

SOAPSTone - TONE + DICTION

Tone: author's attitude toward subject

Diction: author's choice of words

TONE:

Here are some common tone words:

Accusatory: charging w/ wrongdoing
Critical: finding fault
Gloomy: darkness, sadness, rejection
Jovial: happy
Morose: gloomy, sullen
Sincere: without deceit or pretense, genuine
Solemn: deeply earnest, tending toward sad reflection

DICTION:

Here are some common diction words:

Cliche: a trite or overused expression or idea
Emotional: expressive
Formal: academic, conventional
Homespun: folksy, homey, native
Literal: apparent
Concrete: actual, specific, particular
Poetic: lyric, melodious, romance

Click here for more [Tone](#) and [Diction](#) words!

How to annotate for tone/diction:

- ★ Let's say a quote you want to annotate for tone and diction is "I tried to cover my mouth"
 - You would start by figuring out what tone word you feel fits your quote
 - I feel one of the best tone words for this is **SINCERE**
 - Next you will look to find what diction you think would fit this quote
 - I feel the best diction word would be **EARNEST**
 - After finding your diction word you **must** state a word from your quote that fits the diction you chose
 - Ex. Earnest diction of "I tried" - make sure you put quotes around your word, and it is from only the quote you are discussing
 - The way you could write out the full tone annotation is:
 - ex. Sincere tone/ earnest diction "I tried"
 - Don't forget to write an analysis of your quote as well!

- ★ Here is an example from Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*:
 - "Through her clenched teeth" (Palahniuk 81).
 - **T:** intense
 - **D:** emotional of "clenched"