

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Jordan Pruitt—"One Love" Songwriting Skill—Choosing a Tone

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify and analyze tone
- Make and confirm inferences from what is read
- Use strategies to develop tone

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

- Guided Lyrics – Tone Analysis
- Student Activity –“Funnel Method”

Additional Online Support:

- www.holtmcdougal.hmhco.com
- www.BlueNoseEd.com

Teach

1. **Choosing a Tone:** Tell students that, in songwriting (as in other forms of writing), *tone* means *attitude*. “Tone” in music is all-important. The tone of the music helps communicate a song’s message. So does the tone of the lyrics, and the tone of the performer’s voice and persona.
 - To get students thinking about tone, ask students to imagine they hear someone say, “Don’t use that tone of voice with me!” Call on volunteers to suggest what tone of voice the speaker might be referring to. (*Sample:* rude, sarcastic, disrespectful, rebellious, angry, sullen.)

EXAMPLE

Write on the board the following line from a movie:

“She’s clueless. Why doesn’t she get a life?”

- Have a volunteer or two read the line expressively, and have other students describe the tone of voice the volunteer used. (*Sample:* scornful, contemptuous, dismissive, haughty, sad, pitying.)
- Tell students that just as an actor chooses a tone to speak a line of dialogue, so does a singer choose a tone when singing a lyric.
- Even more importantly, a songwriter chooses a tone when writing a song.
- Explain that a certain tone, or attitude, can be crafted into any song by the choice of lyrics, music, rhythm, and style of performance.

2. **Teaching Choosing a Tone:** Remind students that all songs have tones. These tones have a huge impact upon the emotional messages of the songs. Songwriters and performers choose with great care the tones they prefer to communicate.

Which Tone is Right for My Song?

Ask: What are some of the most popular songs right now? What are some of the most popular songs of all time? What words would you use to describe the tones of these songs? What specific aspects of the songs have the greatest impact upon the songs? Would the tones of the songs be different if the lyrics, music, or performances were changed even a little bit?

EXAMPLE: Draw the following chart on the board and fill in the students' responses to your questions. For fun—and to illustrate just how important tone is—have your students imagine what would happen if the tones of some well-known songs were changed.

Song	Tone of Song	Main Sources of This Tone	Imagine a Change in Tone	Effect on Song if Tone Were Changed
1. "One Love," by Jordan Pruitt				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

The Infinite Possibilities of Tone

Point out that songwriters often choose to write about a limited number of situations—love being the most popular. But different songwriters will treat the same situation in different ways. A song about a break-up, for instance, might be sad and bitter. But another song about the same break-up might express a resigned, “that’s life” quality, or even a surprised feeling of joyousness. Furthermore, the same songwriter might write songs of different tones about the same situation. Some songwriters even have the tones of their songs change a couple of times during a song, the better to capture the shifting nature of human emotion.

EXAMPLE: To emphasize the wide range of tones that songwriters can choose, work with the class to fill in the following table. Ask students to brainstorm and come up with how the same topic can inspire songs with very different tones.

Song Situation	Possible Tones	Lyrics to Express Tones
Break-Up	1. <i>Example:</i> Terrifically Sad 2. <i>Example:</i> Very Relieved 3.	1. “Since we broke up, my dog is my only friend / Oh will someone please tell me, will this sadness never end?” 2. “Since we broke up, I can spend more time with friends / My dog comes along, too, and our fun has no end!” 3.
New Love	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Friendship	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Peer Pressure	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Family Life	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.

3. **Guided Practice:** How to use the Guided Practice Worksheet

Step 1 Hand out a copy of the worksheet to each student.

Step 2 Guide students through the call-out questions. Encourage them to come up with more than one answer to each question.

Step 3 Choose a Tone! Have the students describe the tone of the song. Also have them imagine different tones for the same song—some funny, but also some that might actually improve the song!

QUICK CHECK Ask students to define “tone,” and to give an example of it in a song. Also ask them to describe the different tones that songwriters can use for the same song idea.

GUIDED PRACTICE

Jordan Pruitt—"One Love" Songwriting Skill—Choosing a Tone

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Tone the attitude a songwriter takes toward a subject.

DIRECTIONS Read the lyrics to "One Love" by Jordan Pruitt. What is the song's tone? How does the songwriter get this tone across? What can you learn from this song that will help you establish tones in your own music?

Jordan Pruitt

One Love

oh, oh, oh, ay, oh
oh yeah yeah
oh, oh, oh, ay, oh
lada, da, da, da

something about the way you move when you move that i love, love, love
something about the way you talk when you talk that i cant get enough
the way you say its a beautiful day when the rain comes down, down, down
and i dont care if we dont go no were as long as youre around, round, round yeah

no ones going to break our stride
cause we're walking side by side
we ride, we ride

some say maybe this one maybe that one
never sure of the one they depend on
i say youre the right one baby come carry me away

ohhh, one love, one love, one love
one love that I'm sure of
one love, one love, one love
that i cant get enough of
that i cant get enough of
one love that I'm sure of

(oh, oh, oh, ay, oh)
ohhh, yeah, yeah

every time you look at me and smile like you smile my heart goes boom, boom, boom
anytime youre not around a minute crowd it feels like an empty room
and when the musics playing you came and hold me and we sway, sway, sway
and even when im wrong you tell me that im right and its okay, okay, okay wohhh

no ones going to break our stide
we're walking side by side
we ride, we ride

some say maybe this one maybe that one
never sure of the one they depend on
i say youre the right one baby come carry me away

ohhh one love, one love, one love
one love that im sure of

1: Choosing a Tone—1st Verse Which words in this verse establish the singer's attitude? Can you imagine writing a song about the same situation, but with a different tone?

2: Choosing a Tone—Chorus This song highlights a catchy chorus. How would you describe the tone? How important is it to have this tone emphasized in the chorus? What specific aspects of the chorus ensure that this tone is conveyed?

one love, one love, one love
that i cant get enough of

some get them for the money
some get them for the fame
some play them like a game just because they can
im in it because i want to be boy
you were made for me, stay with me
baby you know

ohhh, wohhh

some say maybe this one, maybe that one
never know what one they depend on
i say youre the right one baby come carry me away

yeahh(oh)

one love, one love, one love
one love, one love, one love
one love, one love, one love
one love, eh yeahh
one love i cant get enough of
oh yeahh one love, one love, one love
one love that I'm sure of

3: Choosing a Tone—Last Verse Is the tone at the end of the song any different than it was at the beginning? Has the emotion heightened, or changed in any other way? How do the lyrics cause any changes?

YOU TRY IT!

Songwriting Skill—Choosing a Tone

GOAL

Choosing a Tone is one of the most fun and exciting parts of writing a song. The tone is where you have the best chance to inject your personal attitude into your music.

The “Funnel Method” of Writing Lyrics

DIRECTIONS When you are writing a song, it helps to be aware of all the great choices you have. The same song idea can give rise to a wide variety of emotions. One way to get the right tone is to “funnel down” from the song idea, through the tone, to the lyrics.

Brainstorm Five Basic Song Ideas (e.g. a Break-up):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Choose One Idea, and Brainstorm Five Possible Tones to Express It:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Choose One Tone, and Brainstorm At Least Five Lines of Lyrics to Express It:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.