

## Descriptive Words for Commentary or Analysis of Text

<b>Positive</b>			<b>Negative</b>
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

<b>Positive</b>			<b>Negative</b>		
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

<b>Positive</b>		<b>Negative</b>	
Apt	Learned	Bigoted	Stupid
Astute	Observant	Crass	Ungifted
Capable	Precocious	Dull	Unintellectual
Clever	Prudent	Fatuous	Unintelligent
Competent	Rational	Foolish	Unlettered
Crafty	Reasonable	Ignorant	Unschooling
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

<b>Positive</b>		<b>Negative</b>	
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

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	
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

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	
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

Admirable  
Altruistic  
Ambitious  
Aristocratic  
Artless  
Assiduous  
Audacious  
Benevolent  
Candid  
Cautious  
Charitable  
Circumspect  
Compassionate  
Confident  
Conscientious  
Conservative  
Considerate  
Courageous  
Coy  
Cultured  
Demure  
Determined  
Diffident  
Diligent  
Discreet  
Distinguished  
Earnest  
Efficient  
Eloquent  
Eminent  
Enthusiastic  
Flippant  
Forbearing  
Frugal  
Garrulous  
Generous  
Genteel

Gentle  
Gullible  
Humane  
Humble  
Illustrious  
Imperturbable  
Imposing  
Impressive  
Indifferent  
Indomitable  
Indulgent  
Industrious  
Influential  
Ingenious  
Intrepid  
Kindly  
Laconic  
Liberal  
Long-suffering  
Magnanimous  
Meek  
Melancholic  
Merciful  
Moody  
Munificent  
Naïve  
Natural  
Noble  
Nonchalant  
Patient  
Pensive  
Persevering  
Persistent  
Persuasive  
Pert  
Philanthropic  
Philosophical

#### Negative

Phlegmatic  
Plucky  
Punctual  
Radical  
Reactionary  
Refined  
Reserved  
Resolute  
Resourceful  
Responsive  
Reticent  
Saturnine  
Saucy  
Scrupulous  
Sedate  
Self-impassive  
Self-reliant  
Sensitive  
Serious  
Shy  
Sober  
Solemn  
Staid  
Stoical  
Strong-willed  
Sympathetic  
Taciturn  
Thrifty  
Timid  
Tolerant  
Unaffected  
Uncompromising  
Valorous  
Wary  
Well-bred  
Whimsical  
Witty  
Zealous

Apathetic  
Arrogant  
Artificial  
Avaricious  
Boastful  
Brutish  
Bumptious  
Bungling  
Callous  
Capricious  
Complacent  
Conceited  
Contemptible  
Contemptuous  
Cowardly  
Craven  
Cruel  
Dilatory  
Disdainful  
Dogmatic  
Domineering  
Eccentric  
Egotistical  
Envious  
Erratic  
Fastidious  
Fickle  
Frivolous  
Gluttonous  
Haughty  
Headstrong  
Hypocritical  
Imperious  
Impetuous  
Imprudent  
Impulsive  
Incompetent

Indiscreet  
Inefficient  
Insensitive  
Insidious  
Insignificant  
Intolerant  
Irresolute  
Irresponsible  
Lackadaisical  
Lazy  
Lethargic  
Listless  
Malicious  
Malignant  
Mediocre  
Mercenary  
Mischievous  
Mulish  
Niggardly  
Obdurate  
Obnoxious  
Obstinate  
Odd  
Oppressive  
Ordinary  
Overconfident  
Parasitic  
Parsimonious  
Perfidious  
Petty  
Pharisaical  
Pompous  
Prejudiced  
Prolix  
Proud  
Quixotic  
Rash

Rebellious  
Recalcitrant  
Reckless  
Refractory  
Remiss  
Reprehensible  
Ruthless  
Sanctimonious  
Scurrilous  
Self-centered  
Self-indulgent  
Silly  
Slothful  
Smug  
Squeamish  
Stingy  
Stubborn  
Timorous  
Traitorous  
Treacherous  
Truculent  
Unambitious  
Unreliable  
Unruly  
Unstable  
Vain  
Venal  
Vindictive  
Voracious  
Wearisome  
Willful  
Worthless

## SOUND

ringing	cheeping	gasping	smashing	piercing	peeping
whooping	tinkling	raucous	chattering	crooning	bellowing
sobbing	bumping	snarling	growling	pitch	crying
thumping	burping	croaking	clattering	yapping	keening
splashing	yelping	rustling	volume	squealing	howling
barking	sniveling	moaning	pealing	tone	rattling
grunting	clanging	coughing	quacking	whining	gagging
fizzing	wheezing	honking	hissing	bawling	trumpeting
swishing	sneezing	rumbling	bubbling	ripping	cooing
chirping	shouting	shuffling	tearing	popping	roaring
thunderous	scratching	snorting	crashing	crunching	cackling
tolling	clucking	silent	tapping	soothing	crowing
tranquil	melodious	cacophonous	singing	quiet	tune
loud	tinkling	noisy	rhythmic	mumbling	twittering
din	beat	blaring	cawing	racket	chattering
murmuring	whistling	clapping	booming	whispering	mewing
snapping	snoring	yelling	mooring	crackling	sighing

## TOUCH AND TEXTURE

pressed	damp	fluted	tickling	sculptured	dry
knobbed	raw	corrugated	downy	chapped	scratchy
dirty	grimy	sopping	itching	abrasive	dusty
scaled	rasping	prickly	clammy	pulpy	kiss
scarred	glossy	wet	pocked	tweedy	matte
moist	woolly	hard	foamy	dank	patina
gripped	burning	hairy	soft	cottony	scorching
furry	bumpy	rocking	cushioned	fluffy	searing
fuzzy	boiling	sheer	sheen	scalding	stinging
sandy	warm	shiny	polished	hot	engraved
gritty	inlaid	soapy	bubbly	grooved	cool
glassy	ivory	biting	sharp	ruted	piercing
silky	numbing	velvety	smooth	freezing	steely
keen	icy	corduroy	grainy	cold	metallic
fine	waxy	coarse	greasy	curdled	slimy
splintered	lacy	tangled	spiky	slippery	creamy
matted	slick	shaggy	bushy	fiery	stubbly

## COLOR AND VISUAL QUALITIES

red	saffron	bright	dark	scarlet	gold
dull	light	carnelian	silver	rose	chocolate
crimson	chrome	lilac	sienna	salmon	lime
copper	vermilion	yellow	bronze	avocado	coral
primrose	pale	purple	lemon	canary	violet
pink	cerise	mauve	ruddy	mahogany	topaz
blue	amber	ebony	flushed	maroon	amethyst
crystalline	cyan	navy	wine	white	poppy
cobalt	burgundy	olive	fuchsia	turquoise	claret
drab	chartreuse	orchid	brilliant	clear	black
obsidian	transparent	khaki	opaque	translucent	lavender
glassy	jet	gay	rust	carmine	sapphire
dun	cordovan	indigo	milky	tan	grizzly
ocher	flesh	buff	brindle	umber	peach
mustard	ultramarine	snowy	chestnut	green	smoky
sepia	mint	brass	walnut	pearl	aqua
ruby	emerald	twinkling	bistre	sooty	shimmering
jade	plum	charcoal	maize	lake	iridescent
garnet	slate	spruce	puce	magenta	sable
pearly	aquamarine	ivory	henna	citrine	onyx
azure	cream	orange			

## SMELL

perfumed	lilac	earthy	stinking	fetid	loamy
lemon	scent	odor	fragrance	sweaty	sharp
rose	lime	rotten	biting	pungent	musty
plastic	acrid	flowery	fishy	mildewed	spicy
acid	moldy	doggy	nauseating	redolent	skunky
dirty	sweet	tart	minty	moist	putrid
sour	fresh	musty	spoiled		

## PATTERN AND SHAPE

round	parallel	narrow	reticulated	crested	wide
flat	spherical	globe	rounded	shallow	drooping
erect	dappled	rolling	orb	hemisphere	ball
shapely	checkered	adjacent	curved	pieced	concentric
triangle	sharp	short	depressed	swollen	long
concave	pyramid	cone	convex	streamlined	sunken
square	diagonal	contoured	protruding	banded	terrain
horizontal	rectangle	cube	vertical	aquiline	veined
cylinder	depth	disc	palmate	box	width
plate	pinnate	spiked	thread	height	arc
elliptical	length	worm-like	crowned	cupped	serpentine
girth	crescent	pentagon	breadth	sinuous	baggy
tight	winding	spotted	oval	hexagon	octagon
tetrahedral	solid	lanky	corkscrew	helix	curly
frail	polyhedron	trapezoid	thin	fat	crystalline
fanned	oval	pointed	plump	ovate	ellipsoidal