Tone Words[1]

Tone is the speaker's attitude toward the subject of a text and is revealed through the author's word choice, organization, choice of detail, and sentence structure. The tone of a text impacts meaning. Your understanding of the text, how you feel about the text, and how the text impacts you are all related to the tone.

The following are sample tone words, which can be used to describe the tone of a text.

Positive Tone	Neutral Tone	Negative Tone
- Eager, zealous - Imaginative, fanciful, whimsical - Humorous, playful, comical - Respectful, admiring, approving - Sincere - Powerful, confident - Complimentary, proud - Calm, tranquil, peaceful - Sentimental, nostalgic, wistful - Excited, exuberant, exhilarated - Happy, joyful, giddy, contented	- Conversational, informal - Matter-of-fact - Reflective - Impartial, objective, indifferent - Scholarly, instructive - Practical, pragmatic - Subdued, restrained, low-key - Serious, formal, solemn - Uncertain - Straightforward, direct, candid	- Accusatory, pointed - Cynical, bitter, biting, sharp - Satirical, critical - Condescending, arrogant, haughty - Contemptuous, scornful - Sarcastic, ironic, mocking, wry - Silly, childish - Sad, depressed, melancholy - Angry, indignant, harsh - Fearful, panicked, anxious - Demanding, insistent, urgent - Skeptical, dubious, questioning - Pretentious, pompous

[1] Adapted from
http://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/cms/lib04/WI01001388/Centricity/Domain/123/Huge_list_of_tone_words_with_definitions.pdf