1. Which tone is represented in the following passage?

As that hurricane threatened, the wind's blast caused angry fifteen-foot waves to crash over the small houses near the shore.

A. calm  
B. annoyed  
C. scary  
D. excited

Answer: 1. C. Scary

Explanation: The words threatened, blast, angry, and crash all have a scary tone.

Reference Acknowledgement

Information for this brochure was adapted from the following source:

Understanding Tone

- The **tone** is the attitude of the **author** toward the subject and characters of a story.
- Tone is important in determining the author’s purpose of the story.
- Tone is not explained or expressed directly, but through word choices.
- When looking for tone, think of how you understand the tone of a speaker’s voice—happy, sad, angry, etc.
- Look at the word choices, types of sentences, and author’s descriptions to find emotion and tone.
- Tone is NOT an action; it’s an attitude!

Examples of Tone

- Happy
- Sad
- Formal
- Informal
- Serious
- Angry
- Funny
- Excited
- Sympathetic
- Sarcastic

A reader must “read between the lines” to feel the author’s attitude and identify the tone.

Tips

- Pay attention to choices of words
- Look at imagery
- Study details
- Listen to language