

Lesson Plan: The Tone Map

continued

THE TONE LIST

Here is a list of tones that students may find in poems. It is not comprehensive, and students should be encouraged to add to it as needed; as the teacher, you should also feel free to trim it to suit your students and class level. Keep in mind that the longer the list is, the more nuanced and powerful your students' emotional vocabulary will be.

You may download the Tone List from the Teacher's Guide on the Poetry Out Loud website.

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| abashed | biting | cutting | fearful |
| abrasive | bitter | cynical | flippant |
| abusive | blithe | defamatory | fond |
| acquiescent | boastful | denunciatory | forceful |
| accepting | bored | despairing | frightened |
| acerbic | brisk | detached | frivolous |
| admiring | bristling | devil-may-care | ghoulish |
| adoring | brusque | didactic | giddy |
| affectionate | calm | disbelieving | gleeful |
| aghast | candid | discouraged | glum |
| allusive | caressing | disdainful | grim |
| amused | caustic | disparaging | guarded |
| angry | cavalier | disrespectful | guilty |
| anxious | childish | distracted | happy |
| apologetic | child-like | doubtful | harsh |
| apprehensive | clipped | dramatic | haughty |
| approving | cold | dreamy | heavy-hearted |
| arch | complimentary | dry | hollow |
| ardent | condescending | ecstatic | horrified |
| argumentative | confident | entranced | humorous |
| audacious | confused | enthusiastic | hypercritical |
| awe-struck | coy | eulogistic | indifferent |
| bantering | contemptuous | exhilarated | indignant |
| begrudging | conversational | exultant | indulgent |
| bemused | critical | facetious | ironic |
| benevolent | curt | fanciful | irreverent |



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|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| joking | pragmatic | self-justifying | sympathetic |
| joyful | proud | self-mocking | taunting |
| languorous | provocative | self-pitying | tense |
| languid | questioning | self-satisfied | thoughtful |
| laudatory | rallying | sentimental | threatening |
| light-hearted | reflective | serious | tired |
| lingering | reminiscing | severe | touchy |
| loving | reproachful | sharp | trenchant |
| marveling | resigned | shocked | uncertain |
| melancholy | respectful | silly | understated |
| mistrustful | restrained | sly | upset |
| mocking | reticent | smug | urgent |
| mysterious | reverent | solemn | vexed |
| naïve | rueful | somber | vibrant |
| neutral | sad | stern | wary |
| nostalgic | sarcastic | straightforward | whimsical |
| objective | sardonic | stentorian | withering |
| peaceful | satirical | strident | wry |
| pessimistic | satisfied | stunned | zealous |
| pitiful | seductive | subdued | |
| playful | self-critical | swaggering | |
| poignant | self-dramatizing | sweet | |