

Tone Vocabulary

Positive tone words:

Lighthearted	Passionate	Compassionate
Confident	Exuberant	Fanciful
Amused	Optimistic	Effusive
Complimentary	Sympathetic	Amused
Hopeful	Proud	Whimsical
Cheery	Enthusiastic	Wistful
Elated	Loving	

Negative tone words:

Anger:

Angry	Disgusted	Outraged
Furious	Wrathful	Bitter
Irritated	Indignant	Threatening
Accusing	Condemnatory	Inflammatory

Humor through Irony/Sarcasm:

Scornful	Disdainful	Contemptuous
Sarcastic	Cynical	Condescending
Critical	Facetious	Patronizing
Satiric	Sardonic	Mock-heroic
Bantering—may be +/-	Irreverent	Mock-serious
Taunting	Flippant	Pompous

Sorrow/Fear/Worry:

Somber	Disturbed	Apprehensive
Sad	Serious	Despairing
Solemn	Fearful	Foreboding
Concerned	Sober	Urgent
Gloomy	Staid	Ominous
Hopeless	Melancholic	
Elegiac	Mournful	

Neutral tone words:

Formal	Authoritative	Moralistic
Ceremonial	Incredulous	Abrupt
Restrained	Shocked	Cultured
Detached	Baffled	Lyrical
Objective	Disbelieving	Colloquial
Candid	Nostalgic	Esoteric
Clinical	Reminiscent	Pretentious
Questioning	Sentimental	Emotional
Instructive	Arrogant	Pathetic (emotion)
Matter-of-fact	Scholarly	Ethical
Admonitory	Reflective	Logical
Learned	Dramatic	Argumentative
Factual	Tongue-in-cheek	Exaggerated
Didactic	Straight forward	Manipulative
Informative	Ambiguous	Morbid

This is not an all-inclusive list. Essentially any adjective has the potential to be a tone word.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE TEMPLATE

This template should be memorized and you should become fluent with the terminology when writing about these concepts. Since about half of the AP Literature exam is based on poetry, you must be able to employ these techniques with ease.

First order concepts: *may also be applied to prose.*

- a. symbol
- b. metaphor
- c. simile
- d. personification
- e. allusion

- f. understatement
- g. hyperbole
- h. paradox
- i. pun
- j. apostrophe
- k. alliteration
- l. assonance

Second order concepts: *may also be applied to prose.*

- a. metonymy
- b. synecdoche
- c. oxymoron
- d. onomatopoeia

- e. conceit
- f. allegory
- g. aphorism
- h. euphemism
- i. colloquialism

Music & Poetry: *rarely questioned, but be familiar and fluent with the terminology for use in essays.*

- a. rhyme (*abba/cddc*)
- b. rhythm (*foot and meter*)
- c. alliteration

- d. assonance
- e. consonance
- f. cacophony