

Tone

The tone of a literary work refers to the **attitude** and **feelings** of the writer toward a subject and characters. Below is a list of possible terms you may use to describe the tone of any given text.

Positive		Neutral	Negative	
accepting	gleeful	apathetic	agitated	impatient
affectionate	hopeful	commanding	agony	indifferent
amused	humorous	direct	angry	insecure
admiring	innocent	impartial	annoyed	longing
adoring	introspective	indifferent	antagonistic	manipulative
affectionate	jovial	indirect	anxious	melancholic
agreeable	joyful	objective	apathetic	mischievous
appreciative	nostalgic	questioning	apprehensive	misery
approving	optimistic	speculative	belligerent	mocking
blissful	passionate	unambiguous	bitter	mournful
calm	peaceful	unconcerned	blunt	nervous
casual	playful	understated	cold	ominous
celebratory	pleased		conceited	outraged
comforting	proud		condescending	paranoid
comic	reassuring		confused	patronizing
compassionate	reflective		critical	pensive
complimentary	relaxed		cynical	pessimistic
confident	respectful		demanding	pretentious
contented	romantic		derogatory	psychotic
courageous	scholarly		despair	regret
delighted	self-assured		desperate	remorse
determined	sentimental		detached	sarcastic
ecstatic	serene		disappointed	scornful
elated	silly		discouraged	selfish
empathetic	straightforward		disgusted	serious
encouraging	sympathetic		disrespectful	sinister
excited	tranquil		doubtful	skeptical
exhilarated	witty		embarrassed	sly
friendly			enraged	snooty
			fearful	solemn
			frantic	sorrow
			frightened	stern
			frustrated	suspicious
			furious	tense
			grave	threatening
			greedy	uncertain
			grim	uneasy
			harsh	unfriendly
			hateful	unsympathetic
			holier-than-thou	upset
			hopeless	violent

| | hostile

yearning

Mood

The mood of a literary work refers to the **feeling** the reader experiences when reading the work. Below is a list of possible terms you may use to describe the mood of any given text.

Positive		Negative	
acceptance	light-hearted	aggravated	irritated
admiration	loving	annoyed	jealous
amused	mellow	anxious	lethargic
calm	majestic	apathetic	lonely
cheerful	mystical	apprehensive	melancholic
compassion	nostalgic	barren	merciless
confident	optimistic	brooding	moody
content	passionate	cold	mournful
determined	peaceful	confining	nauseated
dignified	playful	confused	nervous
dreamy	pleased	cranky	nightmarish
ecstatic	refreshed	crushed	numb
empowered	rejuvenated	depressed	overwhelmed
encouragement	relaxed	disappointed	painful
energetic	relieved	distressed	pensive
enlightened	romantic	disturbed	pessimistic
excited	satisfied	drained	rejected
exhilarated	sentimental	dreary	restless
fanciful	soothing	embarrassed	scared
giddy	surprised	enraged	serious
grateful	sympathetic	envious	shame
harmonious	thankful	exhausted	solemn
hopeful	thoughtful	foreboding	somber
hyper	tranquil	frustrated	sorrowful
idealistic	warm	gloomy	stressed
joyous	welcoming	grumpy	suspenseful
liberating		haunting	tense
		heartbroken	terrifying
		hopeless	threatening
		hostile	uncomfortable
		indifferent	vengeful
		infuriated	violent
		intimidated	worried