Mood

Mood is the climate of **feeling** in a literary work. The choice of setting, objects, details, images, and words all contribute towards creating a specific mood. For example, an author may create a mood of mystery around a character or setting but may treat that character or setting in an ironic, serious, or humorous tone

The atmosphere or emotional condition created by the piece, within the setting. Mood refers to the general sense or feeling which the reader is supposed to get from the text; it does *not*, as a literary element, refer to the author's or characters' state of mind. (Note that mood is a literary *element*, not a technique; the mood must, therefore, be described or identified. It would be incorrect to simply state, "The author *uses* mood.")

Example: The **mood** *of* <u>Macbeth</u> *is dark, murky and mysterious, creating a sense of fear and uncertainty.*

Other words used to describe mood…

POSITIVE MOOD WORDS	NEGATIVE MOOD WORDS
Light-hearted	Tense
Playful	Gloomy
Tender	Violent
Enlightened	Insidious
Optimistic	Pessimistic
Liberating	Confining
Warm	Cold
Hopeful	Hopeless
Nostalgic	Haunting
Peaceful	Nightmarish
Welcoming	Hostile
Harmonious	Suspenseful
Trustful	Foreboding
Vivacious	Painful
Confident	Threatening
Idyllic	Desolate
Sympathetic	Merciless
Joyous	Terrifying
Dignified	Barren
Ecstatic	Vengeful
Empowered	Heartbroken