

## Literary Analysis

### Words for Describing Tone and Diction

- admiring – complimentary, favorable
- alarmed – excited
- allusive – suggestive, hinting
- aloof – haughty, distant
- ambivalent – indecisive, having mixed emotions
- angry – irate
- anxious – uneasy, brooding
- apathetic – uncaring, uninvolved
- apologetic – regretful
- audacious – bold, insolent
- belligerent – contentious
- benevolent – kindly
- bitter – hating, malicious, resentful, rancorous
- candid – frank, truthful
- captious – ready to detect trivial faults
- censorious – severely critical, condemnatory
- clinical – detached, coolly dispassionate
- cold – unemotional
- complacent – self-satisfied, smug
- condescending – showing superiority, patronizing
- confident – certain, full of conviction
- confused – perplexed, disconcerted
- contemptuous – scornful, disdainful, disrespectful, irrelevant
- critical – judging harshly
- cynical – contemptuously distrustful of human nature and motives, misanthropic
- delirious – suggesting frenzied excitement
- depressed – dejected
- desperate – showing a loss of hope
- detached – unconcerned, aloof, distant, unbiased
- didactic – instructive
- dispassionate – unaffected by strong feeling; showing coolness of judgment
- dogmatic – authoritative, assertive, arrogant
- dreamy – vague, in a state of reverie, appearing tranquil
- effusive – excessively demonstrative, gushing
- elated – joyful; happy
- elegiac – expressing sorrow
- fanciful – whimsical
- flippant – lacking proper respect or seriousness
- forgiving – pardoning, excusing
- frivolous – lacking seriousness, playful, silly
- giddy – lightheartedly silly

- hesitant – reluctant
- impartial – unbiased, objective
- impassioned – ardent, fervent, fervid
- importunate – overtly persistent in demand
- incredulous – not believing
- indignant – showing anger at injustice
- insolent – arrogant, overbearing, impudent
- ironic – expressing the opposite of literal meaning
- irreverent – disrespectful
- jocular – joking, humorous
- lugubrious – dismal, mournful
- matter-of-fact – concerned with fact only, not imaginative or fanciful; objective
- melancholy – depressed, dejected, sad
- optimistic – inclined to expect the best possible outcome
- pedantic – narrowly or unimaginatively academic; ostentatiously learned
- pessimistic – inclined to expect the worst possible outcome, fatalistic
- pompous – arrogant, self-important
- puerile – childish, juvenile
- pungent – caustic, stinging, biting
- restrained – reserved
- sardonic – disdainfully humorous, sarcastic
- satirical – ridiculing, ironic, mocking, taunting
- sentimental – affectedly emotional, maudlin
- skeptical – questioning, doubting
- somber – serious, solemn, gloomy, grave, melancholy
- supercilious – haughtily contemptuous
- sympathetic – favoring, pitying
- tongue-in-cheek – ironic, facetious, sarcastic
- threatening – menacing
- urgent – urging insistently, earnest
- vexed – annoyed, agitated
- vindictive – vengeful, spiteful, vicious
- zealous – eager, passionate, fervent