



# How Tone and Mood Create Feelings in Stories

KS4 ENGLISH LITERATURE

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## What is Tone in Writing?

**Tone** is the voice or attitude of the **author** (the person who wrote the story). It's how the writer sounds when they're telling you the story. Think of it like the personality they bring to their words.

An author might write in a **funny** tone, making you laugh with jokes and silly situations. Or they might use a **serious** tone, discussing important or sad events without humour. They could also sound **angry**, **sarcastic** (saying the opposite of what they mean), **romantic**, or **mysterious**.

Think of it like: If you told your friend a story about your day, you'd use a particular voice and style. One day you might sound excited and energetic, another day tired and lazy. Your friend hears your tone through your words, just like readers hear the author's tone on the page.

## What is Mood in Writing?

**Mood** is the feeling or atmosphere that the story creates for the **reader** (you!). It's the emotional response you have when reading—how the words make you feel.

A story might create a **scary** mood, making you feel nervous or frightened as you read. Or it might create a **joyful** mood that lifts your spirits. Other moods include **tension**, **sadness**, **hope**, or **suspense**.

Think of it like: Walking into a dark, quiet room with creepy sounds creates a scary mood. Walking into a bright room full of laughing friends creates a happy mood. The room's atmosphere makes you feel a certain way—just like the mood in a story affects your emotions.

## How Are They Different?

Here's the key difference: **tone is about the writer**, and **mood is about the reader**. An author might write in a **sarcastic tone** (they sound mocking), but this could

create a **funny mood** (you feel amused) or an **uncomfortable mood** (you feel awkward). The same tone can produce different moods in different readers!

Writers use many techniques to create tone and mood: word choice, descriptions, sentence length, and punctuation all play a role. **Dark, heavy words** might create a sad mood, while **light, bright descriptions** might create a happy one.

Think of it like: A comedian might have a joking tone (that's how they perform), but the audience might feel amused or offended depending on the joke. The comedian's tone stays the same, but the mood it creates changes.

Understanding both tone and mood helps you become a better reader and writer. You'll notice how authors craft emotions, and you can create powerful feelings in your own writing too!