

**tone** in fiction is the *attitude* of the narrator or viewpoint character toward story events and other characters. In a story with first-person POV, tone can also be the narrator's attitude toward the reader.

**MOOD** is what the *reader* feels while reading a scene or story. It's not the reader's emotions, but the *atmosphere* (the vibe) of a scene or story.

# Tone

How does the narrator react to sensory details? (Touch, sight, taste, sound, smells)

How does the narrator respond to events and revelations?

What is the narrator's general attitude?

What kinds of things does the narrator choose to focus on?

Tone can change throughout the story, but tends to stay consistent

# Examples of Tone

(From [theeditorsblog.net](http://theeditorsblog.net))

All-knowing

Anxious

Bold

Bossy

Close-minded

Clueless

Confident

Confrontational

Cruel

Curious

Desperate

Dismissive

Encouraging

Flirtatious

Foolish

Helpful

Hip

Hopeful

Humorous

Hypocritical

Indifferent

Know-it-all

Lighthearted

Laid-back

Loving

Maternal

Meek

Open

Overbearing

Passionate

Relaxed

Sarcastic

Sassy

Secretive

Sly

Smooth

Snide

Snotty

Stubborn

Suspicious

Uncouth

Upbeat

Urbane

Violent

Whiney

Wisecracking

# Mood

Mood frequently changes as events unfold. Mood becomes more intense as story reaches its climax.

Mood can also change with characters' viewpoints

# Examples of Mood (describes the atmosphere)

Alarming	Hopeful	Overwhelming
Brooding	Light	Serious
Comical	Melancholy	Threatening
Confining	Mellow	Uncomfortable
Cool	Ominous	Hostile
Dark	Oppressive	Thoughtful
Fantastical	Relaxed	Welcoming
Joyous	Restless	Peaceful
Fatalistic	Sentimental	Lonely
Haunting	Spooky	Nervous
Gloomy	Suspenseful	Tense
Nightmarish	Warm	Playful

# Analyzing Tone and Mood - Divergent movie trailer

Student group 1 - Tone

Watch for: characters' dialogue. What words seem significant? What TONE is this setting?

Student group 2 - Tone

Watch for: characters' movement. Fast? Slow? How is movement setting a TONE?

Student group 3 - Mood

Watch for: The music and sounds. How is music and sound setting a MOOD?

Student group 4 - Mood

Watch for: The setting. What colors are being used? Warm or cool? What MOOD is this setting?

Student group 5: Mood

Watch for: Characters' emotions via facial expressions, how they change, etc. How are these expressions setting a MOOD?