

# Tone Analysis Passages



Directions: For the five passages below, read the passage and provide a two-word tone combo. Then analyze the passage for techniques and examples that produce tone. Some examples of techniques that produce tone are diction, connotation, denotation, sentence patterns, imagery (including appeals to all five senses), setting, characters, the speaker, irony, and dialogue, to name a few.

## O. Example:

*During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country, and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher...*

**Tone:** somber melancholy

**Techniques:**

Setting: At dusk on a cloudy autumn day, a solitary horseman passes an isolated house.

Diction: dull, dark oppressive, dreary, melancholy

Syntax: highly descriptive, complex sentences; long vowels (reads slowly)

Sound imagery: alliteration and assonance

1. *The ice looked vacant. They told him it had been put down only ten minutes ago following a basketball game, and ten minutes after the hockey match it would be taken up again to make room for something else. But it looked not expectant but resigned, like the mirror simulating ice in the Christmas store window, not before the miniature fir trees and reindeer and cozy lamplit cottage were arranged upon it, but after they had been dismantled and cleared away.*

**Tone:**

**Techniques:**

2. *In my young years I took pride in the fact that luck was called a lady. In fact, there were so few public acknowledgments of the female presence that I felt personally honored whenever nature and large ships were referred to as a feminine. But as I matured, I began to resent being considered a sister to a changeling as fickle as luck, as aloof as an ocean, and as frivolous as nature.*

**Tone:**

**Techniques:**

3. *A throng of bearded men, in sad-colored garments, and gray steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.*

**Tone:**

**Techniques**

4. *Today is very boring, it's a very boring day, there is nothing much to look at, there is nothing much to say. There's a peacock on my sneakers, there's a penguin on my head, there's a dormouse on my doorstep, I am going back to bed.*

**Tone:**

**Techniques:**

5. *Perhaps because bats are nocturnal in habit, a wealth of thoroughly unreliable legend has grown up about them, and men have made of the harmless, even beneficial little beasts a means of expressing their unreasoned fears. Bats were the standard paraphernalia for witches; the female half of humanity stood in terror that bats would become entangled in their hair. Phrases crept into the language expressing man's revulsion or ignorance—"Bats in the Belfry," "Batty" "Blind as a Bat."*

**Tone:**

**Techniques:**