Literature 45

Tone

Review: Tone is the attitude a writer takes toward a subject. To identify tone:

- Read a passage carefully to yourself. Identify any direct statements about the subject.
- Try reading it **aloud.** Imagine that the author is speaking the words.
- Use what you have learned to suggest a word or words to describe the tone of the passage.

A. Directions: Read each passage. Decide which word best describes the writer's tone. Circle the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1. This is the last straw! If those squirrels don't stop eating my tulips, I'm giving up on growing spring flowers!
 - **a.** disgusted
- **b.** angry

- **c.** unhappy
- **2.** Rembrandt is the most wonderful cat I have ever known. He is perceptive and affectionate and has bright, round eyes.
 - a. sincere

b. grateful

- c. excited
- **3.** We heard the thunder rumbling in the distance and could even smell the rain. But, to our sorrow, no rain came. The fruit shriveled and died on the vine. All life seemed to wither in the oppressive heat and dryness.
 - **a.** depressed
- **b.** matter-of-fact
- **c.** agitated
- **4.** Thank you so much for your kind letter. It really meant a lot to me.
 - **a.** happy

b. grateful

- **c.** sorrowful
- **5.** Since my sister hates to clean our room, while I like things neat, she said that cleaning the room can be my job. I said, "Thanks so much for giving me the joy of cleaning up after you. Your kindness is overwhelming."
 - **a.** loving

b. happy

- c. sarcastic
- **B.** Read the boxed excerpt. Underline key words and phrases that evoke strong feelings. **Describe** the writer's tone, or attitude toward the subject. **Include** details.

Uncle Pumblechook [was] a large hard-breathing middle-aged slow man, with a mouth like a fish, dull staring eyes, and sandy hair standing upright on his head . . .

—from *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens

6. Sample: condescending, disgusted

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Standards Lesson Files

Book 1: Literature 435 Grade 9