

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  
**Literary Analysis**

**Tone**

---

Tone can be defined as a speaker's attitude toward something. Tone is revealed through description as well as through dialogue. There are innumerable different tones, and often tone is best described with two tone words rather than just one. Consider the following tone words as you identify the tone of the following passages:

**sarcastic**  
**humorous**  
**objective**

**objective**  
**bitter**  
**critical**

**solemn**  
**ironic**  
**mocking**

**anxious**  
**pensive**  
**bored**

**Each of the following passages has a distinct tone. From the list above, select the word or words that reflect the tone of each of the following passages. In the space beneath each passage, explain the reason for your choice.**

1. So Simon, having forgotten his teacher's dictum on the possession of human chattels, bought three slaves and with their aid established a homestead on the banks . . .

\_\_\_\_\_

2. . . . but they were Haverfords, in Maycomb County a name synonymous with jackass.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Then I saw the shadow. It was the shadow of a man with a hat on. At first I thought it was a tree, but there was no wind blowing, and tree trunks never walked. the back porch was bathed in moonlight, and the shadow, crisp as toast, moved across the porch toward Jem.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The Maycomb jail was the most venerable and hideous of the county's buildings. Atticus said it was like something Cousin Joshua St. Clair might have designed. It was certainly someone's dream. . . . The jail was Maycomb's only conversation piece: its detractors said it looked like a Victorian privy.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Tom was twenty-five years of age: he was married with three children; he had been in trouble with the law before: he once received thirty days for disorderly conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The most ridiculous example I can think of is that the people who run public education promote the stupid and idle along with the industrious—because all men are created equal, educators will gravely tell you.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. I knew that Mr. Gilmer would sincerely tell the jury that anyone who was convicted of disorderly conduct could easily have had it in his heart to take advantage of Mayella Ewell.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Neighbors bring food with death and flowers with sickness and little things in between. Boo was our neighbor. He gave us two soap dolls, a broken watch and chain, a pair of good-luck pennies, and our lives.

\_\_\_\_\_

---