

Name: _____

Date: _____

Elizabeth Van Lew: An Unlikely Union Spy by Cate Lineberry

Guided Notes – Lesson 6

How is Van Lew portrayed by the author?

Objective: In this lesson you will learn how to identify the author’s tone by analyzing the description of the main character.

Steps:

1. Find words and phrases that describe the main character.
2. Ask, “What is the author’s attitude towards the character?”
3. Describe the author’s tone.

FOCUS PASSAGE OR SENTENCE (Page 1, 4th paragraph in the Introduction:

1. Find words and phrases that describe the main character.
(Tone: narrator or speaker’s attitude towards a subject.)

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Important Words & Phrases</i>
<i>One of the most effective was Union spy Elizabeth Van Lew-a prominent member of Richmond, Virginia society. The 43-year-old lived with her widowed mother in a three-story mansion in the Confederate capital. Educated in the North, Van Lew took pride in her Richmond roots, but she fervently opposed slavery and secession, writing her thoughts in a secret diary she kept buried in her backyard and whose existence she would reveal only on her deathbed.</i>	
<i>The bullying only made Van Lew more determined to help the Union. She passed information to prisoners using a custard dish with a secret compartment and communicated with them through messages hidden in books. She bribed guards to give prisoners extra food and clothing and to transfer them to hospitals where she could interview them. She even helped prisoners plan their escape, hiding many of them briefly in her home.</i>	
<i>After a long, exhausting campaign, Grant finally captured Richmond and Petersburg in April 1865. Van Lew’s work as a Union spymaster was without reproach, and she received personal thanks from Grant and several other Union officers. She was also given some money as payment for her efforts, but much of her personal fortune and all of her social standing were gone.</i>	

2. Ask, “What is the author’s attitude towards the character?”

3. Describe the author’s tone.

Your Turn!

How is Van Lew portrayed by the author?

Objective: In this lesson you will learn how to identify the author's tone by analyzing the description of the main character.

Steps:

1. Find words and phrases that describe the main character.
2. Ask, "What is the author's attitude towards the character?"
3. Describe the author's tone.

FOCUS PASSAGE OR SENTENCE (Page 2, 3rd paragraph under "Libby Prison" subheading:

1. Find words and phrases that describe the main character.

(Tone: narrator or speaker's attitude towards a subject.)

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Important Words & Phrases</i>
Van Lew and her mother were vehemently criticized for their efforts. The <i>Richmond Enquirer</i> wrote, "Two ladies, a mother and a daughter, living on Church Hill, have lately attracted public notice by their assiduous attentions to the Yankee prisoners.... these two women have been expending their opulent means in aiding and giving comfort to the miscreants who have invaded our sacred soil."	

2. Ask, "What is the author's attitude towards the character?"

3. Describe the author's tone.