

Tone and Mood

You might think about the difference between mood and tone as follows: Mood as the attitude of the author toward the subject, and Tone as the attitude of the author toward the audience. Usually. Sometimes there is a fine line, and Tone can be an attitude toward the implied audience and subject both.

Tone - the writer's attitude toward the audience; a writer's tone can be serious, sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, objective, satirical, solemn, wicked, etc.

- Tone is the author's (not necessarily your narrator's) overall outlook or attitude toward the given audience. Ironic, matter-of-fact, bemused, outraged, curiously respectful, disdainful - how does he/she feel about the fragment of life displayed in the story? The curious thing about tone is that it may change, but it must never waver.

Mood - is the feeling a piece of literature arouses in the reader: happy, sad, peaceful, etc. Mood is the overall feeling of the piece, or passage. It could be called the author's. emotional-intellectual attitude toward the subject

- By choosing certain words rather than others and by weaving their connotations together, an author can give whole settings and scenes a kind of personality, or mood. Note the difference if he/she describes a tall, thin tree as "erect like a steeple", "spiked like a witch's hat", "a leafy spear", or "rather inclining toward the slim". However, no single image can work alone; mood can only arise from a steady pressure in the language toward one major atmospheric effect. That effect should support the main purpose of the story."

These lists might help to distinguish between the two.

Tone words

POSITIVE TONE WORDS

admiring
adoring
affectionate

hilarious
hopeful
humorous

NEUTRAL (+, -, or neutral)

commanding
direct
impartial

NEGATIVE TONE WORDS

abhorring
acerbic
ambiguous

hostile
impatient
incredulous

appreciative	interested	indirect	ambivalent	indifferent
approving	introspective	meditative	angry	indignant
bemused	jovial	objective	annoyed	inflammatory
benevolent	joyful	questioning	antagonistic	insecure
blithe	laudatory	speculative	anxious	insolent
calm	light	unambiguous	apathetic	irreverent
casual	lively	unconcerned	apprehensive	lethargic
celebratory	mirthful	understated	belligerent	melancholy
cheerful	modest		bewildered	mischiefous
comforting	nostalgic		biting	miserable
comic	optimistic		bitter	mocking
compassionate	passionate		blunt	mournful
complimentary	placid		bossy	nervous
conciliatory	playful		cold	ominous
confident	pignant		conceited	outraged
contented	proud		condescending	paranoid
delightful	reassuring		confused	pathetic
earnest	reflective		contemptuous	patronizing
ebullient	relaxed		curt	pedantic
ecstatic	respectful		cynical	pensive
effusive	reverent		demanding	pessimistic
elated	romantic		depressed	pretentious
empathetic	sanguine		derisive	psychotic
encouraging	scholarly		derogatory	resigned
euphoric	self-assured		desolate	reticent
excited	sentimental		despairing	sarcastic
exhilarated	serene		desperate	sardonic
expectant	silly		detached	scornful
facetious	sprightly		diabolic	self-deprecating
fervent	straightforward		disappointed	selfish
flippant	sympathetic		disliking	serious
forthright	tender		disrespectful	severe
friendly	tranquil		doubtful	sinister
funny	whimsical		embarrassed	skeptical
gleeful	wistful		enraged	sly
gushy	worshipful		evasive	solemn
happy	zealous		fatalistic	sober
			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 words

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	

Tone Vocabulary List

Positive Tone/Attitude Words

Amiable	Consoling	Friendly	Playful
Amused	Content	Happy	Pleasant
Appreciative	Dreamy	Hopeful	Proud
Authoritative	Ecstatic	Impassioned	Relaxed
Benevolent	Elated	Jovial	Reverent
Brave	Elevated	Joyful	Romantic
Calm	Encouraging	Jubilant	Soothing
Cheerful	Energetic	Lighthearted	Surprised
Cheery	Enthusiastic	Loving	Sweet
Compassionate	Excited	Optimistic	Sympathetic
Complimentary	Exuberant	Passionate	Vibrant
Confident	Fanciful	Peaceful	Whimsical

Negative Tone/Attitude Words

Accusing	Choleric	Furious	Quarrelsome
Aggravated	Coarse	Harsh	Shameful
Agitated	Cold	Haughty	Smooth
Angry	Condemnatory	Hateful	Snooky
Apathetic	Condescending	Hurtful	Superficial
Arrogant	Contradictory	Indignant	Surly
Artificial	Critical	Inflammatory	Testy
Audacious	Desperate	Insulting	Threatening
Belligerent	Disappointed	Irritated	Tired
Bitter	Disgruntled	Manipulative	Uninterested
Boring	Disgusted	Obnoxious	Wrathful
Brash	Disinterested	Outraged	
Childish	Facetious	Passive	

Humor-Irony-Sarcasm Tone/Attitude Words

Amused	Droll	Mock-heroic	Sardonic
Bantering	Facetious	Mocking	Satiric
Bitter	Flippant	Mock-serious	Scornful
Caustic	Giddy	Patronizing	Sharp
Comical	Humorous	Pompous	Silly
Condescending	Insolent	Quizzical	Taunting
Contemptuous	Ironic	Ribald	Teasing
Critical	Irreverent	Ridiculing	Whimsical
Cynical	Joking	Sad	Wry
Disdainful	Malicious	Sarcastic	

Sorrow-Fear-Worry Tone/Attitude Words

Aggravated	Embarrassed	Morose	Resigned
Agitated	Fearful	Mournful	Sad
Anxious	Foreboding	Nervous	Serious
Apologetic	Gloomy	Numb	Sober
Apprehensive	Grave	Ominous	Solemn
Concerned	Hollow	Paranoid	Somber
Confused	Hopeless	Pessimistic	Staid
Dejected	Horrific	Pitiful	Upset
Depressed	Horror	Poignant	
Despairing	Melancholy	Regretful	
Disturbed	Miserable	Remorseful	

Neutral Tone/Attitude Words

Admonitory	Dramatic	Intimae	Questioning
Allusive	Earnest	Judgmental	Reflective
Apathetic	Expectant	Learned	Reminiscent
Authoritative	Factual	Loud	Resigned
Baffled	Fervent	Lyrical	Restrained
Callous	Formal	Matter-of-fact	Seductive
Candid	Forthright	Meditative	Sentimental
Ceremonial	Frivolous	Nostalgic	Serious
Clinical	Haughty	Objective	Shocking
Consoling	Histrionic	Obsequious	Sincere
Contemplative	Humble	Patriotic	Unemotional
Conventional	Incredulous	Persuasive	Urgent
Detached	Informative	Pleading	Vexed
Didactic	Inquisitive	Pretentious	Wistful
Disbelieving	Instructive	Provocative	Zealous