

Boost Free Lessons - Year 8 English

Lesson 9: Mood and Tone

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Identify the mood created in the passage below.

Rain crawled down the glass. Somewhere below, a door closed, and then the building held its breath.

1. **Mood** is the atmosphere the reader feels. **Tone** is the writer's attitude.
2. Look at word choice first: *crawled*, *somewhere below*, *held its breath*.
3. Each suggests slowness, uncertainty and waiting rather than action.
4. The personification of the building creates a sense that something is about to happen.

A tense, uneasy mood of waiting, created through slow verbs and personification.

Worked Example 2

Identify the tone of the passage below.

Naturally, the timetable was changed again. Of course nobody was told. It would hardly do to warn anyone in advance.

1. Tone is the writer's attitude towards the subject, heard in the way they say it.
2. *Naturally* and *Of course* pretend the failures are expected and unremarkable.
3. *It would hardly do* says the opposite of what the writer means.
4. Saying the opposite of what you mean for effect is **irony**, and here it creates a sarcastic tone.

A sarcastic, ironic tone. The writer says the failures are normal in order to criticise them.

Remember: **Mood** is what the reader feels. **Tone** is the writer's attitude. Both come from word choice, imagery and sentence rhythm, and a text can have a sad mood but a warm tone.



Question 1: Name the mood created by each sentence.

1. The kitchen smelled of bread and someone was singing badly upstairs.

2. The corridor stretched on, and every door was the same as the last.

3. Frost had sealed the windows and nothing moved in the yard.

4. Streamers hung crooked, and somebody had already knocked over a chair laughing.

5. She read the letter twice, then folded it very carefully and put it away.

6. The engine caught first go and the road ahead was empty for miles.

7. Dust turned slowly in the one bar of light.

8. Nobody had cleared the plates, and the candles had burned down to nothing.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

Half the shops on the main street are shuttered now. The bakery sign is still there, peeling above a doorway nobody opens, and the faded letters on the hall still promise a brass band on Saturdays. The town is not gone. It is waiting, which is harder.

1. What mood does the passage create?

2. Find two words that contribute to that mood.

3. What is the writer's tone towards the town?

4. Explain the difference between the mood and the tone here.

5. Rewrite the first sentence to create a hopeful mood instead.



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write two sentences creating a threatening mood.

2. Write two sentences creating a peaceful mood about the same place.

3. Explain the difference between mood and tone in your own words.

4. How can a writer create an ironic tone?





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Answers and Model Responses: Mood and Tone**Question 1**

1. Warm and homely
2. Monotonous and disorienting
3. Cold and lifeless
4. Chaotic and celebratory
5. Restrained and tense
6. Optimistic and free
7. Still and abandoned
8. Melancholy and neglected

Question 2

1. A mood of decline and quiet abandonment.
2. Any two of: **shuttered, peeling, faded, waiting.**
3. Affectionate but sad. The writer clearly cares about the town while acknowledging its decline.
4. The mood is what the reader feels, which is melancholy. The tone is the writer's attitude, which is fond rather than dismissive, shown by details like the remembered brass band.
5. Model: The main street had been repainted over the summer, and two new awnings caught the morning light.

Question 3

1. Model response: The gate had been left open, and the path beyond it disappeared into long grass. Something moved there, once, and then did not move again.
2. Model response: The gate stood open, and the path beyond it wound through long grass still wet from the morning. Bees worked the clover without hurrying.
3. Mood is the atmosphere the reader feels while reading. Tone is the writer's own attitude towards what they are describing. A sad scene can be described in an affectionate tone.
4. By saying the opposite of what they mean, or by using words such as *naturally* and *of course* to present something unreasonable as though it were expected.

