

TEACHING TONE & MOOD

Introduction lesson:

- Teacher shows students faces with different facial expressions. Students first identify the *feeling words* associated with the expression. Next, the teacher shows the faces again, and the students tell whether it is a positive, negative or neutral expression.
- Next, the teacher goes over the *feeling words* worksheet (found later in this document,) and students identify as positive, negative or neutral words.
- Teacher begins discussion and asks students to explain what feeling words have to do with the tone and mood of a piece of literature.
- Next, the teacher hands out the notes on tone and mood (also found later in this document.) Thoroughly discuss the definitions of tone and mood, including the elements of a story and word choice that help you determine tone and mood.
- Now the teacher begins to read the selected poems aloud to the students (found in most textbooks). Students then discuss the possible answers to the questions and select the best choice. They are also given a chance to describe the theme of the selection in their own words.

Follow-up lesson (choose popular, yet appropriate clips to share):

- Handout and discuss "Movie Clip Etiquette" (found later in this document).
- Students view first movie clip and take notes on the handout (also found later in this document). After each clip, students discuss and record their answers. Then discuss the answers as a whole class.

Other lesson ideas:

- Comic strips
- Novel passages
- Newspaper articles
- Etc.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Feeling Words

happy	excited	frustrated	confused
angry	sad	surprised	anxious
scared	unhappy	nervous	relieved
relaxed	reassured	passionate	embarrassed
irritated	disappointed	uncertain	skeptical
optimistic	restless	threatened	offended
heartbroken	mournful	bored	guilty

Directions: Write a (+) next to words with a **positive** feeling; write a (-) next to words with a **negative** feeling; write an "N" next to words that are **neutral**.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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happy	excited	frustrated	confused
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TONE & MOOD

*Identifying the tone or mood is often an important clue to help the reader discover literary themes.

*Considering how a writer creates a certain tone or mood helps the reader appreciate the author's style.

Tone: Style or manner or expression in speech or writing.

The Dictionary of Literary Terms by Martin Gray (Longman/York Press, 1996, ISBN 0-582-08037-1) gives the following for tone:

"...Tone is thus a critical concept which implies that literature is like speech, requiring a speaker and a listener, tone being the attitude adopted by the speaker to the listener---the author's attitude toward the work, events, characters, or the reader/audience --, gathered and understood from the kind of syntax and vocabulary used. For the full understanding of a work it is essential to recognize its tone or range of tones, however difficult that may be, especially for non-native speakers of English.

Some adjectives to describe TONE:

Formal, informal, serious, humorous, amused, angry, playful, neutral, satirical, gloomy, conciliatory, sad, resigned, cheerful, ironic, clear, detailed, imploring, suspicious, witty...

Mood: Atmosphere, state of mind.

The Dictionary of Literary Terms by Martin Gray (Longman/York Press, 1996, ISBN 0-582-08037-1) gives the following for mood:

"Mood, a term used synonymously with atmosphere to indicate in a literary work the prevailing feeling or frame of mind, especially at the start of a play, poem, or novel, creating a sense of expectation about what is to follow."

Some adjectives to describe MOOD:

Fictional, imaginary, fanciful, idealistic, romantic, realistic, optimistic, pessimistic, gloomy, mournful, sorrowful...

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

1. The word that best describes the tone of this poem is:
 - a. inspired
 - b. frustrated
 - c. sympathetic
 - d. anxious

2. The word that best describes the mood of this poem is:
 - a. realistic
 - b. sorrowful
 - c. cautious
 - d. surprising

3. Tell me in your own words what you think the theme (central meaning or lesson in life) of this poem is:

"All But Blind" by Walter de la Mare

1. The word that best describes the tone of this poem is:
 - a. inspired
 - b. frustrated
 - c. sympathetic
 - d. anxious

2. The word that best describes the mood of this poem is:
 - a. realistic
 - b. sorrowful
 - c. cautious
 - d. surprising

3. Tell me in your own words what you think the theme (central meaning or lesson in life) of this poem is:

"Poets to Come" by Walt Whitman

1. The word that best describes the tone of this poem is:
 - a. inspired
 - b. frustrated
 - c. sad
 - d. excited

2. The word that best describes the mood of this poem is:
 - a. inspiring
 - b. sorrowful
 - c. cautious
 - d. surprising

3. Tell me in your own words what you think the theme (central meaning or lesson in life) of this poem is:

"Ring Out, Wild Bells" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

1. The word that best describes the tone of this poem is:
 - a. inspired
 - b. frustrated
 - c. refreshing
 - d. anxious

2. The word that best describes the mood of this poem is:
 - a. cleansing
 - b. sorrowful
 - c. cautious
 - d. surprising

3. Tell me in your own words what you think the theme (central meaning or lesson in life) of this poem is:

Movie Clip Etiquette

1. Please remain calm and in the upright position.
2. Please turn off all "OOH's" & "AAAH's".
3. Please do not distract others by mimicking movie dialogue! It's annoying!
4. Save comments and opinions about a clip for your notes or reader's workshop time.
5. Between each clip record notes and remain quiet.

Thank you and enjoy the films!

Name: _____

Movie Clips with Tone & Mood

Title of Movie Clip & Notes:	Positive, Negative, or Neutral Tone?	What is the tone/ attitude?	What is the overall mood?
Clip One:			
Clip Two:			
Clip Three:			
Clip Four:			