

Tone, Characterization & Verb choices**Association Words (to describe characters and/or tone)**Friendliness or Kindness

Accommodating	Confiding	Helpful	Sociable
Amiable	Cordial	Indulgent	Solicitous
Approving	Courteous	Kindly	Soothing
Benevolent	Forgiving	Loving	Sympathetic
Caressing	Friendly	Obliging	Tender
Comforting	Giddy	Pitying	Tolerant
Compassionate	Gracious	Polite	

Pleasure

Bright	Ecstatic	Joyful	Pleasant
Cheerful	Elated	Jubilant	Satisfied
Contented	Enraptured	Peaceful	Sprightly
Dreamy	Frivolous	Playful	

Animation

Ardent	Energetic	Hasty	Lively
Brisk	Euphoric	Hearty	Passionate
Eager	Exalted	Hopeful	Rapturous
Earnest	Exuberant	Inspired	Vigorous
Ecstatic	Feverish		

Passion

Angry	Greedy	Nervous	Savage
Childish	Hasty	Obsessive	Seductive
Desperate	Hysterical	Outraged	Sultry
Enraged	Impetuous	Passionate	Wild
Fierce	Impulsive	Reckless	Wrathful
Frantic	Indignant	Revengeful	Zealous
Furious	Jealous		

Self-control

Calm	Imperturbable	Remote	Solemn
Cautious	Laconic	Serene	Stern
Confident	Mild	Serious	Temperate
Cool	Nonchalant	Simple	Wary
Gentle	Quiet		

Logic or Persuasion

Admonitory	Didactic	Instructive	Questioning
Argumentative	Doubting	Inventive	Shrewd
Candid	Frank	Pensive	Sincere
Coaxing	Guileless	Persuading	Studied
Critical	Incredulous	Persuasive	Thoughtful
Cynical	Innocent	Pleading	Thoughtless
Deliberate	Insinuating	Preoccupied	Wistful

Humor (sometimes biting)

Amused	Humorous	Playful	Uproarious
Comic	Ironic	Sardonic	Witty
Facetious	Mocking	Satiric	

Prestige or Self-importance

Arrogant	Condescending	Haughty	Petulant
Assured	Confident	Hypnotic	Pompous
Audacious	Contemptuous	Imperious	Presumptuous
Authoritative	Defiant	Impious	Profound
Boastful	Dignified	Impressive	Proud
Bold	Dominating	Insolent	Resolute
Bombastic	Domineering	Knowing	Saucy
Challenging	Egotistical	Lofty	Sententious
Chauvinistic	Exultant	Patronizing	Stiff
Condemnatory	Flippant	Peremptory	Superior

Apathy or Sadness

Banal	Defeated	Hopeless	Resigned
Blasé	Dispassionate	Indifferent	Sluggish
Bored	Dull	Languid	Stoical
Colorless	Feeble	Lethargic	Vacant
Complacent	Helpless	Passive	

Timidity and Submission to forcefulness

Aghast	Deprecatory	Ingratiating	Shocked
Agreeable	Devout	Meek	Shy
Alarmed	Docile	Modest	Submissive
Ashamed	Fawning	Obedient	Sycophantic
Astonished	Fearful	Obsequious	Terrified
Astounded	Groveling	Pitiful	Timid
Awed	Horrificed	Respectful	Uncomprehending
Cautious	Humble	Reverent	Unpretentious
Contrite	Impotent	Servile	Willing

Confusion or Dissatisfaction

Baffled	Concerned	Embarrassed	Perturbed
Bewildered	Disbelief	Overwhelmed	Puzzled

Pain

Annoyed	Disgusted	Mournful	Sulky
Bitter	Disheartened	Pathetic	Sullen
Bleak	Dismal	Plaintive	Tragic
Bored	Fretful	Querulous	Troubled
Cheerless	Frightened	Regretful	Uneasy
Crushed	Irritable	Sore	Vexed
Disappointed	Melancholy	Sorrowful	Weary
Discouraged	Miserable	Sour	Worried

Unfriendliness

Accusing	Disparaging	Pitiless	Severe
Aggressive	Envious	Reproving	Sharp
Belittling	Harsh	Rude	Spiteful
Boorish	Hypocritical	Sarcastic	Surreptitious
Caustic	Impudent	Sardonic	Suspicious
Contemptuous	Insolent	Scolding	Threatening
Cutting	Insulting	Scornful	Unsocial
Derisive	Malicious		

VERBS

These verbs will be especially effective *when the subject is the author or a character*. They are excellent replacements for “be” verbs. Careful use of these verbs can result in precise identification of an author’s *purpose*.

VERBS FOR LITERARY ANALYSIS

accentuates	considers	expresses	ponders
accepts	contrasts	foreshadows	portrays
advocates	defines	heightens	presents
argues	delineates	highlights	presumes
attacks	depicts	illustrates	provides
attributes	differentiates	implies	questions
bases	dissipates	juxtaposes	recapitulates
challenges	distorts	maintains	reflects
characterizes	downplays	minimizes	rejects
chooses	elicits	observes	reveals
claims	emphasizes	opposes	suggests
compares	enumerates	personifies	symbolizes
compels	evokes	persuades	sympathizes