

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Literary Analysis: Author's Voice

Practice

The writer's **voice** is the way the writer "sounds." It is the personality the writer expresses in his or her words. A writer's voice can have qualities such as the following:

- **smooth:** The employees at the library appreciate the special effort volunteers make. That is why they are offering volunteers free snacks on Wednesdays and Saturdays. You know something? They just made volunteering a little easier.
- **blunt or direct:** The community wanted a new high school gym, but they voted against paying extra taxes to build it. I say, quit complaining. Face the facts—you get what you pay for.

Writers create voice by choosing words and including details of the right type. They also create voice through the length and kind of sentences they write.

A

For each paragraph, circle the letter of the phrase that best describes the writer's voice.

1. Let me say it in plain English. The mayor's idea is ridiculous. He calls it a great plan. Sure—a great plan to make the mayor rich!

A. blunt and sarcastic

B. sad and thoughtful
2. The longer we wait to solve the problem of global warming, the greater the problem will become in the future. We need to face this problem now, not for our own sake, but for the sake of our children.

A. serious and formal

B. friendly and informal

B

Read the following paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

When my man takes a solo on his sax, look out! The notes pour out of his horn in a joyful jumble. He is so hot, he sizzles!

1. List two words or phrases that give the writer's voice a casual or informal quality.
2. List two words or phrases that give the writer's voice an energetic quality.
3. The first sentence ends in an exclamation, "look out!" What quality does this sentence ending add to the writer's voice?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Literary Analysis: Author's Voice

Assess

A For each selection, circle the letter of the phrase that best describes the author's voice.

1. I turned for one last look at the house where I had grown up. I remembered skipping up the front steps when I was happy. I remembered stomping on them when I was mad. Angry, sad, happy, glad—I had climbed those steps every day of my childhood. I would never set foot on them again.

- A. blunt and sarcastic B. sad and thoughtful

2. Okay, so you are about to bake your first apple pie. You're worried that it will be a disaster, and you stayed up late reading the recipe. You now have dark circles under your eyes, and all your friends are worried about you. Relax! I remember my first pie. I worried and worried, and it *still* turned out terrible. The *fourth* apple pie I baked, though, was perfect!

- A. serious and formal B. friendly and informal

B Read the following paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

Rain drummed on the car. I watched the drops of water as they drizzled down the windows. They made lines that looked like a map—a crazy map of roads that led nowhere. I could still see my brother's yellow raincoat where he waited on the train platform. Soon, the train would come and take him away to college. We would wait there in the car until he boarded. The train took him away into the rain and the fog and the dark. It made me sad, so I tried not to think about it. Instead, I watched the rain fall.

1. List two phrases that give the author's voice a poetic quality. _____

2. List three details that create a sad feeling in the paragraph. _____

3. By saying just a little about his or her own feelings, does the writer create a chatty, friendly voice or a quiet, thoughtful one? Explain.
