**Tone**

**What is Tone?**

**Tone =** the expression of the *author's attitude* toward his/her audience and subject matter**.**

* It can also be the expression of the speaker or narrator's attitude toward his/her listener or subject matter. Essentially it is a *feeling* that the writer creates for the reader.
* There are as many different tones as there are feelings: serious, light-hearted, playful, sarcastic, accepting, etc. The trick is being able to identify and create tone in writing.

**Identifying Tone**

Identifying tone in speech is easy because people use intonation and facial expressions to help express their tone. Identifying tone in writing is harder, but can be done. We create tone in writing from the elements of voice:

-Diction

-Detail

-Figurative Language

-Imagery

-Syntax

In order to identify tone in writing you need to look at *what* is said and *how* it is said.

**\*\*\*To misinterpret tone is to misinterpret meaning.\*\*\***

**Developing a Tone Vocabulary**

One way to enhance your ability to identify tone is to develop your tone vocabulary. An enriched vocabulary will enable you to use more *specific* and *subtle descriptions* of an attitude that you discover in a text.

**Shifts in Tone**

Good authors rarely use one tone. An author might have one attitude toward the subject and another toward the audience. When looking for shifts in tone *pay attention* to:

-key words (but, yet, nevertheless, however, although)

-punctuation (dashes, periods, semicolons)

-stanza and paragraph divisions

-changes in line and stanza or in sentence length

-sharp contrasts in diction

**Analyzing Tone -- DIDLS**

**D**iction -- the connotation of the word choice

**I**mages --vivid appeals to understanding through the senses

**D**etails --facts that are included or those omitted

**L**anguage --the overall use of language, such as formal, cliché, jargon

**S**entence Structure -- how structure affects the reader's attitude