

Identifying tone and mood

Master the reading strategy!



What is tone and mood?

- Tone ➤ the writer's **attitude** towards a subject or a topic
- Mood ➤ the **atmosphere** of a piece of writing; the **emotions** aroused in the reader

How to determine the mood of a piece of literary work?

- pay attention to three important aspects:

Diction	choice of words
Setting	the time and place in which a story takes place
Imagery	descriptive language and sensory perceptions

Let's have a closer look!

Words chosen deliberately to depict gloom and horror

Pitch-darkness engulfed the sky, biting wind howling through the streets, debris of destroyed houses lying dead on the cold hard bloodstained ground. Piles and piles of cold human bodies, which you should know were not breathing, were scattered all over the doomed town. Oh, I've nearly forgotten: the kittens. All immobile, stone-cold. I have not seen such scenes for decades, and these scenes, to me, usually mean nights of soul collecting. When I wrapped their weeping souls in my cloak, I was once again reminded of humans' capability of waging wars.

When and where the events take place

Figurative and metaphoric language is used in the first four sentences to portray in greater detail the horrors of war.

The mood of the paragraph can be described as _____.

- A. depressing
- B. reflective
- C. harrowing
- D. playful

Let's practise!

Snow, Santa Claus, mistletoe, reindeer dolls... There came one of the most festive days of the year. I walked along the streets, waiting for someone to pass by. Yet, there was no one except me. That's understandable, because everyone else was having turkey at home and enjoying the warmth radiating from the hearth. I could hear occasional laughter from the nearby houses as I wandered about in the snow. They must be unboxing presents from their loved ones. How I wish I did not need to carry a basket of matches around. How I wish I could be invited to their houses and celebrate the festive day together. How I wish I could have a family to sing carols with...

The writer's tone is _____ while the mood of the paragraph can be described as _____.

- A. dispirited and envious...lonely
- B. critical and disapproving...reflective
- C. bitter and spiteful...lonely
- D. humorous and sarcastic...reflective