

Mood & Tone Activity

TONE and MOOD are two different concepts in literature and in life. Take a look at the following

"Ben surveyed the classroom of dolts, congratulating himself for snatching the highest test grade, the smug smirk on his face growing brighter and brighter as he confirmed the inferiority of his peers."

The character Ben's MOOD is: gleeful superiority

The author's TONE is: exaggerated, somewhat cynical

• **TONE describes *the author's attitude toward his/her subject*. The attitude may be **stated** in so many words **or implied**. **Diction is a key to tone** and can be a real challenge to convey in literature. Ask yourself this: If a poem was set to music, what sort of music would it have? For instance a poem about losing a friend would probably have sad, emotional music because it would fit its tone. On the other hand a poem about a beautiful morning would have more energetic music to fit its positive tone.**

Possible Mood Words:

Affectionate, aggravated, aloof, amused, angry, apathetic, appreciative, approving, arrogant, bitter, calm, celebratory, condescending, contemplative, courageous, critical, cynical, dark, dejected, depressed, desperate, despondent, didactic, disappointed, disapproving, disgusted, disinterested, distant, droll, earnest, ecstatic, emphatic, empowering, encouraging, enthusiastic, excited, facetious, fearful, fearless, formal, grave, happy, haughty, heroic, hurt, impetuous, influential, informal, inspiring, intense, ironic, joyful, lackadaisical, languid, light-hearted, melancholy, melodramatic, nervous, neutral, nonchalant, optimistic, paranoid, passive, patronizing, pessimistic, plaintive, playful, pleading, pressured, proud, romantic, sad, sarcastic, scared, scornful, serious, sincere, somber, soothing, strained, superficial, suspicious, sympathetic, uninterested, unprepared, urgent, vulnerable, whimsical, wistful, wry

Possible Tone Words:

Alarming, Calm, Cheerful, Chilling, Courageous, Comical, Dangerous, Dark, Depressing, Dismal, Disturbing, Eerie, Empowering, Fanciful, Foreboding, Funny, Gloomy, Grim, Grotesque, Heart-breaking, Heartrending, Heroic, Holy, Hopeful, Horrific, Inspiring, Intense, Joyful, Light, Lighthearted, Melancholic, Morbid, Mournful, Mysterious, Ominous, Optimistic, Pessimistic, Powerful, Romantic, Sad, Sinister, Soothing, Sorrowful, Spiritual, Spooky, Strained, Terrifying, Threatening, Tranquil, Vulnerability, Whimsical

Mood and Tone in the movies is achieved by using techniques such asspecial lighting, music, sound effects as well as diction and the actor's tone.

Wing Clip Activity Directions: Today your job is to watch the following film clips.

Jaws (2 min) <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/jaws/a-bigger-boat>

Backdraft (2.5 min) <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/backdraft/save-my-baby>

Defiance (3 min) <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/defiance/nothing-is-impossible>

Fireproof (3 min) <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/fireproof/train-rescue>

Watch the videos and fill in the following charts. In the first column, choose 1-3 words from the word banks that **describe the scene**. In the second column cite the technique(s) that were used to create that Mood. Finally in the last column answer what you think the director's intended tone was for that particular scene and if you feel like it came across to the viewer.

Movie Title	Words to describe the MOOD of the scene	Techniques used to create the MOOD of the scene	Director's Intended TONE for the Scene and did it convey to the viewer
Jaws (2 min)			
Backdraft (2.5 min)			
Defiance (3 min)			
Fireproof (3 min)			

Using Movie Trailers to Identify Tone and Mood Through Pictures And Music Activity

Next you will view two different movie trailers for a very famous and popular movie. The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate how mood and tone can change depending upon the creator's choice. As you view this movie trailer you will choose 1-3 words that convey Mood of the trailer and 1-3 words that convey the Tone of the Creator's choice.

Movie Title	Mood of the trailer (Please also include some notes on the techniques used to create that mood)	Tone of the Creator's trailer choice (Please also include some notes on the techniques used to create that tone)
Disney Version of Mary Poppins http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuWf9fP-A-U		
Scary Mary Version http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5_0AGdFic		

In a **three point written response** (restate/ answer/elaborate) please answer the following question:

Which version of the Mary Poppins trailer did you enjoy more?

Mood & Tone Activity KEY

Movie Title	Words to describe the MOOD of the scene	Techniques used to create the MOOD of the scene	Director's Intended TONE for the Scene and did it convey to the viewer
Jaws (2 min)	Nervous, Strained, Vulnerable	MUSIC! Duh duh...duh duh...	Chilling, Threatening Yes! (*Student answers will vary)
Backdraft (2.5 min)	Anxious, fearful	Situation/plot content, effects of the fire, diction of the firefighters and the scared mother	Courageous, Dangerous Yes (*Student answers will vary)
Defiance (3 min)	Dangerous, Anxious, Urgent, Somber	Ominous/grim music, arguing of the people, facial expressions	Alarming, Grim, Courageous at the end Yes (*Student answers will vary)
Fireproof (3 min)	Very Urgent, Anxious/Nervous, Sympathetic, Alert	Plot events and actions, sounds of train, urgency of the actors (actor's tone)	Alarming, Foreboding, Heroic Yes (*Student answers will vary)

Using Movie Trailers to Identify Tone and Mood Through Pictures And Music Activity

Movie Title	Mood of the trailer (Please also include some notes on the techniques used to create that mood)	Tone of the Creator's trailer choice (Please also include some notes on the techniques used to create that tone)

Disney Version of Mary Poppins	Enthusiastic, Excited, Happy, Joyful, Playful (Happy/upbeat music, bright colors, smiling faces throughout scenes)	Cheerful, Lighthearted (Happy people/actors doing mostly happy things with lighthearted music)
Scary Mary Version	Fearful, Serious, Vulnerable (dark lighting, scary music!, fast/rapid camera shots and sound effects)	Chilling, Intense, Serious, Disturbing, Mysterious, Terrifying, Sinister (subtitles--diction, sounds, effects, actions of actors)

In a three point written response (restate/ answer/elaborate) please answer the following question:

Which version of the Mary Poppins trailer did you enjoy more?

***Answers will vary**

(Most students will choose the Scary Mary version because it is “interesting, intriguing, disturbing, more exciting, scary, etc. It made them feel stronger emotions, etc.)