

## 4.10 Details, diction, and syntax reveal perspective

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS tone 语气

### Objective

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Build the skills to explain **tone** 语气.

**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

### 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

#### ■ 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.

#### ■ 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.

#### ■ 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.

#### ■ 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.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State what shapes the tone a narrator conveys. [2]

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**2.2** State what descriptive words do beyond modifying. [2]

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**2.3** Define tone in the CED’s terms.

(a) State the definition. [2]

(b) State a practical method for finding it. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Tone emerges from [1]

- **A** perspective
- **B** page count
- **C** genre
- **D** publication date

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**3.2** Every adjective is [1]

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

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**3.3** A narrator describes a gift as “adequate”.

(a) State the attitude conveyed. [1]

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(b) Explain how a single word carries it.

[2]

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## Solutions

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

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

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

**3.1 A.** perspective.

**3.2 A.** a small judgment.

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