

# ATTITUDE MEGA-MAP



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TONE WHEEL FOR SELECTIVE  
& SCHOLARSHIP READING

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Tone Wheel for Selective & Scholarship Reading

# **PAGE 1 – The Tone Wheel in 3 Rings**

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Kids see:

sarcastic • resigned • cynical • nostalgic • optimistic • critical

...and spin the wheel randomly.

This Mega-Map turns tone into something concrete:

Start with: Positive / Negative / Mixed / Neutral

Then: Soft / Strong

Then: pick from a category on the 'tone wheel'.

## **PAGE 1 – The Tone Wheel in 3 Rings**

# PAGE 2 – Quick 3-Step Algorithm (Applied to the Wheel)

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You can turn this into a circular graphic:

## **RING 1 – Valence (Big Picture)**

- Positive
- Negative
- Mixed/Complex
- Neutral

## **RING 2 – Energy (How Strong?)**

- Calm / Gentle
- Clear / Firm
- Strong / Intense

## **RING 3 – Specific Attitude Labels**

Positive:

Calm: admiring, respectful, appreciative, fond

Firm: hopeful, encouraging, supportive

Intense: enthusiastic, passionate

Negative:

Calm: disappointed, concerned, sceptical

Firm: critical, disapproving, pessimistic

Intense: angry, outraged, sarcastic, mocking, disgusted, cynical

Mixed / Complex:

Calm: reflective, thoughtful

Firm: nostalgic, bittersweet, conflicted

Intense: uneasy, anxious, resentful, resigned

Neutral / Other:

calm/informative: objective, factual, explanatory

curious: inquiring, speculative

# PAGE 2 – Quick 3-Step Algorithm (Applied to the Wheel)

# PAGE 3 – POSITIVE TONES (by category)

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Before you look at answer options:

**1. Positive or negative (or mixed or neutral)?**

Does the writer mostly like, dislike, or just describe?

**2. Soft, firm, or intense?**

Gentle? Clear but not extreme? Or strong/emotional?

**3. Which cluster on the wheel fits best?**

Then match to the closest answer choice.

## PAGE 3 – POSITIVE TONES (by category)

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## 1. Warm / Appreciative / Admiring (Calm Positive)

**Core labels:**

admiring, appreciative, respectful, affectionate, fond

**Meaning:**

Speaks highly of someone/thing; notices good qualities.

**Clue words & phrases:**

- 'remarkable', 'impressive', 'generous', 'brave', 'kind'
- 'I have great respect for...'
- 'It is easy to admire the way...'

*Example lines:*

*"I've always admired her quiet determination to help every student, not just the loud ones."*

*"Their patience and courage in the face of uncertainty is nothing short of remarkable."*

## 2. Hopeful / Encouraging / Supportive (Firm Positive)

**Core labels:**

hopeful, optimistic, encouraging, supportive

**Meaning:**

Believes things can improve; wants the reader to feel able.

**Clue words:**

- 'we can', 'there is still time', 'possible', 'future', 'opportunities'
- 'If we work together...'
- 'It may be difficult now, but...'

*Example lines:*

*"Although the task is challenging, we have everything we need to succeed if we prepare carefully."*

*"These small changes can slowly transform our school into a kinder place."*

## 3. Enthusiastic / Passionate (Intense Positive)

**Core labels:**

enthusiastic, passionate, excited, eager

## PAGE 4 – NEGATIVE TONES (by category)

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### **Meaning:**

Very positive and energetic; trying to spread excitement.

### **Clue words:**

- 'amazing', 'incredible', 'thrilled', 'can't wait'
- strong exclamation used sensibly

### *Example lines:*

*"The new science lab is an incredible space where ideas practically buzz in the air."*

*"I'm genuinely excited to see what our students will create with these tools."*

## PAGE 4 – NEGATIVE TONES (by category)

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## 4. Disappointed / Regretful (Calm Negative)

**Core labels:**

disappointed, regretful, let down

**Meaning:**

Expected better and is gently upset.

**Clue words:**

- 'It's a shame...', 'Unfortunately...', 'I had hoped...'
- 'could have been', 'fell short'

*Example lines:*

*"It's a shame that such a promising idea was forgotten after the first meeting."*

*"I had hoped the program would reach every student, not just those who already excel."*

## 5. Concerned / Worried / Anxious (Calm → Firm Negative)

**Core labels:**

concerned, worried, uneasy, anxious

**Meaning:**

Nervous something bad might happen; warning us.

**Clue words:**

- 'I worry that...', 'I fear...', 'could lead to...'
- 'It troubles me that...', 'raises serious questions'

*Example lines:*

*"I worry that constant testing may slowly drain the joy from learning."*

*"It troubles me that some students feel invisible in their own classrooms."*

## 6. Sceptical / Doubtful (Calm Negative)

**Core labels:**

sceptical, doubtful, unconvinced

**Meaning:**

Does not fully believe a claim; questions it.

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## **Clue words:**

- 'claims to... yet...', 'seems', 'supposedly'
- 'It is unclear whether...', 'There is little evidence that...'

### *Example lines:*

*"The app claims to 'revolutionise' study, but offers little proof beyond flashy slogans."*

*"It seems impressive at first, yet many details remain unexplained."*

## **7. Critical / Disapproving (Firm Negative)**

### **Core labels:**

critical, disapproving, condemning

### **Meaning:**

Clearly points out problems, faults, or unfairness.

### **Clue words:**

- 'fails to', 'ignores', 'unfair', 'harmful'
- 'This approach overlooks...', 'This policy punishes...'

### *Example lines:*

*"The decision to cut library funding ignores the needs of students who rely on a quiet place to study."*

*"This rule unfairly punishes those who can't afford extra help."*

## **8. Angry / Outraged / Indignant (Intense Negative)**

### **Core labels:**

angry, outraged, indignant

### **Meaning:**

Strong anger about something unjust or harmful.

### **Clue words:**

- 'appalling', 'unacceptable', 'outrageous', 'infuriating'
- repeated strong negatives; no attempt to soften

### *Example lines:*

*"It is outrageous that children are expected to carry this burden alone."*

*"This level of neglect is simply unacceptable in any school."*

# PAGE 5 – MIXED / COMPLEX TONES

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## 9. Sarcastic / Mocking / Cynical (Intense Negative)

### Core labels:

sarcastic, mocking, cynical

### Meaning:

Sarcastic: says the opposite of what they mean to ridicule.

Cynical: believes people are selfish/insincere; distrusts motives.

Sarcastic clue words:

- 'What a brilliant idea...' (when it's clearly not)
- 'Of course, because nothing ever goes wrong with last-minute changes.'

Cynical clue words:

- 'so-called', 'pretend to', 'only care about'
- 'as if they really believed...', 'not because they care, but because...'

### Example lines:

*"What a perfect solution: add more forms so we have less time to actually help students."* (sarcastic)

*"The company doesn't sponsor events out of kindness; it simply wants to plaster its logo everywhere."* (cynical)

# PAGE 5 – MIXED / COMPLEX TONES

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## 10. Nostalgic / Bittersweet (Positive + Sad)

**Core labels:**

nostalgic, bittersweet

**Meaning:**

Warm feelings about the past, mixed with sadness that it's gone.

**Clue words:**

- 'I remember...', 'Back then...', 'in those days...'
- Past-tense scenes described lovingly; present seems harsher.

*Example lines:*

*"I still remember the smell of dust and sunlight in our old library, and the way time seemed to slow there."*

*"Those afternoons are gone now, replaced by schedules and screens."*

## 11. Reflective / Thoughtful / Contemplative (Calm Mixed)

**Core labels:**

reflective, thoughtful, contemplative

**Meaning:**

Quietly thinking; weighing ideas; not pushing hard for/against.

**Clue words:**

- questions, 'perhaps', 'on the one hand / on the other'
- 'I've begun to wonder...', 'It made me think about...'

*Example lines:*

*"Walking home that day, I began to wonder what 'success' really means."*

*"The experience made me think differently about what we call 'easy' and 'hard'."*

## 12. Conflicted / Torn / Ambivalent (Mixed)

**Core labels:**

conflicted, ambivalent, torn

**Meaning:**

Sees both sides; can't fully choose.

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## Clue words:

- 'part of me... while another part...', 'I'm not sure whether...'
- 'I love... yet I also worry that...'

## Example lines:

*"Part of me wanted to stay and keep helping, while another part longed for a fresh start."*

*"I'm not sure whether the change is exciting or frightening – maybe both."*

## 13. Resigned / Fatalistic (Calm but Negative)

### Core labels:

resigned, fatalistic

### Meaning:

Has given up on changing things; accepts something unhappy.

### Clue words:

- 'I suppose that's just how...', 'There's nothing we can do but...'
- 'It seems this is the way it will always be.'

## Example lines:

*"I used to complain, but now I simply line up with everyone else and wait."*

*"Perhaps this is just the price we pay for convenience."*

## 14. Uneasy / Tense (Soft but Uncomfortable)

### Core labels:

uneasy, tense, unsettled

### Meaning:

Something feels wrong; not full fear, but discomfort.

### Clue words:

- 'strange', 'unsettling', 'something felt off'
- descriptions of tightness, silence, stiffness

## Example lines:

*"The sudden silence in the hallway was so complete it felt wrong, as if the building were holding its breath."*

*"I laughed with everyone else, but the joke sat uncomfortably in my stomach."*

# PAGE 6 – NEUTRAL / CURIOUS

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## PAGE 6 – NEUTRAL / CURIOUS

### 15. Neutral / Objective / Factual

#### Core labels:

neutral, objective, factual, informative

#### Meaning:

Just gives information; little/no emotion.

#### Clue words:

- statistics, dates, explanations; very few emotional adjectives
- balanced pros and cons without strong words

#### Example lines:

*"The school was built in 1985 and renovated in 2012."*

*"Fifty-eight percent of students travel to school by bus."*

### 16. Curious / Inquisitive / Speculative

#### Core labels:

curious, inquisitive, speculative

#### Meaning:

Interested; asking questions; exploring possibilities.

#### Clue words:

- 'perhaps', 'might', 'could it be that...?', 'what if...?'
- frequent questions used genuinely, not sarcastically

#### Example lines:

*"What if homework were designed not as extra work, but as a chance to explore what truly interests us?"*

*"Perhaps the real issue is not the amount of time we have, but how we choose to use it."*

## PAGE 7 – How to Practise Using the Tone Wheel

# The Tone Wheel Guide

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## Step A – Label from Scratch (No Options)

Read a short paragraph.

Ask your child to:

- Write: 'The writer feels [positive/negative/mixed/neutral] about...'
- Choose one label from the wheel (e.g. concerned, sarcastic, nostalgic).
- Underline 3 words or phrases that prove it.

## Step B – Add Multiple-Choice Options (Selective Style)

Give a short passage + 4 options, e.g.:

- enthusiastic
- critical
- nostalgic
- objective

Ask:

- Cross out any that are the wrong valence.
- From what's left, which fits the energy level of the passage?
- Which option matches the evidence words in the text?

## Micro Drill (You Can Add More Like This)

Label each sentence with the closest tone from the wheel:

- 1. "I had hoped the new system would help us, but it has only added confusion."**
- 2. "Every corner of the new library seems to whisper, 'Come and read here.'"**
- 3. "Perhaps we are measuring the wrong things when we call a student 'successful'."**
- 4. "Of course, the best way to reduce stress is clearly to give us more tests."**

Expected labels:

- 1. Disappointed / Critical**
- 2. Enthusiastic / Appreciative**
- 3. Reflective / Thoughtful**
- 4. Sarcastic**