

Hatchet

Chapter 2

Tone

Tone: the attitude that a writer takes toward the audience, a subject, or a character

So far, the overall tone of this novel is suspenseful.

Gary Paulsen achieves much of this suspenseful tone through using the limited point of view and revealing the thoughts of Brian. Paulsen writes like Brian is thinking. Just look again at the following passage from page fifteen.

He had to fly it somehow. Had to fly the plane. He had to help himself. The pilot was gone, beyond anything he could do. He had to try and fly the plane.

How many times is “had to fly” repeated in this passage? _____

What kind of tone does this repetition create? (Use another word besides suspenseful to describe the tone.) _____

Go to page seventeen. Find and copy a passage from this page that uses repetition.

On page 18, the tone heightens. Read the following passage from that page.

“Help! Somebody help me! I’m in this plane and don’t know... don’t know... don’t know.”

And he started crying with the screams, crying and slamming his hands against the wheel of the plane, causing it to jerk down, then back up. But again, he heard nothing but the sound of his own sobs in the microphone, his own screams mocking him, coming back into his ears.

Which of the following best describes the tone in this passage?

- a. anxious
- b. upsetting
- c. panic
- d. unsettling

On page 21, the tone seems to shift again. Read the following passage from that page.

... Nothing could help him now... He felt like a prisoner, kept in a small cell that was hurling through the sky at what he thought to be 160 miles an hour, headed – he didn’t know where – just headed somewhere until...

Which of the following best describes the tone in this passage?

- e. sad
- f. hopeless
- g. serious
- h. reflective

Discussion: What would you do if you were Brian?