

List of Words to Describe an Author's Tone

This is a list of words that could be used while examining an author's tone. Students can use this list when completing the rhetorical précis or while doing similar work.

Tone	Meaning
apologetic	sorry
appreciative	grateful; thankful
concerned	worried or interested
critical	finding fault
curious	wanting to find out more
defensive	defending
direct	straightforward; honest
disappointed	discouraged; unhappy because something went wrong
encouraging	optimistic
enthusiastic	excited; energetic
formal	respectful, appropriate behavior
frustrated	angry because of not being able to do something
hopeful	looking forward to something; optimistic
humorous	funny
informal	not formal; relaxed
inspirational	encouraging; reassuring
ironic	different from what is expected or the opposite of what is meant
judgmental	judging others; critical
lighthearted	happy, carefree
mocking	scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone
negative	unhappy; pessimistic
neutral	neither good nor bad; neither for nor against
nostalgic	thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past
objective	without prejudice; without discrimination; fair
optimistic	hopeful; cheerful
pessimistic	seeing the bad side of things
sarcastic	scornful; mocking; ridiculing
satirical	making fun of something to show its weakness or teach a lesson
sentimental	thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past
sincere	honest; truthful; earnest
sympathetic	compassionate; understanding of how someone feels
urgent	insistent; saying something must be done soon

JOHN LENNON LYRICS

"Imagine"

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Writer(s): John Winston Lennon
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