

What impression do you get of Catilina from what Cicero says?

There is an overall picture of involvement in and encouragement of criminal acts, immoral acts and the promise of cancellation of debts; there is also a threat of murders in the city and an armed attack on Rome.

his own nature:

At very start referred to as:

pestem

hostem

friends:

Cicero talks of those who are like him as his associates or pupils.

list of types of disreputable men and some women who have all been his very close friends, and must be enemies of Rome too - even if they do not seem very dangerous as enemies of Rome.

all criminal and immoral activities, even murderers of parents, for several years have only involved his supporters. Debtors too. And he has encouraged them.

political, anti-Rome activities:

sica illa - for political assassinations presumably

latrocinium

ferro flammaque minitantem

occultis insidiis

people (unnamed!) "known" to be in charge of areas of Italy in the rebellion
weapons etc. + eagle ready to send out to supporters away from Rome - military
action likely

BUT:

his plans are not working in the short term:

non cruentum mucronem ... extulit

meeting at house of Laeca. a) plans failed b) plans discovered

other senators would not sit near him in meeting of the Senate.

he would also like us to have the idea that **Catilina is likely not to succeed in the long term.** "iacet nunc ... prostratus: ". His "army" not equal to the military and moral superiority of the state's forces

He is dangerous as can be seen from his plans and actions already, but, Cicero wants to convince his audience that he does not have any respectable people on his side who will support him successfully.

Catilina is depicted as a person who is evil in his nature and in his actions. He is a danger to Rome. Cicero also criticises his friends and his plans. He reckons that he is dangerous but that he is now clearly weakened.