

Tone and Mood in Literature

Tone

- In literature, tone is the attitude or approach that the author takes toward the work's central theme or subject.
- Works of literature can have many different types of tone, such as humorous, solemn, distant, intimate, ironic, arrogant, condescending, sentimental, and so on.
- Any emotion that humans can feel can be an example of tone in literature.
- Works of literature are not limited to having only one tone. Tone may shift throughout a work as the narrator's perspective changes, or as the plot becomes more complex, dramatic, bizarre, etc.

Mood

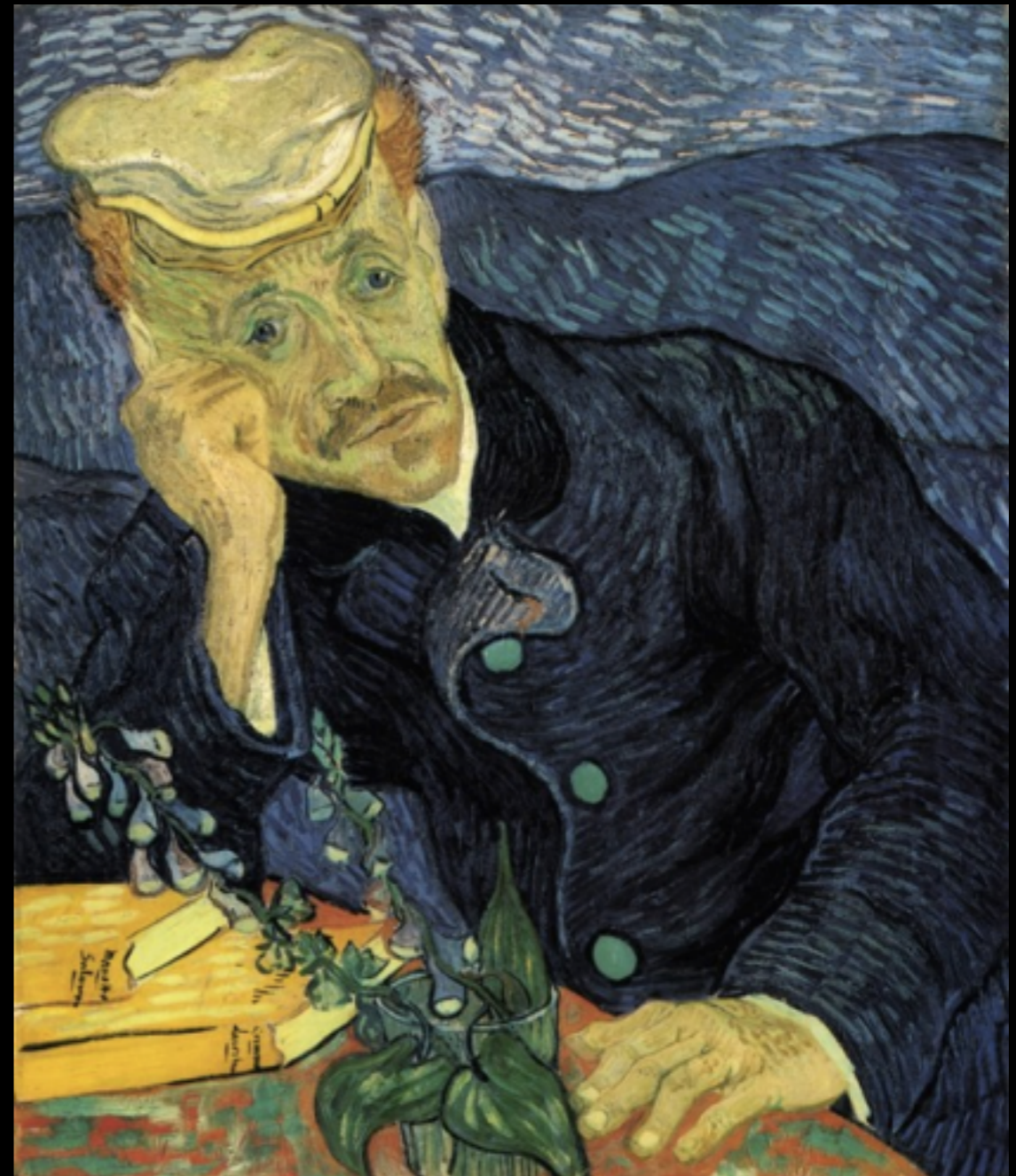
- Tone and mood are very often confused. While definition of tone is the attitude the author has toward the work, the mood consists of the feelings the work produces in an audience or reader.

Examine the different tone in each statement

- “I’m so excited that he called! I’ve been hoping to hear from him.” Vs. “Why is that weirdo calling me again after all this time?”

Review

- What's the tone in the portrait? (What is the attitude the author takes in the portrait?)
- What is the mood of the portrait? (How does it make you, as the viewer feel?)



Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Vincent Van Gogh, 1890

We bore down on the ship at sea's edge
and launched her on the salt immortal sea,
stepping our mast and spar in the black ship;
embarked the ram and ewe and **went aboard**
in tears, with bitter and sore dread upon us.
But now a breeze came up for us a stern-
a canvas-bellying landbreeze, hale shipmate
sent by the sinning nymph with sun bright hair;
so we made fast the braces, took our thwarts,
and let the wind and steersman work the ship
with full sail spread all day above our coursing,
till the sun dipped, **and all the ways grew dark**
upon the fathomless unresting sea.

(The Odyssey, "Land of the Dead")

I identify the words used to convey the tone in the passage from “Land of the Dead.” In two to three sentences explain the tone from the passage. Submit assignment in Google Classroom under the assignment titled “Tone in Land of the Dead.” The assignment is Due Friday, September 16th .

From every side they came and sought the pit with rustling cries; and I grew sick with fear. But presently I gave command to my officers to flay those sheep the bronze cut down, and make burt offerings of flesh to the gods below- to sovereign Death, to pale Persephone, Meanwhile I crouched with my drawn sword to keep the surging phantoms from the bloody pit till I should know the presence of Tiresias.