

Exercise walk-through

Details, diction, and syntax reveal perspective ■ 4.10

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what shapes the tone a narrator conveys
- state what descriptive words do beyond modifying
- define tone in the CED's terms
- identify tone from adjectives and adverbs

Method — What shapes tone

The narrators', characters', or speakers' backgrounds and perspectives shape the tone they convey about subjects or events in the text. Tone comes from perspective.

Method — Descriptive words

Descriptive words, such as adjectives and adverbs, not only qualify or modify the things they describe but also convey a perspective toward those things. Every adjective is a small judgment.

Method — Tone

The attitude of narrators, characters or speakers toward an idea, character or situation emerges from their perspective and may be referred to as tone. Tone is attitude made audible.

Method — How to find it

Underline the adjectives and adverbs in a passage and ask what attitude they share.
“Merely”, “a little”, “finally” are as revealing as any noun.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what shapes the tone a narrator conveys.

Solution 2.1

Method: What shapes tone

Worked steps

the narrator's, character's or speaker's background and perspective **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what descriptive words do beyond modifying.

Solution 2.2

Method: Descriptive words

Worked steps

they convey a perspective toward the things they describe **B1** as well as qualifying or modifying them **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Define tone in the CED's terms.

- (a) State the definition.
- (b) State a practical method for finding it.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) the attitude of a narrator, character or speaker toward an idea, character or situation, emerging from their perspective **B2**. (b) underline the adjectives and adverbs and ask what attitude they share **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Tone emerges from

A perspective

B page count

C genre

D publication date

Solution 3.1

Method: Tone

A perspective



B page count

C genre

D publication date

Worked steps

A. perspective.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Every adjective is

- A** a small judgment
- B** neutral
- C** decorative only
- D** grammatically required

Solution 3.2

Method: Descriptive words

A a small judgment



B neutral

C decorative only

D grammatically required

Worked steps

A. a small judgment.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A narrator describes a gift as “adequate”.

- (a) State the attitude conveyed.
- (b) Explain how a single word carries it.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) faint disappointment or withheld approval **B1**. (b) “adequate” states that a minimum was met **B1**, which implies more was expected and not given **B1**.