

MOOD AND TONE AT OWL CREEK BRIDGE

Analyze Structure, Mood, and Tone

While reading “An Occurrence at Owl Creek” by Ambrose Pierce, analyze each section for its structure, mood, and tone. After reading each section, summarize the events that occurred and when and where they took place, as well as words to track and describe the story’s mood and the author’s tone.

	What Happens	Setting	Mood	Tone
Section 1				
Section 2				

Retelling Using Mood and Tone

Sample Passage: Read and record the mood and tone conveyed in the spaces below.

“As Peyton Farquhar fell straight downward through the bridge he lost consciousness and was as one already dead. From this state he was awakened--ages later, it seemed to him--by the pain of a sharp pressure upon his throat, followed by a sense of suffocation. Keen, poignant agonies seemed to shoot from his neck downward through every fiber of his body and limbs. These pains appeared to flash along well defined lines of ramification and to beat with an inconceivably rapid periodicity. They seemed like streams of pulsating fire heating him to an intolerable temperature. As to his head, he was conscious of nothing but a feeling of fullness--of congestion. These sensations were unaccompanied by thought. The intellectual part of his nature was already effaced; he had power only to feel, and feeling was torment. He was conscious of motion. Encompassed in a luminous cloud, of which he was now merely the fiery heart, without material substance, he swung through unthinkable arcs of oscillation, like a vast pendulum. Then all at once, with terrible suddenness, the light about him shot upward with the noise of a loud splash; a frightful roaring was in his ears, and all was cold and dark.” (From Part 3/Paragraph 1)

Mood:

Tone:

Practice Passage: “Rewrite” the passage below by substituting the blank spaces with new words and phrases to create and convey a new mood and tone for the original passage. Record the new mood and tone conveyed in the spaces below.

“As Peyton Farquhar fell straight downward through the bridge he _____. and was as one _____. From this state he was _____--ages later, it seemed to him--by the _____ upon his throat, followed by a _____. Keen, poignant agonies seemed to shoot from his neck downward through every fiber of his body and limbs. These _____. They seemed like streams of p_____. As to his head, he was conscious of nothing but a feeling of fullness--of _____. These sensations were unaccompanied by thought. The intellectual part of his nature was already _____; he had power only to feel, and feeling was _____. He was conscious of motion. Encompassed in a luminous cloud, of which he was now merely the _____ heart, without material substance, he swung through _____, like a vast pendulum. Then all at once, with _____ suddenness, the light about him shot upward with the noise of a loud splash; a _____ was in his ears, and all was _____.” (From Part 3/Paragraph 1)

Mood:

Tone:

Exit Slip: Based on your rewriting of the original passage, how did the mood and tone of the story change?

Practice: Choose your own passages from the text and rewrite to convey new mood and tone.

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Mood:

Tone:

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Mood:

Tone: