**MOOD & TONE**

**MOOD -What is it?**

* *MOOD* is the overall feelings or emotions that are created **IN THE READER**.
* “M” is for MOOD and Me; it is how the author’s *word choice* makes me feel.
* Authors “move” their readers’ moods through their choice of words and level of detail.
* Identifying the mood of a piece of writing will depend on the number of descriptive words you know to answer the question: *How did this paragraph, this passage, this story make the character or make you feel?*

*EXAMPLE*

*During the holidays, my mother's house glittered with decorations and hummed with preparations. We ate cookies and drank cider while we helped her wrap bright packages and trim the tree. We felt warm and excited, listening to Christmas carols and even singing along sometimes. We would tease each other about our terrible voices and then sing even louder.*

***Mood:***Content, happy. How do we know? Words like "warm, excited, glittered” are used by the author.

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**TONE -What is it?**

* *TONE* is the author’s attitude toward the subject.
* You can recognize the tone by the word choices the author uses. His language will reveal his opinion (that is, whether it is positive/negative) about the subject.
* Tone must be inferred through the use of descriptive words.
* Identifying the TONE is all about knowing the definitions of many descriptive vocabulary words. Without this large vocabulary, it’s difficult to describe outside of “good” and “bad.”

*EXAMPLE*

*The girls were playing in the pond, splashing each other and trying to catch fish with their hands. They were having fun, but kept looking over their shoulders at the looming forest. The long grass of the field kept moving and they sort of felt like they were being watched… About a half hour passed and still the girls kept checking the field for movements. It seemed like a pair of dark eyes was on them. They even considered going back inside, but that would mean homework time. So they continued splashing, but with caution now. Their eyes hardly left the field.*

***Tone:*** Threatening, suggesting a little bit of fear or foreboding. Words like "caution, dark, and looming“ lead readers to the tone.

**SYMBOLISM -What is it?**

* SYMBOLISM is something that holds figurative (deeper meaning that what it literally is)meaning by representing an idea or quality.

*EXAMPLE*

*Harry Potter’s scar—a symbol of his being the “chosen one”, as well as his ability to overcome evil). When analyzing a piece of literature, examining the primary symbols often leads to a greater understanding of the work itself.*

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**IMAGERY -What is it?**

* IMAGERY is the author's use of language that appeals to the **five senses** (sight, sound, smell taste, and touch) in order to help the reader imagine what is being described.
* *Some people say that* imagery is when the author or writer uses words to paint a picture in the readers mind.

*EXAMPLE*

***My love is like a red, red rose****. ---The simile comparing love to a red rose is imagery because it invokes the image of a red rose (smell and sight) and the softness and fragility of a flower ( touch)*

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**THEME -What is it?**

* THEME is a life lesson or message about life or human nature that is communicated by a literary work.
* In other words…..*it is what the story or poem teachers the reader*
* Theme Things to remember-
* A theme is not a **word**, it is a **sentence.**
* Themes are not directly stated, they must be inferred.
* Any theme can be considered valid if you can support it with *text evidence*

EXAMPLE:

* *Money can’t buy happiness*
* *Don’t judge people based on the surface*
* *It is better to die free than live under tyranny*