sturdy    |
| Delicate   | Muscular     | Virile    |
| Dexterous  | Neat         | Vivacious |
| Elegant    | Nimble       | Winsome   |

### Negative

|            |             |           |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Awkward    | Hideous     | Ugly      |
| Bizarre    | Homely      | Ungainly  |
| Cadaverous | Horrible    | Unkempt   |
| Clumsy     | Incongruous | Unmanly   |
| Coarse     | Invidious   | Unwomanly |
| Decrepit   | Loathsome   | Weak      |
| Effeminate | Odious      |           |
| Emaciated  | Repellent   |           |
| Feeble     | Repugnant   |           |
| Frail      | Repulsive   |           |
| Gawky      | Sickly      |           |
| Ghastly    | Slovenly    |           |
| Graceless  | Spare       |           |
| Grotesque  | Thin        |           |

## Descriptive Words for Characters: Mental Qualities

### Positive

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Apt          | Learned    |
| Astute       | Observant  |
| Capable      | Precocious |
| Clever       | Prudent    |
| Competent    | Rational   |
| Crafty       | Reasonable |
| Cunning      | Sage       |
| Educated     | Scholarly  |
| Erudite      | Sensible   |
| Gifted       | Shrewd     |
| Ingenious    | Subtle     |
| Intellectual | Talented   |
| Intelligent  | Wily       |
| Inventive    | Wise       |

### Negative

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Bigoted       | Stupid         |
| Crass         | Ungifted       |
| Dull          | Unintellectual |
| Fatuous       | Unintelligent  |
| Foolish       | Unlettered     |
| Ignorant      | Unschooling    |
| Illiterate    | Vacuous        |
| Inane         |                |
| Irrational    |                |
| Narrow-minded |                |
| Obtuse        |                |
| Puerile       |                |
| Shallow       |                |
| Simple        |                |

## Descriptive Words for Characters: Moral Qualities

| <u>Positive</u> |                 | <u>Negative</u> |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Abstemious      | Righteous       | Base            | Iniquitous   |
| Austere         | Straightforward | Corrupt         | Intemperate  |
| Chaste          | Temperate       | Deceitful       | Notorious    |
| Decent          | Trustworthy     | Degenerate      | Reprobate    |
| Exemplary       | Truthful        | Depraved        | Ribald       |
| Faultless       | Undefined       | 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

| <u>Positive</u> | <u>Negative</u> | -             |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 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

| <u>Positive</u> | <u>Negative</u> | -            |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Affable         | Acrimonious     | Irrascible   |
| 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 | Waspy      |
| Urbane  | Insolent  |            |

## Descriptive Words for Characters: General Qualities

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

