



Mood and Tone

Mood is the feeling or atmosphere of a written work. Writers create mood through setting, dialogue, characters, etc. in order to make readers feel a certain way. The mood of a story can be comic, lighthearted, suspenseful, dark, etc.

Tone is the attitude that a writer takes towards what they are writing. It is expressed through word choice. Tone gives you information that is beyond just the meaning of the words. Tone can be business-oriented, sarcastic, bitter, playful, etc.

DIRECTIONS: Use context clues to identify the tone and the mood of each passage.

1. Tim lay in bed. The darkness was so dense and heavy that he felt he could barely breathe. The streetlight outside, which normally cast a bar of light onto the wall was out. It was as if everything in the world had suddenly disappeared but him.

TONE: _____ MOOD: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: _____

2. The tiny black kitten was a pitiful little creature. Curled in Mary's mother's hand, its fur damp and messy, it looked like a smudge. Mary touched it, every so lightly, with the tip of her finger. "Can we keep it?" she asked her mother.

TONE: _____ MOOD: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: _____