

# MOOD



**Definition:** The feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader. The use of *connotation, details, imagery, figurative language, foreshadowing, setting, and rhythm* can help establish mood.

**Mood words:** paranoid, indifferent, weird, strange, funny, quiet, calm, passionate, flirtatious, delicate, chirpy, talkative, angry, puzzled, happy, sad, bold, giggly, jovial, mellow, nostalgic.

**Example:**  
Any Human to Another  
Excerpt by Countee Cullen

Your grief and mine  
Must intertwine  
Like sea and river,  
Be fused and mingle,  
Diverse yet single,  
Forever and forever.

(*mood: sad*)



# TONE



**Definition:** An expression of a writer's attitude toward a subject. Unlike *mood*, which is intended to shape the reader's emotional response, *tone* reflects the feelings of the writer. Tone can be serious, humorous, sarcastic, playful, ironic, bitter, or objective.

**Tone words:** admiring, animated, amused, angry, arrogant, cheerful, confused, cruel, depressed, disapproval, excited, humble, loving, malicious, modest, nasty, thoughtful, tragic, witty.

**Example:**  
The Pasture  
Excerpt by Robert Frost



I'm going out to clean the pasture  
spring; (*tone: informing*)  
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away  
(*tone: reservation*)  
(And wait to watch the water clear, I  
may): (*tone: possibility*)  
I sha'n't be gone long. -- You come too.  
(*tone: after thought/inviting*)

