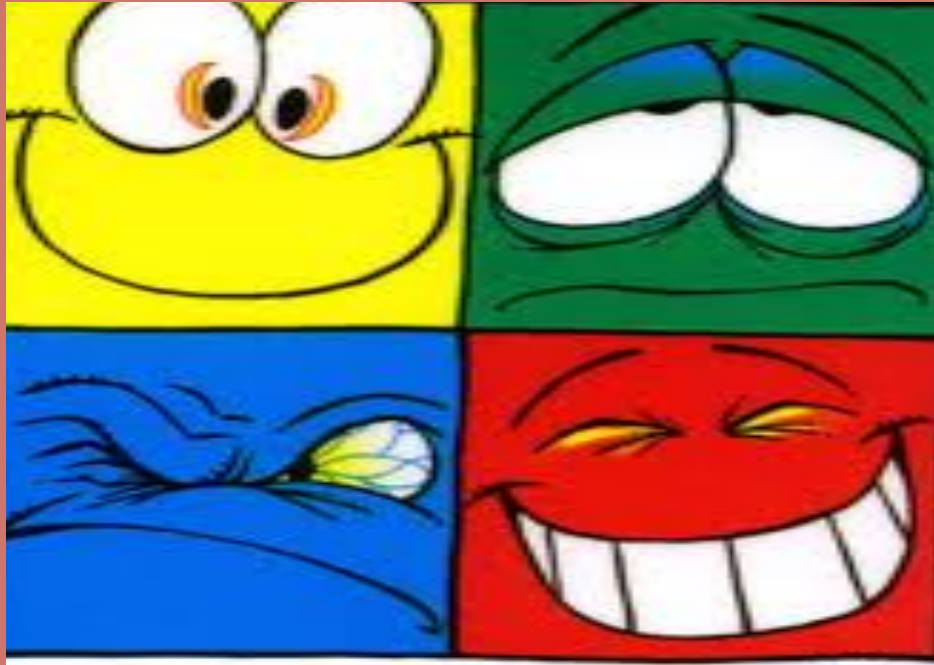


Tone and Mood



Tone

- Tone is the AUTHOR'S attitude towards the audience, the subject, or the character
- You can recognize the tone/attitude by the language/word choices the author uses. His language will reveal his perspective/opinion (that is, whether it is positive/negative) about the subject.



Written Tone

Verbal tone is easier to detect

Teacher → Student

Big Brother → Little Brother

Written Tone can be more difficult. When in doubt, readers must examine the context of the story itself.

Tone must be inferred through the use of descriptive words.




DESCRIBING TONE

- Adjectives are used to describe tone
- Have a healthy “tone vocabulary”
- Consider some words that describe tone.
 - **Sarcastic, sincere, embarrassed, proud or frightened**
- The key to choosing the correct tone is to carefully consider the author’s word choice.



tone

 In the short story “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry, two men attempt to kidnap a wealthy man’s son for a ransom. However, the boy is a troublemaker and they can’t wait to get rid of him. The boy’s father sends this note to the men in response to their ransom demand:




Gentlemen: I received your letter today by post, in regard to the ransom you ask for the return of my son. I think you are a little high in your demands, and I hereby make you a counter proposition, which I am inclined to believe you will accept. You bring Johnny home and pay me two hundred and fifty dollars in cash, I agree to take him off your hands. You had better come at night, for the neighbors believe he is lost, and I couldn't be responsible for what they would do to anyone they saw bringing him back.

Very respectfully,
EBENEZER DORSET



TONE

 Which adjectives best describe the tone of his note?

 Tone:

 Evidence:



The girls were playing in the pond, splashing each other and trying to catch fish with their hands. They were having fun, but kept looking over their shoulders at the looming forest. The long grass of the field kept moving and they sort of felt like they were being watched... About a half hour passed and still the girls kept checking the field for movements. It seemed like a pair of dark eyes was on them. They even considered going back inside, but that would mean homework time. So they continued splashing, but with caution now. Their eyes hardly left the field.

Tone:

Evidence:



Finally, one of the girls pointed to the grass and giggled. "Meow!" A cat sat on the edge of the field and licked its paw. They did indeed have company. The girls ran over to the cat and pet his belly. They laughed and the cat sauntered back to the field.

What is the tone of this paragraph?



TONE

So, let's *TONE* our brain muscles with descriptive vocabulary exercises!!

- Bitter
- Serious
- Witty
- Playful
- Tender
- Sympathetic
- Haunting
- Mysterious
- Suspenseful
- Tasteful/distasteful
- Nonchalant
- Angry
- Attached/Detached
- Innocent
- Poignant
- Compassionate
- Humorous
- Gory



Tone: “A Gift in His Shoes”

Donovan and Larry were early for baseball practice. They decided to run up and down the bleachers to exercise before the rest of the team arrived.

Larry was first to the top. He whispered to Donovan, “Look over there.” He pointed to a man sleeping on the highest, narrow bench of the bleachers. His pants and shirt were faded, worn, and too large for his thin frame. One big toe stuck out of a huge hole in his sock. His scraped-up shoes sat a few feet away.

Donovan whispered, “We should help him out. Let’s hide something good in his shoes. Then, when he wakes up, he will have a nice surprise.”



How would you describe the tone
[attitude] of this author?

- a. Angry
- b. Detached
- c. Sympathetic

Evidence:



Tone: Where Can They Stay?

About three million people have to look for a place to sleep at night. Some homeless people have jobs but do not earn nearly enough money for both food and shelter. Some become homeless because they have an unfortunate accident or lose their job. They do not have any back-up resources to make it through the hard times.

The homeless face terrible problems. Many become victims of violence. Serious health problems may begin because they are exposed to bad weather and unclean conditions. Homeless children may miss the chance to go to school. Worst of all, some cities pass laws that make it even harder on the homeless.



How would you describe the tone
[attitude] of this author?

- a. Disgruntled
- b. Nonchalant
- c. Serious

Evidence:



MOOD

- Mood is the overall atmosphere of a piece of literature
- The mood is created by the setting, the characters, and their actions



DESCRIBING MOOD

- Adjectives describe Mood
- Remember that you are NOT describing the way the person feels
- Like tone, mood words can be either positive or negative
- Examples: relaxed, cozy, romantic, gloomy, frightening, somber



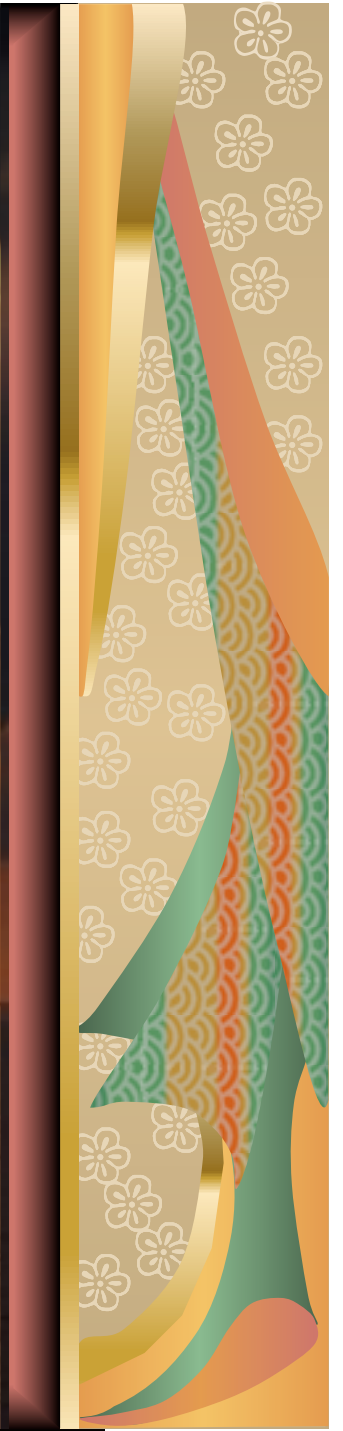
Mood

Identifying the mood of a piece of writing will depend on the number of descriptive words you know to answer the question: How did this paragraph, this passage, this story make the character or make you feel?



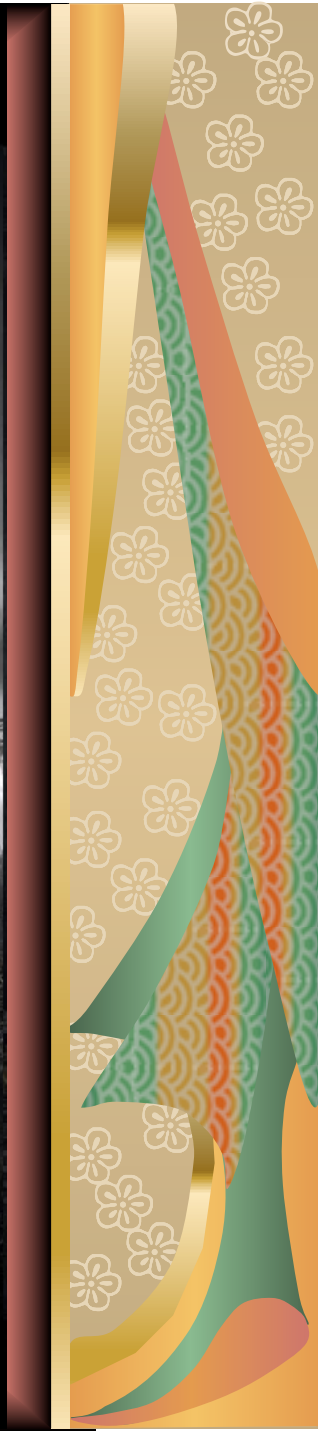
What is the mood of this picture?

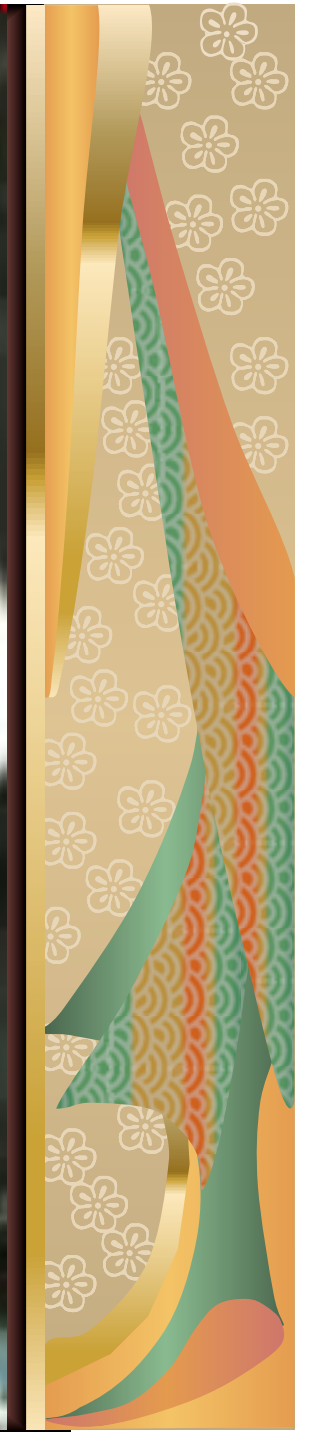






VIRUS - PLAN2





Mood: Example

During the holidays, my mother's house glittered with decorations and hummed with preparations. We ate cookies and drank cider while we helped her wrap bright packages and trim the tree. We felt warm and excited, listening to Christmas carols and even singing along sometimes. We would tease each other about our terrible voices and then sing even louder.

Mood:

Evidence:



Mood: Example

After New Year's the time came to put all the decorations away and settle in for the long, cold winter. The house seemed to sigh as we boxed up its finery. The tree was dry and brittle, and now waited forlornly by the side of the road to be picked up.

Mood:

Evidence:



Brain Muscle Work Out

 Cheerful

 Relieved

 Gloomy

 Bleak

 Uncertain

 Bittersweet

 Relaxed

 Lazy

 Hopeless

 Tense

 Furious

 Disappointed

 Idyllic

 Content

 Satisfied

 Angry

 Motivated

 Inspired

 Confident

 Eerie



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TONE AND MOOD

 **Tone = Person - Attitude**

 **Mood = Environment**

