

Tone Practice Worksheet

Carefully read each selection and determine tone and explanation. There can be more than one “right” answer so be specific when answering the even questions. Be sure to read the titles.

Freedom, John Ruskin

You will send your child, will you, into a room where the table is loaded with sweet wine and fruit – some poisoned, some not? – you will say to him, “Choose freely, my little child! It is so good for you to have freedom of choice; it forms your character – your individuality! If you take the wrong cup or the wrong berry, you will die before the day is over, but you will have acquired the dignity of a free child.”

1. What is the speaker's tone in this passage (consider his apparent feelings about young children having freedom)?
 - a. Sincere/honest
 - b. Sarcastic/mocking
 - c. Joyful/rejoiceful
2. Explain how you came up with your answer to #1. _____

The Way Things Work, David McCauley

The kind of nuclear reaction that happens inside a nuclear reactor is called nuclear fission. The fuel is uranium or plutonium, two very heavy elements which have many protons and neutrons in their nuclei. Fission starts when a fast-moving neutron strikes a nucleus. The nucleus cannot take in the extra neutron, and the whole nucleus breaks apart into two smaller nuclei.

3. What is McCauley's tone in this passage?
 - a. Uncertain/apprehensive
 - b. Scared/petrified
 - c. Factual/unbiased
4. Explain how you came up with your answer to #3. _____

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

“I am not mad,” [the monster] cried energetically, “the sun and the heavens, who have viewed my operations, can bear witness of my truth. I am the assassin of those most innocent victims; they died by my machinations. A thousand times would I have shed my own blood, drop by drop, to have saved their lives; but I could not, my father, indeed I could not sacrifice the whole human race.”

5. The speaker in this passage is the monster. What is the speaker's tone?
 - a. Sorry/remorseful
 - b. Angry/vindictive
 - c. Humorous/happy
6. Explain how you came up with your answer to #5. _____

“Polish War Song,” Percival

Freedom calls you! Quick, be ready –
Rouse ye in the name of God, --
Onward, onward, strong and steady, --
Dash to earth the oppressor’s rod.
Freedom calls, ye brave!
Rise and spurn the name of slave.

- 7. What is the speaker's tone in this poem? How does the speaker feel about going to war?
 - a. eager/motivated
 - b. Bitter/resentful
 - c. Fearful/reluctant

8. Explain how you came up with your answer to #7. _____

“The First Snow-Fall”, James Russell Lowell

“Again I looked at the snow-fall,
And thought of the leaden sky
That arched o’er our first great sorrow,
When that mound was heaped so high.

I remembered the gradual patience
That fell from that cloud like snow,
Flake by Flake, healing and hiding
The scar that renewed our woe.

- 9. What is Lowell's tone in this passage?
 - a. Uncertain/confused
 - b. Reflective/melancholy
 - c. Happy/joyful

10. Explain how you came up with your answer to #9. _____

