

**Important Terms:**

**Tone** in literature tells us how the author thinks about his or her subject. The author's style conveys the tone in literature. Tone is the author's attitude toward story and readers. **Mood** is the effect of the writer's words on the reader. Mood is how the writer's words make us feel.

Tone Words:

Mood Words:

Adapted from:

<http://www.mrsperkins.com/files/stanley.doc>

# tone = speaker's attitude

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## POSITIVE TONE WORDS

admiring	hilarious
adoring	hopeful
affectionate	humorous
appreciative	interested
approving	introspective
bemused	joyful
benevolent	joyful
blithe	laudatory
calm	light
casual	lively
celebratory	mirthful
cheerful	modest
comforting	nostalgic
comic	optimistic
compassionate	passionate
complimentary	placid
conciliatory	playful
confident	poignant
contented	proud
delightful	reassuring
earnest	reflective
ebullient	relaxed
ecstatic	respectful
effusive	reverent
elated	romantic
empathetic	sanguine
encouraging	scholarly
euphoric	self-assured
excited	sentimental
exhilarated	serene
expectant	silly
facetious	sprightly
fervent	straightforward
flippant	sympathetic
forthright	tender
friendly	tranquil
funny	whimsical
gleeful	wistful
gushy	worshipful
happy	zealous

## NEUTRAL

(+, -, or neutral)

commanding  
direct  
impartial  
indirect  
meditative  
objective  
questioning  
speculative  
unambiguous  
unconcerned  
understated

## NEGATIVE TONE WORDS

abhorring	hostile
acerbic	impatient
ambiguous	incredulous
ambivalent	indifferent
angry	indignant
annoyed	inflammatory
antagonistic	insecure
anxious	insolent
apathetic	irreverent
apprehensive	lethargic
belligerent	melancholy
bewildered	mischievous
biting	miserable
bitter	mocking
blunt	mournful
bossy	nervous
cold	ominous
conceited	outraged
condescending	paranoid
confused	pathetic
contemptuous	patronizing
curt	pedantic
cynical	pensive
demanding	pessimistic
depressed	pretentious
derisive	psychotic
derogatory	resigned
desolate	reticent
despairing	sarcastic
desperate	sardonic
detached	scornful
diabolic	self-deprecating
disappointed	selfish
disliking	serious
disrespectful	severe
doubtful	sinister
embarrassed	skeptical
enraged	sly
evasive	solemn
fatalistic	somber
fearful	stern
forceful	stolid
foreboding	stressful
frantic	strident
frightened	suspicious
frustrated	tense
furious	threatening
gloomy	tragic
grave	uncertain
greedy	uneasy
grim	unfriendly
harsh	unsympathetic
haughty	upset
holier-than-thou	violent
hopeless	wry

# mood = emotional effect that the text creates for the audience

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## POSITIVE MOOD WORDS

amused	jubilant
awed	liberating
bouncy	light-hearted
calm	loving
cheerful	mellow
chipper	nostalgic
confident	optimistic
contemplative	passionate
content	peaceful
determined	playful
dignified	pleased
dreamy	refreshed
ecstatic	rejuvenated
empowered	relaxed
energetic	relieved
enlightened	satiated
enthralled	satisfied
excited	sentimental
exhilarated	silly
flirty	surprised
giddy	sympathetic
grateful	thankful
harmonious	thoughtful
hopeful	touched
hyper	trustful
idyllic	vivacious
joyous	warm
	welcoming

## NEGATIVE MOOD WORDS

aggravated	insidious
annoyed	intimidated
anxious	irate
apathetic	irritated
apprehensive	jealous
barren	lethargic
brooding	lonely
cold	melancholic
confining	merciless
confused	moody
cranky	morose
crushed	nauseated
cynical	nervous
depressed	nightmarish
desolate	numb
disappointed	overwhelmed
discontented	painful
distressed	pensive
drained	pessimistic
dreary	predatory
embarrassed	rejected
enraged	restless
envious	scared
exhausted	serious
fatalistic	sick
foreboding	somber
frustrated	stressed
futile	suspenseful
gloomy	tense
grumpy	terrifying
haunting	threatening
heartbroken	uncomfortable
hopeless	vengeful
hostile	violent
indifferent	worried
infuriated	