***Tone and Mood***

[***https://mrsnetherysclass.weebly.com/mood-and-tone.html***](https://mrsnetherysclass.weebly.com/mood-and-tone.html)

The tone and mood can be the same or similar but also widely different. While Charles Dickens’s tone may be ironic, cynical, and clever in novels like Bleak House and Hard Times, the mood he creates for his readers is dreary and intriguing.

***Tone (Attitude of Author):***

Tone | (n.) The attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience.

If you’re reading an article where the author describes an [octopus](https://drawingsof.com/octopus-cartoon-story/) as “glistening, gorgeous, and perfect,” you can tell through the word choice that the author’s opinion towards the sea creature is deeply positive, meaning her tone could be described as “worshipful” or “adoring”. (That’s a funny way to feel about an octopus, but to each her own.)

**DID (clues to look for)**

**Diction:**The words that a writer chooses to use (i.e., [diction](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/diction)) play a huge part in determining the tone of a piece, in part because different words that mean the same thing can have different [connotations](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/connotation).

* + A writer might choose to use words like “furiously”, “fiery” or “rough” if they are showing a negative, angry tone.
  + Similarly, the difference between "a dull, insipid man" and "a peaceful, calm man" might show a different attitude to the subject. The first tone is negative and scornful and the second positive and appreciative.

**Imagery:**helps to establish tone using descriptions of physical things in the world of the story. These images will be associated with positive or negative things in our minds and can help us sense the author’ attitude through this.

* + *Dulce Et Decorum Est*, a war poem, has a lot of harsh images such as a man dying from chlorine gas and men so tired they are sleep walking. This tells us the author has a negative and critical attitude toward the war.
  + An author who describes sunshine, puppies and a picnic may be showing a positive or approving attitude towards the characters or events.

**Details:** Specific facts that are included or omitted

* *Alice in Wonderland* uses fantastical creatures and curious settings to create a positive and playful tone.
* *Dulce Et Decorum Est* does not include anything fun or lighthearted. This is because it has a critical and serious tone.

To determine tone, use DID. From these clues decide if the writing is **casual** or **formal**; **positive** or **negative**. Then decide on the attitude.

*Examples of Attitudes:*

1. Cheerful
2. Cynical
3. Assertive
4. Light-hearted
5. Regretful
6. Humorous
7. Pessimistic
8. Nostalgic
9. Melancholic
10. Facetious
11. Joyful
12. Sarcastic
13. Arrogant
14. Persuasive
15. Uneasy
16. Regretful
17. Reverent
18. Inspirational

*Decide the tone for the below examples. Use DIDS. Then decide if it informal or formal. Then is it positive or negative? Then what is the attitude of the writer towards the subject:*

* “His skin was like an advert for youth, peach-like, glowing, as if it had been force-fed vitamins in a greenhouse”.
* “The long rollers of the Channel, travelling from beyond Lizard Point, follow hard upon the steep seas at the river mouth, and mingling with the surge and wash of deep sea water comes the brown tide, swollen with the last rains and brackish from the mud, bearing upon its face dead twigs and straws, and strange forgotten things, leaves too early fallen, young birds, and the buds of flowers”.
* “I had two rooms, each a bare eight foot square. I paid extra for a rocky balcony but my landlord, Smaractus, allowed me a discount in the form of natural daylight through a hole in the roof (plus free access to water, whenever it rained)”.
* “In Moose County, four hundred miles north of everywhere, it always starts to snow in November, and it snows – and snows – and snows.

First, all the front steps disappear under two feet of snow. Then fences and shrubs are no longer visible. Utility poles keep getting shorter until the lines are low enough for limbo dancing”.

**Tone in Film**

**What Is Tone in Film?**

Film tone refers to a *filmmaker’s point of view* *about their film’s subject matter*. There can be a mixture of tones in a movie.

**Types of Tone**

Tone typically falls within one of three broad categories:

1. **Comedic**: The film maker is lighthearted toward the subject, and the overall intention is to make the audience laugh.
2. **Dramatic**: The film maker may be solemn or sincere about the subject or find it inspirational or even tragic.
3. **Suspenseful**: The film maker may be pessimistic, outraged or critical of the subject of a thriller or horror film.

**Examples of Tone in Film**

Different filmmakers often develop signature styles using tone, for example:

1. ***Get Out****:* In his movie *Get Out*, Jordan Peele uses lighting and contrasting colour palettes to create tension. At the beginning of the film, when Chris Washington (played by Daniel Kaluuya) arrives at his girlfriend’s parents’ house, the lighting is warm, bright, and inviting, lulling the audience into a false sense of security. As the film progresses and the threat of danger gets revealed, the lighting and colours become darker and more ominous.
2. ***Something’s Gotta Give****:* Nancy Meyers is known for her romantic comedies and frequently uses set design to create a pleasant, light-hearted comedic tone as a backdrop. *In Something’s Gotta Give*, Meyers gives Erica Berry (played by Diane Keaton) a bright, large, comfortable home in a pleasing cream-colored palette, helping flesh out the main character as someone who is self-sufficient and stable in her life before she falls in love.

**LEC (clues to look for)**

**Lighting and colour palette -** Lighting and colour are important elements in creating tone. Lots of dark shadows such as in film noir create drama, while lots of light, brightness and colour could create a comic mood.

**Editing -** use of quick cuts, slow-motion, appropriate **music**, and **sound effects** to shape the overall tone of the film.

**Camera angles** – use of close ups for drama or Dutch angle for suspense.

*What is the broad tone of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe? What specific attitude can you see in a selected section?*

***Mood (Audience’s Feelings from the Text):***

Mood | (n.) The overall feeling, or atmosphere, of a text.

**DIDS (clues to look for)**

**Diction:**The words that a writer chooses to use (i.e., [diction](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/diction)) play a huge part in determining the mood of a piece, in part because different words that mean the same thing can have different [connotations](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/connotation).

* + A writer might choose to use more antiquated diction like "thou art" instead of "you are" if they want to create a whimsical mood.
  + Similarly, the difference between "a dull, uneventful night" and "a peaceful, silent night" might contribute to the difference between a text with a gloomy or melancholic mood and a calm, reflective mood.

**Imagery:**helps to establish mood using descriptions of physical things in the world of the story. Not every image in a work will be indicative of the story's mood, but images that are repeated or described in detail usually *do* reflect the mood.

* + A poem that spends a lot of time describing babbling brooks, gentle rolling hills, and herds of sheep might have an idyllic mood.
  + A story that has a lot of roses, candlelight, and boxes of chocolates might be trying to establish a romantic mood.

**Details:** Specific facts that are included or omitted

* *Alice in Wonderland* uses fantastical creatures and curious settings to create a whimsical mood. Things like late waistcoated rabbits and hookah-smoking caterpillars are presented as if nothing is out of the ordinary, which helps to establish a dreamlike feeling.
* *Alice in Wonderland* does not include anything serious or thought provoking. This is because it has a lighthearted, humorous mood.

**Setting:**

* + If the setting is a "dark and stormy night", the story's mood is established almost entirely by the setting (in this case, the weather and the time of day), which makes for a gloomy and potentially even frightening atmosphere.
  + A story that takes place in a cotton candy kingdom, by contrast, is likely to have a whimsical, cheerful, or light-hearted mood.

*Decide the mood for the below examples. Use DIDS. Then decide what we are supposed to feel as an audience:*

* + Now I had suddenly a nearer view, and its first result was to make me throw my head back as if before a blow…I went carefully from post to post with my glass… These round knobs were not ornamental… they were expressive and puzzling, striking and disturbing - food for thought and also for vultures…They would have been even more impressive, those heads on the stakes, if their faces had not been turned to the house. Only one, the first I had made out, was facing my way.
  + I don't know if you know that sort of feeling you get on these days round about the end of April and the beginning of May, when the sky's a light blue, with cotton-wool clouds, and there's a bit of a breeze blowing from the west? Kind of uplifted feeling. Romantic, if you know what I mean. I'm not much of a ladies' man, but on this particular morning it seemed to me that what I really wanted was some charming girl to buzz up and ask me to save her from assassins or something. So that it was a bit of an anti-climax when I merely ran into young Bingo Little, looking perfectly foul in a crimson satin tie decorated with horseshoes.