Discussing Tone and Mood and Atmosphere

**Tone** The attitudes toward the subject and toward the audience implied in a literary work.

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| adventurous anxious celebratory confident determined dignified  disappointed encouraging euphoric fatalistic hopeful hopeless hyperbolic ominous passionate reassuring resigned severe solemn  tragic wise zealous vexatious dangerous caustic acrimonious monotonous tedious irksome relaxed menacing dreary repugnant  insipid rousing exciting formal informal intimate sombre playful  ironic condescending |

**Mood** A state of mind in which one feeling, emotion, or range of sensibility has ascendancy. The emotional or emotional-intellectual attitude.

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| apprehensive desolate disappointed disheartened empathetic empowered engaged fascinated frustrated intrigued mournful optimistic sentimental solemn suspicious tough uplifted dangerous  chaotic relaxed funereal gloomy dank sordid odious revolted |

**Atmosphere** Atmosphere is the prevailing tone or mood of a literary work, particularly – but not exclusively – when mood is established in part by setting, landscape, or environment. It not simply setting, but rather an emotional aura that helps to establish the reader’s expectations and attitudes.

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| Sombre brooding sinister unsettled fatalistic pathos-filled (or pathetic) Stultifying unbearable grim festive jovial merry light-hearted cheerless dreary gloomy dismal drab murky sombre uninviting agitated anxious imposing overwhelming  Nurturing joyful melancholy fiery lively animated intense suspenseful heated chilling chilly frigid glacial icy busy calm peaceful placid serene tranquil becalmed hypnotic billowy surging bleak arid cheerless desolate exhausted unproductive doleful glum |

Source: A Handbook to Literature (Twelth Edition). New York: Macmillan Publishing. 2005