

Tone and Mood

Definitions:

Tone - the writer's attitude toward the audience; a writer's tone can be serious, sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, objective, satirical, solemn, wicked, etc.

- Tone is the author's (not necessarily your narrator's) overall outlook or attitude toward the given audience. Ironic, matter-of-fact, bemused, outraged, curiously respectful, disdainful - how does he/she feel about the fragment of life displayed in the story? The curious thing about tone is that it may *change*, but it must never *waver*.

Mood - is the feeling a piece of literature arouses in the reader: happy, sad, peaceful, etc. Mood is the overall feeling of the piece, or passage. It could be called the author's emotional-intellectual attitude toward the subject

-By choosing certain words rather than others and by weaving their connotations together, an author can give whole settings and scenes a kind of personality, or mood. Note the difference if he/she describes a tall, thin tree as "erect like a steeple", "spiked like a witch's hat", "a leafy spear", or "rather inclining toward the slim". However, no single image can work alone; mood can only arise from a steady pressure in the language toward one major atmospheric effect. That effect should support the main purpose of the story."

Tone words

POSITIVE TONE WORDS			NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE TONE WORDS		
admiring	euphoric	passionate	commanding	abhorring	enraged	pathetic
adoring	excited	placid	direct	acerbic	evasive	patronizing
affectionate	exhilarated	playful	impartial	ambiguous	fatalistic	pedantic
appreciative	expectant	poignant	indirect	ambivalent	fearful	pensive
approving	facetious	proud	meditative	angry	forceful	pessimistic
bemused	fervent	reassuring	objective	annoyed	foreboding	pretentious
benevolent	flippant	reflective	questioning	antagonistic	frantic	psychotic
blithe	forthright	relaxed	speculative	anxious	frightened	resigned
calm	friendly	respectful	unambiguous	apathetic	frustrated	reticent
casual	funny	reverent	unconcerned	apprehensive	furious	sarcastic
celebratory	gleeful	romantic	understated	belligerent	gloomy	sardonic
cheerful	gushy	sanguine		bewildered	grave	scornful
comforting	happy	scholarly		biting	greedy	self-deprecating
comic	hilarious	self-assured		bitter	grim	selfish
compassionate	hopeful	sentimental		blunt	harsh	serious
complimentary	humorous	serene		bossy	haughty	severe
conciliatory	interested	silly		cold	holier-than-thou	sinister
confident	introspective	sprightly		conceited	hopeless	skeptical
contented	jovial	straightforward		condescending	hostile	sly
delightful	joyful	sympathetic		confused	impatient	solemn
earnest	laudatory	tender		contemptuous	incredulous	somber
ebullient	light	tranquil		curt	indifferent	stern
ecstatic	lively	whimsical		cynical	indignant	stolid
effusive	mirthful	wistful		demanding	inflammatory	stressful
elated	modest	worshipful		depressed	insecure	strident
empathetic	nostalgic	zealous		derisive	insolent	suspicious
encouraging	optimistic			derogatory	irreverent	tense
				desolate	lethargic	threatening
				despairing	melancholy	tragic
				desperate	mischievous	uncertain

				detached diabolic disappointed disliking disrespectful doubtful embarrassed	miserable mocking mournful nervous ominous outraged paranoid	uneasy unfriendly unsympathetic upset violent wry
NEGATIVE TONE WORDS						

Mood words

POSITIVE MOOD WORDS		NEGATIVE MOOD WORDS	
amused	liberating	aggravated	insidious
awed	light-hearted	annoyed	intimidated
bouncy	loving	anxious	irate
calm	mellow	apathetic	irritated
cheerful	nostalgic	apprehensive	jealous
chipper	optimistic	barren	lethargic
confident	passionate	brooding	lonely
contemplative	peaceful	cold	melancholic
content	playful	confining	merciless
determined	pleased	confused	moody
dignified	refreshed	cranky	morose
dreamy	rejuvenated	crushed	nauseated
ecstatic	relaxed	cynical	nervous
empowered	relieved	depressed	nightmarish
energetic	satiated	desolate	numb
enlightened	satisfied	disappointed	overwhelmed
enthralled	sentimental	discontented	painful
excited	silly	distressed	pensive
exhilarated	surprised	drained	pessimistic
flirty	sympathetic	dreary	predatory
giddy	thankful	embarrassed	rejected
grateful	thoughtful	enraged	restless
harmonious	touched	envious	scared
hopeful	trustful	exhausted	serious
hyper	vivacious	fatalistic	sick
idyllic	warm	foreboding	somber
joyous	welcoming	frustrated	stressed
jubilant		futile	suspenseful
		gloomy	tense
		grumpy	terrifying
		haunting	threatening
		heartbroken	uncomfortable
		hopeless	vengeful
		hostile	violent
		indifferent	worried
		infuriated	