

Very often tone and mood in a poem are closely linked and a certain tone produces a certain mood. For example, if the poet uses a melancholy tone, it is unlikely that the mood of the poem will be bright and lively. Sometimes, though, the poet may quite deliberately use a tone that does not match the mood the poem creates in order to achieve a particular effect—underlying a certain irony, for example.

**NB:**

The overall impact of the poem stems not only from the literal meaning of the words but from the tone and mood that they create. One of the most effective ways of recognizing the tone of a poem is to hear the poem read aloud.

**3-Diction:**

It is the poet's choice of words. The poet chooses each word carefully so that both its meaning and sound contribute to the tone and feeling of the poem. Much of the poem's power comes from the words the poet uses and the images he evokes. The poet must consider a word's:

- **Denotation-** its definition according to the dictionary (literal or direct meaning).
- **Connotation-** the emotions, thoughts and ideas associated with and evoked by the word. (It is the figurative, less direct meaning, which is the most important in poetry). The figurative, or connotative, meaning of a word means everything that the word might imply besides its direct, dictionary meaning. Poets tend to make intensive use of denotation and connotation in their poems.

**Here is an example of some words and their denotations and connotations:**

Word	Denotation	Connotation
home	Place where one lives	Security, love, comfort, family,
childlike	Characteristics pertinent to a child	Meekness, innocence, frequent wondering

**4-Imagery:**

It has been stated before that the true 'meaning of a poem' lies in the total effect that it produces upon the reader. Imagery plays a central role in creating this response/effect within the reader.

**NB:**

The concept of imagery has a privileged place in poetic writing but it is found in other kinds of writing too.