



**ELA Virtual Learning**

**English III / Analyzing  
Word Choice**

**May 14, 2020**



Lesson: May 14, 2020

## **Objective/Learning Target:**

- Evaluate how an author's word choice affects the tone and meaning of a story
- Understand the difference between mood and tone

# Bell Ringer



Look at the image of the house to the left. Write a paragraph about this house that establishes it is a haunted house. How will you clarify that it is haunted, and not just simply abandoned? What words will you choose to convey a sinister tone?

# Learn

Good authors choose their words very deliberately. They understand that their choice of words can have a major impact on the way the reader perceives their story and the overall meaning that is established.

1. Reference the following guide to clarify the difference between tone and mood: [Tone & Mood](#)
2. Read the excerpt from *Frankenstein* on the next slide.
3. As you read, pay attention to the author's word choice. Which words does she use to establish a dark tone?

# Excerpt

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

# Practice

After reading, open this and make a [copy of the excerpt](#).  
Highlight the words the author uses to establish a tense, dark tone.

## Sample Proficient Answer

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

## Questions for Reflection

1. How could the author change the tone of this passage to make it more positive or light-hearted?
2. Why would the half-extinguished candle provide a sense of unease?



# Additional Resources



## Tone vs Mood