**Character Traits List 7**

1. **Acrimonious –** scathing, stinging, or bitter in nature, speech, or behavior.

The word *acrid* refers to a sharp or biting taste or smell; similarly, an acrimonious personality can be sharp or biting. An acrimonious person is not pleasant to be around. Thus, this word has quite a negative connotation (stronger than *peevish*, not as extreme as *profane*). Someone who is acrimonious isn’t just angry or rude; they convey things in a very bitter manner – their words are likely to be harsh and insulting in a way that can really cut you to the core and sting. This kind of person might be very perceptive and able to pick out just the right words to hurt your feelings.

*Examples:* *Jack from* Lord of the Flies*; Blair Waldorf from* Gossip Girl *(when she really wants to hurt someone’s feelings)*

1. **Sulky –** silent and aloof in a sullen or offended manner.

These individuals typically seem downtrodden and depressed; they’re unpleasant to be around because they drag the mood down, and it may seem that everything you say offends them. A sulky individual is likely going to be pessimistic and may be irritated by upbeat, positive individuals.

*Examples: Daria (the 90s MTV cartoon character); Eeyore from* Winnie the Pooh; *Moaning Myrtle from* Harry Potter*; Nwoye from* Things Fall Apart *(as a result of Okonkwo’s constant disparagement)*

1. **Vacuous –** lacking in ideas or intelligence; inane; stupid

This is *not* the person you want in your group project. A more general definition for vacuous is *empty*/*without contents* – in terms of a character trait, it refers to intelligence: a vacuous person’s head is empty. Clearly, the connotation here is negative, and this word is typically insulting (although the vacuous individual might not realize they are being insulted).

*Examples: Lenina Crowne (and most of the other citizens of the World State) from* Brave New World*; Sir Andrew from* Twelfth Night; *Karen from* Mean Girls

1. **Sagacious –** having or showing keen mental discernment, good judgment, and practical sense.

This word is highly positive in connotation. A sagacious person is wise and, therefore, a good person to go to for advice. This term implies great practical and worldly knowledge rather than extensive book learning (although a sagacious person could also be erudite). Sagacious individuals are well-respected by others. It is unlikely that a young person will be sagacious as they probably haven’t had much significant life experience.

*Examples: Tiresias from* The Odyssey*; The Oracle from* Things Fall Apart*; Mustapha Mond from* Brave New World; *Dr. Bailey and Dr. Weber from* Grey’s Anatomy

1. **Pensive –** often engaged in deep or serious thought

This person is very contemplative and is usually thinking deeply about things. Although generally positive in contemplation, *pensive* doesn’t carry the same complimentary implications as *sagacious* as it can beget either positive or negative effects.

*Examples: Victor Frankenstein and the Monster from* Frankenstein*; Simon from* Lord of the Flies; *Dan Humphrey from* Gossip Girl; *Tris from* Divergent

1. **Supercilious –** haughtily disdainful or contemptuous; behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others

This word is rather negative in connotation. A supercilious person thinks they’re superior to others and lets everyone else know. They probably think very few people are on their level, and they treat those who aren’t poorly.

*Examples: Okonkwo from* Things Fall Apart*; Jack from* Lord of the Flies*; Blair Waldorf from* Gossip Girl; *The Malfoy family from* Harry Potter

1. **Quarrelsome –** argumentative; contentious; inclined to hostility

This word is negative in connotation. These individuals are often short-tempered and are likely to react rashly and perhaps violently. They are quick to engage in disputes and do not avoid confrontation.

*Examples: Okonkwo from* Things Fall Apart*; Jack from* Lord of the Flies

1. **Taciturn –** inclined to silence; reserved in speech; reluctant to join in conversation.

Taciturn individuals don’t say much. This word is pretty straightforward in definition, but what varies from character to character is the reason behind their silence. Are they shy? Disinterested? Overwhelmed? Vacuous? A character might remain silent for any number of reasons. In terms of connotation, this word is neutral, neither indicating a weakness nor a strength in personality.

*Examples: Victor Frankenstein when it comes to telling others about his creation; Pollux from* The Hunger Games; *Neville Longbottom at the beginning of the* Harry Potter series; *the quiet girl from* Pitch Perfect

1. **Valorous –** boldness in facing great danger, especially in battle.

This word has a highly positive connotation. It implies great bravery, specifically in feats that are physical in nature. It would be unusual to use it to describe someone who displays emotional or mental courage (e.g. someone who isn’t afraid to tell others how they feel or take intellectual risks).

*Examples: Macbeth, at the beginning of the play; Okonkwo; Antonio from* Twelfth Night; *Neville Longbottom in the 5th, 6th, and 7th* Harry Potter *books; Katniss Everdeen from* The Hunger Games

1. **Tyrannical –** unjustly cruel, harsh, or severe; oppressive

This word is negative in connotation and implies extreme cruelty. Saying someone is *tyrannical* is far worse than saying they’re *mean*. One has to be in a position of power in order to be considered tyrannical. They use that position to subject people to harsh and unfair rules and punishment.

*Examples: Macbeth once he’s king; Jack by the end of* Lord of the Flies; *President Snow from* The Hunger Games; *Lord Voldemort from* Harry Potter; *Regina George from* Mean Girls