

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Author's Purpose and Tone Analysis Quiz

Analyze author's purpose and tone in various texts with this ELA quiz. Students will identify PIE elements and analyze word choice through textual evidence.

1. Read the following passage: 'While common house cats may seem like lazy companions, they are actually highly evolved apex predators. Their retractable claws and night vision allow them to hunt with surgical precision.' What is the author's primary purpose and tone?

Answer: B) To inform the reader about cat biology; admiring tone

The author provides factual information about biological traits (claws, vision) using positive, sophisticated descriptors like 'highly evolved' and 'surgical precision,' indicating an admiring tone.

2. An author writes: 'The town council's decision to pave over the historic wildflower meadow is not just a mistake—it is a heartbreaking betrayal of our community's heritage.' Which word choice best reveals the author's tone?

Answer: C) Heartbreaking betrayal

Loaded language like 'heartbreaking betrayal' carries strong emotional weight and clearly signals the author's critical and distressed perspective.

3. In a fictional story, a character describes a dark forest: 'The trees stood like skeletal soldiers, their frozen branches clawing at the moonless sky.' How does this imagery affect the reader's understanding of the setting?

Answer: C) It establishes a somber or eerie tone through menacing comparisons.

Comparing trees to 'skeletal soldiers' and using words like 'clawing' creates a mood of unease and a dark, eerie tone typical of suspenseful literature.

4. A travel brochure states: 'Tired of the same old backyard? Discover the sapphire waters and sun-drenched sands of the Maldives. Your soul deserves this escape.' What is the author's primary purpose?

Answer: C) To persuade the reader to book a vacation using appealing imagery.

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The use of enticing sensory language ('sapphire waters') and direct appeals to the reader's desires ('Your soul deserves this') indicates a persuasive intent.

5. Read the two statements about the same storm. Text A: 'The precipitation reached three inches per hour, causing localized flooding.' Text B: 'The sky opened up in a ruthless torrent, drowning the streets in a chaotic flood.' How do the authors' perspectives differ?

Answer: A) Text A is objective/neutral, while Text B is subjective/dramatic.

Text A uses technical, clinical language ('precipitation,' 'localized'), whereas Text B uses figurative and emotionally charged language ('ruthless,' 'chaotic') to convey a more intense perspective.