

AP English Literature
Tone Group 1

abhorrent

strongly opposed feeling; showing intense disagreement

acerbic

acidic in temper, mood, or tone

acrimonious

caustic, biting, or rancorous especially in feeling, language, or manner

acquiescing

complying or submitting tacitly or passively

AP English Literature
Tone Group 2

altruistic

unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others

angst-ridden

consumed by anxiety and fear

apathetic

having or showing little or no feeling or emotion

ardent

characterized by warmth of feeling typically expressed in eager zealous support or activity; passionate

AP English Literature
Tone Group 3

audacious

fearlessly daring; recklessly bold; adventurous

austere

stern and cold in appearance or manner; morally strict

averse

having an active feeling of repugnance or distaste

benign

of a gentle disposition; showing kindness and gentleness; of a mild type or character

AP English Literature
Tone Group 4

bristle

to take on an aggressive attitude or appearance

buoyant

capable of quick recovery; having positive indications

callous

feeling no emotion or sympathy for others; completely uncaring

capricious

being governed or characterized by impulsiveness and unpredictability

AP English Literature
Tone Group 5

caustic

capable of destroying; marked by incisive sarcasm

chagrined

vexed or unsettled through embarrassment or humiliation;
mortified

choleric

easily moved to often unreasonable or excessive anger; hot-tempered

circumspect

careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences;
cautious

AP English Literature
Tone Group 6

coddled

treated with extreme care; pampered

complacent

self-satisfied; unconcerned and unaware of deficiencies and dangers

confrontation

face-to-face conflict; the clashing of forces or ideas

consternation

amazement or dismay that hinders or throws into confusion

AP English Literature
Tone Group 7

cowering

shrinking away or crouching from something that menaces, domineers, or dismays

credulous

ready to believe with little proof; gullible

deferent

full of respect or esteem due a superior or an elder; showing regard for another's wishes

defiant

full of boldness and resistance; rebellious

AP English Literature
Tone Group 8

deluded

misled in judgment; deceived or tricked

derisive

expressing or causing the use of ridicule or scorn; showing contempt

despondent

feeling or showing extreme discouragement, dejection, or depression; having lost all hope

deterministic

believing in predestination; accepting that social or psychological phenomena are caused by preceding events or natural laws

AP English Literature
Tone Group 9

didactic

designed to teach; intended to convey instruction and information; making moral observations

disdainful

full of or expressing dislike

disquieted

having lost peace or tranquility; disturbed or alarmed

dynamic

having force or energy; marked by productive activity

AP English Literature
Tone Group 10

embittered

possessing sour, hostile, or resentful feelings

empathic

showing emotion based on sensitivity towards others

enamored

inflamed with love or passion

enervated

reduced mental or moral vigor; lessened in vitality or strength

AP English Literature
Tone Group 11

exasperated

feeling irritation or annoyance; aggravated

exultant

filled with or expressing great joy or triumph; jubilant

fatuous

complacently or inanely foolish; silly

fawning

courting favor by a cringing or flattering manner

AP English Literature
Tone Group 12

fervent

exhibiting or marked by great intensity of feeling; zealous

funereal

with solemnity befitting or suggesting a funeral; marked by an atmosphere that is lacking in cheer; gloomy

futile

serving no useful purpose; completely ineffective; occupied with trifles

hackneyed

lacking in freshness or originality; trite; unoriginal; clichéd

**AP English Literature
Tone Group 13**

halcyon

calm, peaceful, golden

haughty

disdainfully proud; blatantly arrogant

idiosyncratic

peculiar in temperament

idolatrous

worshipping a physical object as a god; exhibiting an excessive devotion to an object

AP English Literature
Tone Group 14

imperious

characteristic of one of eminent rank or attainments;
commanding, dominant

inane

empty and insubstantial; lacking point; silly

indolent

averse to activity, effort, or movement; habitually lazy

indomitable

incapable of being subdued; unconquerable

AP English Literature
Tone Group 15

inept

unfit; lacking sense or reason; foolish; generally incompetent; bungling

insipid

lacking qualities that interest, stimulate, or challenge; dull, flat

insular

characterized by isolation; having a narrow provincial viewpoint

intrepid

characterized by resolute fearlessness, fortitude, and endurance

AP English Literature
Tone Group 16

irascible

marked by hot temper and easily provoked anger

ire

intense and usually openly displayed anger

jaded

dulled by experience or exposure

lugubrious

exaggeratedly or affectedly mournful and melancholy

AP English Literature
Tone Group 17

maudlin

weakly and effusively sentimental

menacing

making a show of intention to harm; posing a threat to;
endangering

mendacious

characterized by deception, falsehood, or divergence from
absolute truth

meticulous

marked by excessive care in details

AP English Literature
Tone Group 18

mirthful

merry, glad, or gay as shown by or accompanied with laughter

misogynistic

displaying a hatred of women

morose

having a sullen disposition; marked by gloom

narcissistic

loving one's own body or self; egoistic; egocentric

AP English Literature
Tone Group 19

obsequious

marked by or exhibiting a fawning attentiveness; subservient

patronizing

adopting an air of condescension; treating haughtily

pedantic

narrowly, stodgily, and often ostentatiously learned

petulant

insolent or rude in speech or behavior; displaying capricious ill humor; peevish

AP English Literature
Tone Group 20

piqued

aroused in anger or resentment toward; irritated; provoked, challenged, or rebuffed

placid

serenely free of interruption or disturbance

Platonic

participating in a relationship marked by the absence of sex

pompous

excessively elevated or ornate; having or exhibiting self-importance; arrogant

AP English Literature
Tone Group 21

Pollyannaish

characterized by irrepressible optimism and a tendency to find good in everything

portentous

eliciting amazement or wonder; fateful and ominous

pragmatic

relating to matters of fact or practical affairs; practical as opposed to idealistic

provincial

limited in outlook; narrow-minded; lacking the polish of urban society; unsophisticated

AP English Literature
Tone Group 22

rancorous

having a mark of bitter, deep-seated ill will

rapturous

being carried away by overwhelming emotion; feeling ecstasy or intense passion

repugnant

exciting distaste or aversion; incompatible

rueful

exciting pity or sympathy; pitiable, mournful, regretful

AP English Literature
Tone Group 23

sagacious

possessing keen and farsighted judgment; intellectually discerning; showing great wisdom

sanguine

cheerfully confident and optimistic

sardonic

disdainfully or skeptically humorous; derisively mocking

secular

relating to the worldly or temporal; not religious

AP English Literature
Tone Group 24

self-effacing

causing oneself to disappear or to become unnoticed; defacing one's self

serene

clear and free of unpleasant change; marked by utter calm and unruffled repose; quietude

subservient

serving to promote some personal end; useful in an inferior capacity; submissive

solemn

marked by the observance of established form or ceremony; somber, gloomy

AP English Literature
Tone Group 25

stern

having a definite hardness or severity of nature or manner;
austere

stoic

apparently or professedly indifferent to pleasure or pain

stolid

having or expressing little or no sensibility; unemotional

trepid

timorous; fearful

AP English Literature
Tone Group 26

upbraiding

criticizing severely; finding fault with; reproaching severely;
scolding vehemently

vapid

lacking liveliness, briskness, or force; flat or dull especially in
intellect

vehement

marked by forceful energy; powerful; intensely emotional;
impassioned and fervid

venerating

regarding with reverential respect or admiring deference;
honoring with an act of devotion

AP English Literature
Tone Group 27

vindictive

disposed to seek revenge; vengeful

vivacious

lively in temper, conduct, or spirit

volcanic

explosively violent; volatile

whimsical

characterized by caprice; subject to erratic behavior or unpredictable change

AP English Literature
Tone Group 28

woeful

characterized by suffering and calamity; grievous; lamentably serious

wrathful

filled with strong vengeful anger; irate

wry

cleverly and often ironically or grimly humorous

zealous

exhibiting great intensity of feeling