

#8 TONE IN NIGHT CH. 1

*The writer's attitude (emotion) toward his/her subject
(sometimes audience)*

Tone vs. Mood

- Tone helps to establish the mood
 - Mood is the atmosphere of the text
 - Mood is the audience's feelings that are aroused by the piece
 - Tone determines writer's diction, syntax, and use of language
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But how do we fully grasp the writer's tone?



- Tone is deciphered through:
 - Figurative Language
 - Diction
 - Syntax
 - Denotative/Connotative language
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Diction: Word Choice

- **Formal:** Dignified, impersonal, and elevated use of language; it follows the rules of syntax exactly and is often characterized by complex words and lofty tone
 - **Examples:** superb, excellent, wonderful, exceptional
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Informal: Represents the plain language of everyday use (slang), and often includes idiomatic expressions, slang, contractions, and many simple, common words

Examples: sweet, tight, sick, cool, hot

Diction impacts your intention

- Depending on the message you want to convey, you should consider whether formal or informal diction will fit best.

“The meek shall inherit my wrath.”

VS.

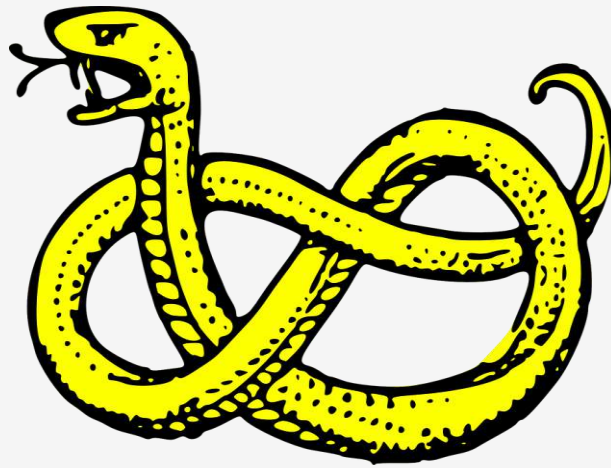
“I’m about to beat you down little man.”

- One is more intimidating, or evil sounding, than the other.
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Denotation and Connotation

- **Denotation** is the literal meaning of a word.
- No emotions, values, or images associated with denotative meanings.

Snake: any numerous scaly, legless, sometimes venomous reptiles having a long, tapering, cylindrical body



Connotation involves emotions, values, or images associated with a word. The intensity of emotions or the power of the values and images associated with a word varies.

Snake: Evil, untrustworthy. Perhaps an omen of bad things to come or sign of temptation.

Identifying Tone

The Odyssey, Homer

"I shall throw you on a black ship
and send you to the mainland, To
King Echetos, destroyer of all mortal
men, Who will cut off your nostrils
and ears with a sharp bronze sword;
He will tear off your private parts
and give them to the dogs to eat
raw."

THREATENING--In this excerpt, one of Homer's characters makes dire threats against another. The key to classifying a tone as "threatening" is the possibility or promise of negative action against the subject. Our particular subject has achieved quite a severe set of consequences for himself, making it clear that the speaker's tone toward the subject is "threatening."

Identifying Tone (1)

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

“Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus’s stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mt. Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the real thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the oracle, which warns of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.”

- a) bitter
- b) condescending
- c) sympathetic
- d) adventurous

ADVENTUROUS-- The tone for this passage is adventurous because the way Riordan has listed the requirements after the colon makes you read faster and want to see where he is going to take you. It is an enticing piece that leaves the reader wanting more.

Identifying Tone (2)

The Final Storm by Wayne

Batson

“The mountains were dizzying in their immense grandeur, and somewhere in the back of Robby’s heart he wondered what it might be like to find some winding path and attempt to scale them.”

ENRAPTURED--Batson portrays the awe-struck feeling that has captivated Robby’s heart. Based on the diction, the passage appears to have a lofty voice that holds the mountains in a place of reverence.



STONE IN NIGHT

CHAPTER 1

In Chapter 1, significant events happen to Elie Wiesel and the other Jews of Sighet. As you read and we come upon important events, pay attention to the language used by the narrator or speaker in the reactions to developments.

Discuss the TONE of the passage.





TONE IN *NIGHT*

CHAPTER 1

Draw a 3 column chart like the one below. You will include key events in the Event column. Under Textual Evidence, cite textual evidence of Wiesel and the other Sighet Jews' response. In the third column, identify a tone and explain why.

Event	Textual Evidence	Tone



TONE IN *NIGHT*

CHAPTER 1

Draw a 3 column chart like the one below. You will include key events in the Event column. Under Textual Evidence, cite textual evidence of how Wiesel and the other Sighet Jews respond. In the third column, write identify a tone and explain why.

Event	Textual Evidence	Tone
1. Eliezer confides in Moshe that he cannot find a Kabbalah mentor.		



-tone in *NIGHT*

CHAPTER 1

Include the key events in the Event column. Under Textual Evidence, identify how Wiesel and/or the other Sighet Jews respond. In the third column, write identify a tone and explain why.

Event	Textual Evidence	Tone
1. Eliezer confides in Moishe that he cannot find a Kabbalah mentor.	Moishe guides Eliezer “not to learn it by heart but to discover within the very essence of divinity” (5).	REVERENT/DEVOUT – Eliezer shows great respect for Moishe as a spiritual mentor, who leads him to find true understanding and faith.



TONE IN *NIGHT*

CHAPTER 1

List the key events in the Event column. Under Textual Evidence, cite textual evidence of how Wiesel and the other Sighet Jews respond. In the third column, write identify a tone and explain why.

Event	Textual Evidence	Tone
2. Moïshe the Beadle is deported because he is a foreign Jew.	The crowds cried; one sighed and pronounced, "What can we expect, it's war" and then "the deportees were quickly forgotten" (6).	RESIGNED – The crowds were upset, but they ultimately accepted the deportations and quickly moved on, as it did not affect them directly...yet.

Event	Textual Evidence	Tone Explanation
3. Moishe tries to warn Sighet about the deportations.		
4. Eliezer watches as most of Sighet is deported.		
5. Eliezer and his family are relocated to a ghetto.		