

Name:	Date:
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Literary Analysis: Tone

Practice

The **tone** of a literary work is the writer's attitude toward his or her subject and characters. The tone can often be described by a single adjective, such as *formal*, *playful*, or *respectful*. Factors that contribute to the tone include word choice, details, sentence structure, and sentence length.

Tone	Example
Informative:	Eva wore a long blue taffeta dress.
Admiring:	Eva looked so beautiful! Her blue taffeta dress set off her eyes.

A Write the word that best describes the tone of each sentence. Then, underline the words or phrases that contribute to the tone.

Informative	annoyed	appreciative	dreamy
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- _____ Ahhh! Fresh air, a roaring campfire. Does it get any better?
- _____ We arranged our tents in a semicircle around the fire pit.
- _____ The crackling fire and the gently rippling stream lulled us to sleep.
- _____ Ugh! This insect repellent is useless! I'm covered with mosquito bites.

B Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Did you see all those people out there? I can't walk out on that stage with all those people staring at me. What am I going to do? I can't do this. I can't! How can you be so calm? What's the matter with you? There must be at least 300 people out there! I—I can't breathe! I think I'm going to faint!

- What is the tone of the passage?_____
- Underline four words or phrases that convey this tone.

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Assess

A Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. The tone of a literary work is
 - A. the reader's attitude toward the subject and characters.
 - B. the attitude of the characters toward one another.
 - C. the writer's attitude toward the subject and characters.
2. Which tone would best describe a tale about the best April Fool's prank ever played?
 - A. a serious, formal tone
 - B. a sad, frustrated tone
 - C. an amusing, lighthearted tone
 - D. a serious, angry tone

B For each item, write the letter of the word from the following list that most closely describes the tone.

- A. informative B. aggressive C. angry

1. ____ I can't believe he missed that shot! He's a disgrace to the team.
2. ____ Reese snatched the ball, dribbled it wildly down the court, and smashed it through the hoop.
3. ____ It was the fourth quarter, with three minutes left on the clock.

C Write one or two words to describe the tone of each sentence.

1. _____ A fierce wind rattled the windows and snapped limbs from the trees
2. _____ Awesome! Did you see that? That tree just split right down the middle!
3. _____ Sound asleep in her room, Margaret was unaware of anything but her sweet, magical dreams.