

# Tone and Mood

***You might think about the difference between mood and tone as follows: Mood as the attitude of the author toward the subject, and Tone as the attitude of the author toward the audience. Usually. Sometimes there is a fine line, and Tone can be an attitude toward the implied audience and subject both.***

**Tone** - the writer's attitude toward the audience; a writer's tone can be serious, sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, objective, satirical, solemn, wicked, etc.

- Tone is the author's (not necessarily your narrator's) overall outlook or attitude toward the given audience. Ironic, matter-of-fact, bemused, outraged, curiously respectful, disdainful - how does he/she feel about the fragment of life displayed in the story? The curious thing about tone is that it may *change*, but it must never *waver*.

**Mood** - is the feeling a piece of literature arouses in the reader: happy, sad, peaceful, etc. Mood is the overall feeling of the piece, or passage. It could be called the author's. emotional-intellectual attitude toward the subject

-By choosing certain words rather than others and by weaving their connotations together, an author can give whole settings and scenes a kind of personality, or mood. Note the difference if he/she describes a tall, thin tree as "erect like a steeple", "spiked like a witch's hat", "a leafy spear", or "rather inclining toward the slim". However, no single image can work alone; mood can only arise from a steady pressure in the language toward one major atmospheric effect. That effect should support the main purpose of the story."

These lists might help to distinguish between the two.

## Tone words

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### POSITIVE TONE WORDS

admiring	hilarious
adoring	hopeful
affectionate	humorous

### NEUTRAL (+, -, or neutral)

commanding
direct
impartial

### NEGATIVE TONE WORDS

abhorring	hostile
acerbic	impatient
ambiguous	incredulous

appreciative	interested	indirect	ambivalent	indifferent
approving	introspective	meditative	angry	indignant
bemused	jovial	objective	annoyed	inflammatory
benevolent	joyful	questioning	antagonistic	insecure
blithe	laudatory	speculative	anxious	insolent
calm	light	unambiguous	apathetic	irreverent
casual	lively	unconcerned	apprehensive	lethargic
celebratory	mirthful	understated	belligerent	melancholy
cheerful	modest		bewildered	mischievous
comforting	nostalgic		biting	miserable
comic	optimistic		bitter	mocking
compassionate	passionate		blunt	mournful
complimentary	placid		bossy	nervous
conciliatory	playful		cold	ominous
confident	poignant		conceited	outraged
contented	proud		condescending	paranoid
delightful	reassuring		confused	pathetic
earnest	reflective		contemptuous	patronizing
ebullient	relaxed		curt	pedantic
ecstatic	respectful		cynical	pensive
effusive	reverent		demanding	pessimistic
elated	romantic		depressed	pretentious
empathetic	sanguine		derisive	psychotic
encouraging	scholarly		derogatory	resigned
euphoric	self-assured		desolate	reticent
excited	sentimental		despairing	sarcastic
exhilarated	serene		desperate	sardonic
expectant	silly		detached	scornful
facetious	sprightly		diabolic	self-deprecating
fervent	straightforward		disappointed	selfish
flippant	sympathetic		disliking	serious
forthright	tender		disrespectful	severe
friendly	tranquil		doubtful	sinister
funny	whimsical		embarrassed	skeptical
gleeful	wistful		enraged	sly
gushy	worshipful		evasive	solemn
happy	zealous		fatalistic	somber
			fearful	stern
			forceful	stolid
			foreboding	stressful
			frantic	strident
			frightened	suspicious
			frustrated	tense
			furious	threatening
			gloomy	tragic
			grave	uncertain
			greedy	uneasy
			grim	unfriendly
			harsh	unsympathetic
			haughty	upset
			holier-than-thou	violent
			hopeless	wry

# Mood words

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## POSITIVE MOOD WORDS

amused	jubilant
awed	liberating
bouncy	light-hearted
calm	loving
cheerful	mellow
chipper	nostalgic
confident	optimistic
contemplative	passionate
content	peaceful
determined	playful
dignified	pleased
dreamy	refreshed
ecstatic	rejuvenated
empowered	relaxed
energetic	relieved
enlightened	satiated
enthralled	satisfied
excited	sentimental
exhilarated	silly
flirty	surprised
giddy	sympathetic
grateful	thankful
harmonious	thoughtful
hopeful	touched
hyper	trustful
idyllic	vivacious
joyous	warm
	welcoming

## NEGATIVE MOOD WORDS

aggravated	insidious
annoyed	intimidated
anxious	irate
apathetic	irritated
apprehensive	jealous
barren	lethargic
brooding	lonely
cold	melancholic
confining	merciless
confused	moody
cranky	morose
crushed	nauseated
cynical	nervous
depressed	nightmarish
desolate	numb
disappointed	overwhelmed
discontented	painful
distressed	pensive
drained	pessimistic
dreary	predatory
embarrassed	rejected
enraged	restless
envious	scared
exhausted	serious
fatalistic	sick
foreboding	somber
frustrated	stressed
futile	suspenseful
gloomy	tense
grumpy	terrifying
haunting	threatening
heartbroken	uncomfortable
hopeless	vengeful
hostile	violent
indifferent	worried
infuriated	