

# Tone and the Elements of Satire

**Tone** is the author's attitude toward the subject, the audience, and even the self. Every writer has an attitude toward a subject, even if the attitude is objective.

Examples of words that show tone:

Arrogant	Dark	Grim	Morbid	Sacred
Angry	Depressed	Gruesome	Naïve	Sad
Anxious	Disapproving	Hopeful	Optimistic	Sarcastic
Apprehensive	Disgusted	Indignant	Playful	Satirical
Bitter	Excited	Insulting	Reflective	Serious
Cautious	Frantic	Irate	Resentful	Sorrowful
Comical	Gloomy	Ironic	Romantic	Whining

There are many other words that "show" tone/attitude in writing.

**Satire** is a genre of literature in which the writer uses **irony** and **criticism** and **a desire to see reform or change of society's flaws**. In order to be satirical in TONE, the writer has to want to see reform, and he or she uses irony and criticism in the written piece.

**Horatian** satire is light and humorous. **Juvenalian** satire is dark and bitter.

Specific types of satire:

- Parody:** A humorous imitation of a serious subject.
- Caricature:** Humorously exaggerates a feature or quality or characteristic of a person or group.
- Burlesque:** Talks about a serious subject in a trivial manner or an unimportant subject in a serious manner.

People who write satire or are satirical use several methods:

- wit**, which is a quick mind and great verbal skill.
- sarcasm**, a type of irony intended to insult and wound.
- repartee**, the ability to answer quickly with wit and sarcasm.
- allusion**, referring to something without directly mentioning it.
- understatement**, stating something and making it seem less important than it actually is.
- exaggeration**, overstating something; to make something seem more important than it actually is.