Activities on Mr. Bounderby

1) The words and phrases describing Mr. Bounderby are:

- Devoid of sentiments

- Mr. Bounderby was as near being Mr. Gradgrind's bosom friend

- He was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not.

- A big, loud man, with a stare, and a metallic laugh.

- A man made out of a coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him.

- A man with a great puffed head and forehead, swelled veins in his temples, and such a strained skin to his face that it seemed to hold his eyes open, and lift his eyebrows up.

- A man with a pervading appearance on him of being inflated like a balloon, and ready to start.

- A man who could never sufficiently vaunt himself a self-made man.

- A man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty.

- A man who was the Bully of humility.

- A year or two younger than his eminently practical friend, Mr. Bounderby looked older; his seven or eight and forty might have had the seven or eight added to it again, without surprising anybody.

- He had not much hair. One might have fancied he had talked it off; and that what was left, all standing up in disorder, was in that condition from being constantly blown about by his windy boastfulness.

2) The 4 phrases which explicitly convey the narrator’s opinion of Mr. Bounderby’s character are:

- A man with a pervading appearance on him of being inflated like a balloon, and ready to start.

Adjectives = exaggerate, magnify, overstate, overestimate

- A man who could never sufficiently vaunt himself a self-made man.

Adjectives: competent , self-reliant, audacious, able , confident , bold , resourceful , gifted

- A man who was the Bully of humility.

Adjectives: persecutor, oppressor, ruffian, tormentor, intimidator.

- And that what was left, all standing up in disorder, was in that condition from being constantly blown about by his wind boastfulness.

Adjectives: bragging, pretentious, bombastic, braggart, egotistic, proud , egotistical, arrogant , self-aggrandizing, boasting, conceited , big-headed (slang), vainglorious, show-off (slang), full of oneself (slang), cocky , puffed-up, full of hot air (slang), loudmouth (slang), strutting, swaggering, too big for one's boots (slang), overblown, pompous

3) Other items connected with the narrator’s comments: “he was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not”, “metallic laugh”, “made out of a coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him”, “a man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty.”

4) Bounder: an unprincipled man; an obtrusive, ill-bred man; a person or thing that bounds. The meaning of the surname is related to the idea of a morally reprehensible person, someone who behaves wickedly.

5) Mr. Bounderby is described as coming from a poor family, without education and self-made, but looking at the characterisation of the man, described as selfish, overblown and arrogant, these qualities became negative, since they could be the cause of such presumption.

6) The character’s statements match with the description provided by the narrator.

7) “How I fought through it, I don't know,” [...] “I was determined, I suppose. I have been a determined character in later life, and I suppose I was then. Here I am, Mrs. Gradgrind, anyhow, and nobody to thank for my being here, but myself”. It suites perfectly the description of an arrogant and egocentric person, enhances such aspects.

9) The dialogue underlines his confidence, his arrogance and egocentrism; indeed the conversation is totally focused on himself, he doesn’t ask anything to his friend, and his words present an exaggerated use of the pronouns “I”, “me”, “myself”, “my”...