

# Identifying Tone

*Tone* is the author's attitude toward the subject matter or toward the reader or audience. Words that could describe tone include *doubtful*, *humorous*, *sarcastic*, *serious*, and *outraged*. Tone is conveyed through the author's word choices and the details that he or she includes. A text may have more than one tone.

HINT: Keep in mind that in a work of fiction, tone is the author's attitude, and not necessarily the attitude of the story's narrator. Ask yourself, "How does the author feel about what he or she is writing about?"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tone Words

Tone is the author's attitude toward the subject matter or toward the reader or audience. There are *many* different words that you can use to describe an author's tone. Here are some to inspire you.



## POSITIVE TONE WORDS

admiring	happy
adoring	hopeful
affectionate	humorous
amused	interested
appreciative	jovial
approving	light
celebratory	lively
cheerful	modest
comforting	nostalgic
comic	optimistic
compassionate	passionate
complimentary	playful
confident	pleasant
contented	proud
earnest	reassuring
elated	respectful
empathetic	romantic
encouraging	sentimental
excited	silly
facetious	sympathetic
forthright	tender
friendly	whimsical
funny	wistful
gleeful	worshipful
gushing	zealous



## NEUTRAL TONE WORDS

ambiguous  
ambivalent  
casual  
commanding  
conversational  
detached  
direct  
indifferent  
introspective  
neutral  
pensive  
questioning  
reflective  
scholarly  
serious  
solemn  
straightforward  
speculative  
uncertain  
unconcerned



## NEGATIVE TONE WORDS

angry	furious
annoyed	gloomy
biting	grave
bitter	grim
blunt	harsh
cold	haughty
conceited	hostile
condescending	impatient
confused	melancholy
curt	mocking
cynical	mournful
depressed	offended
derogatory	ominous
despairing	outraged
desperate	pessimistic
disappointed	sarcastic
disliking	scornful
disrespectful	selfish
doubtful	skeptical
enraged	sly
fearful	somber
flippant	stern
forceful	suspicious
foreboding	uneasy
frustrated	worried