

## Literary Terms #5 – Setting, Mood, & Tone

- I. Setting – the time and place in which a story takes place
  - A. The narrator may tell the setting information or the reader may need to hunt for clues (infer)
    1. Look for clues to indicate a time period; you may need to know when the author was writing to set a time; notice publication dates
    2. You may need to generalize with time descriptions such as *modern time*, or *distant future*
- II. Mood - is how the story makes the reader feel and is developed throughout the piece. The author is trying to make you feel an emotion.
  - A. Usually, mood is referred to as the atmosphere as it creates an emotional situation that surrounds the readers.
  - B. Mood is developed through setting and diction.
    1. Diction – the choice of words the author chooses in telling the story. Word choice can be dependent on the setting, an occupation, age of the characters, and education.
      - a. Informal – conversation/slang
      - b. Formal – sophisticated/educated
- III. Tone - The tone is based solely on the author’s opinion or attitude about the story’s topic or how to feel about a character.
  - A. The author can establish tone with diction and punctuation. For example the words the author chooses will develop tone (cheerily, grumpy) and the emphasis he/she places on particular words through exclamation marks, question marks, and even commas will emphasize an emotion.