

## TONE AND MOOD IN *STANDING GROUND*

**Tone:** A working definition of ***tone*** could be the style, expression, or manner in writing. It is the author's attitude towards events and characters in a literary piece.

Some adjectives that describe tone could be:

serious or humorous, cheerful or sad, imploring or conciliatory,  
clear or suspicious, cheerful or resigned, angry or witty, positive/negative/neutral

There is no easy way to define tone in literature. It involves higher-level thinking and inferences on the part of the educator and students. But, above all, always remember that it is the “**author's attitude**” as drawn from the text by the reader.

**Mood:** A working definition of ***mood*** could be the overall atmosphere of a book or state of mind. It is the prevailing feeling in a novel.

Some adjectives that describe mood could be:

optimistic, realistic, romantic, sorrowful, imaginary, etc...

Again, there is no easy way to define mood in literature. It also involves higher-level thinking and inferences on the part of the educator and students. But, above all, remember that it is the “**atmosphere**” of the literary piece.

For example, a children's book may be described as having a positive tone and very humorous, with an optimistic mood.

### Suggestion for the following activity:

**Directions:** Have students pick a chapter in *Standing Ground* and fill out the following chart about the particular chapter they pick. Individual or groups should then discuss their answers with the class. Then, as an entire classroom activity, have students fill out the “Book Chart” (without the why and text evidence pieces). Do not have students write down all of the information. Take a digital picture of the entire “Book Chart” once it is completed and edited by the class and teacher and send it to or print it for students. Or, make a digital file for students and distribute.

# Chapter Chart

<b>Chapter # And Name</b>	<b>In general, is there a positive, negative or neutral <u>tone</u>?</b>	<b>Further describe with adjectives the <u>tone</u> (author's attitude).</b>	<b>What is the overall <u>mood</u> (atmosphere)?</b>
	<b>Answer:</b>  <b>Why?</b>  <b>Can you provide any text evidence?</b>	<b>Answer:</b>  <b>Why?</b>  <b>Can you provide any text evidence?</b>	<b>Answer:</b>  <b>Why?</b>  <b>Can you provide any text evidence?</b>

***Standing Ground Tone and Mood Book Chart***

<b>Chapter # and Name</b>	<b>Tone (+, - or neutral)</b>	<b>Tone (Author's attitude)</b>	<b>Mood (Atmosphere)</b>
<b>1. Surprise Attack</b>			
<b>2. A New Day</b>			
<b>3. Off to School</b>			
<b>4. The Encounter</b>			
<b>5. Standing Ground</b>			
<b>6. School Begins</b>			
<b>7. Not Detention!</b>			
<b>8. Clarisa's Choice</b>			
<b>9. The Hospital</b>			
<b>10. Back at School</b>			
<b>11. The Quinceañera</b>			