AUTHOR'S ATTITUDE

Tone Wheel for Selective & Scholarship Reading

MEGA-MAP

Complete Tone Analysis System

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Tone Wheel for Selective & Scholarship Reading

First Edition • 2025

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Introduction

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

Kids see: sarcastic • resigned • cynical • nostalgic • optimistic • critical

…and spin the wheel randomly.

The Tone Wheel in 3 Rings

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

Quick 3-Step Algorithm

Before you look at answer options:

1 **Positive or negative (or mixed or neutral)?**
Does the author 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.

POSITIVE TONES (by category)

1. Warm / Appreciative / Admiring (Calm Positive)

Core labels: admiring, appreciative, respectful, affectionate, fond

Meaning: Speaks highly of someone/thing; notices good qualities.

Clue words: 'remarkable', 'impressive', 'generous', 'brave', 'kind'

Example: I've always admired her quiet determination.

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'

Example: We have everything we need to succeed if we prepare carefully.

3. Enthusiastic / Passionate (Intense Positive)

Core labels: enthusiastic, passionate, excited, eager

Meaning: Very positive and energetic; trying to spread excitement.

Clue words: 'amazing', 'incredible', 'thrilled', 'can't wait'

Example: The new science lab is an incredible space!

NEGATIVE TONES (by category)

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…'
Example: It's a shame that such a promising idea was forgotten.

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…', 'It troubles me that…'
Example: I worry that constant testing may drain the joy from learning.

6. Sceptical / Doubtful (Calm Negative)

Core labels: sceptical, doubtful, unconvinced
Meaning: Does not fully believe a claim; questions it.
Clue words: 'claims to… yet…', 'seems', 'supposedly'
Example: The app claims to 'revolutionise' study, but offers little proof.

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'
Example: This decision ignores the needs of students.

8. Angry / Outraged / Indignant (Intense Negative)

Core labels: angry, outraged, indignant
Meaning: Strong anger about something unjust or harmful.
Clue words: 'appalling', 'unacceptable', 'outrageous'
Example: It is outrageous that children must carry this burden alone.

9. Sarcastic / Mocking / Cynical (Intense Negative)

Core labels: sarcastic, mocking, cynical
Meaning: Says opposite of what they mean to ridicule.
Clue words: 'What a brilliant idea…' (when it's not), 'so-called'
Example: What a perfect solution: add more forms for less time!

MIXED / COMPLEX TONES

10. Nostalgic / Bittersweet

Core labels: nostalgic, bittersweet

Meaning: Warm feelings about past, mixed with sadness.

Clue words: 'I remember…', 'Back then…'

11. Reflective / Thoughtful

Core labels: reflective, thoughtful, contemplative

Meaning: Quietly thinking; weighing ideas.

Clue words: 'perhaps', 'I've begun to wonder…'

12. Conflicted / Torn

Core labels: conflicted, ambivalent, torn

Meaning: Sees both sides; can't fully choose.

Clue words: 'part of me… while another part…'

13. Resigned / Fatalistic

Core labels: resigned, fatalistic

Meaning: Has given up on changing things.

Clue words: 'I suppose that's just how…'

14. Uneasy / Tense

Core labels: uneasy, tense, unsettled

Meaning: Something feels wrong; discomfort.

Clue words: 'strange', 'unsettling', 'felt off'

NEUTRAL / CURIOUS TONES

15. Neutral / Objective / Factual

Core labels: neutral, objective, factual, informative

Meaning: Just gives information; little/no emotion.

Clue words: statistics, dates, explanations; few emotional adjectives

Example: The school was built in 1985 and renovated in 2012.

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…?'

Example: What if homework were designed as a chance to explore?

How to Practice Using the Tone Wheel

Step A – Label from Scratch (No Options)

1. Read a short paragraph.

2. Write: 'The author feels [positive/negative/mixed/neutral] about…'

3. Choose one label from the wheel.

4. Underline 3 words or phrases that prove it.

Step B – Multiple-Choice Options

• Cross out any that are the wrong valence.

• From what's left, which fits the energy level?

• Which option matches the evidence words?

Micro Drill

'I had hoped the new system would help us, but it only added confusion.'
Expected tone: Disappointed / Critical

'Every corner of the new library whispers, Come and read here.'
Expected tone: Enthusiastic / Appreciative

'Perhaps we measure the wrong things when we call a student successful.'
Expected tone: Reflective / Thoughtful

'Of course, the best way to reduce stress is to give us more tests.'
Expected tone: Sarcastic