

Pre-AP English II
Basic Vocabulary for Tone and Style

Your Friday quizzes will ask you to apply the terms to a piece of literature or to a life experience, so please prepare in this manner. Please add new tone vocabulary to the space provided. Think about using these words in terms of our discussions and your analyses. That's what we're talking about.

Set 1)

1. abstract: theoretical, without reference to specifics
2. affected: assuming a false manner of attitude to impress others
3. ambiguous: having two or more possible meanings
4. analytical: inclined to examine things by studying their contents or parts
5. anecdotal: involving short narratives of interesting events
6. archaic: in the style of an earlier period
7. austere: stern, strict, frugal, unadorned
8. banal: pointless and uninteresting
9. baroque: elaborate, grotesque, and ornamental
10. bombastic: pretentious and pompous

Set 2)

1. cinematic: having the qualities of a motion picture
2. classical: formal, enduring, and standard, adhering to certain traditional methods
3. colloquial: ordinary, informal language
4. confessional: characterized by personal admissions of faults
5. contemptuous: disgust or disdain
6. convoluted: very complicated or involved (as in the case of sentences with many qualifiers, phrases, and clauses)
7. crepuscular: having to do with twilight or shadowy areas (as in the darker and more hidden parts of human experience)

8. cynical: a tendency to believe that all human behavior is selfish and opportunistic
9. decadent: marked by a decay in morals, values and artistic standards
10. detached: disinterested, unbiased, emotionally disconnected

Set 3)

1. discursive: moving pointlessly from one subject to another; rambling
2. earthy: realistic, rustic, coarse, unrefined, instinctive, animalize
3. effeminate: soft, delicate, unmanly
4. elegiac: expressing sorrow or lamentation (elegy is a mournful poem)
5. epistolary: involving letters
6. erudite: learned, scholarly
7. eulogistic: involving formal praise in speech or writing, usually in honor of someone dead
8. evocative: having the ability to call forth memories or other responses
9. facetious: amusing, but light, unserious, frivolous
10. farcical: humorous in a light way, comedy with high exaggeration

Set 4)

1. fatalistic: believing that everything that happens is destined and, therefore, out of the hands of the individual
2. flamboyant: conspicuously bold or visual
3. iconoclastic: inclined to attack cherished beliefs and traditions

4. impressionistic: inclined to use subjective impressions rather than objective reality
 5. irreverent: showing disrespect for things that are usually respected or revered
 6. journalistic: objective; reports- as in characterized by the kind of language used in journalism
-
7. lyrical: intense, spontaneous, musical
 8. mundane: ordinary or common, as in everyday matters
 9. nostalgic: inclined to long for or dwell on things of the past; sentimental
 10. objective: uninfluenced by personal feelings or opinions. Seeing things from the outside, not subjectively
-

Set 5)

1. parodic: a humorous, usually satirical imitation of something serious, such as comic takeoff of *Romeo and Juliet*. The parody must have enough elements of the original for it to be recognized.
2. propagandize: attempt to convince a person to do something or to agree with one by an appeal to reason or other convincing devices-
3. pious: having or displaying a reverence for god and religion. Sometimes used pejoratively, when the display is excessive and outwardly righteous
4. pompous: displaying one's importance in an exaggerated way. Sometimes the quality is found in comic characters
5. prurient: preoccupied with lewd and lustful thoughts
6. psychological: having to do with the human mind and human behavior
7. puritanical: strict or severe in the matters of morality
8. rhythmic: characterized by certain patterns, beats, or accents (as in music, poetry and even in prose)
9. Romantic: when associated with nineteenth century literature, or any such literature it suggests a style that emphasizes freedom of form, imagination, and emotion, independent thought
10. sardonic: mocking, taunting, bitter, scornful, sarcastic