

# Key Takeaways

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:*

[\*How to Set the Mood in Your Novel\*](#)

---

We covered a lot of ground on our article, *How to Set the Mood in Your Novel*. Here are the key points to remember as you write and edit your novel:

- Mood is the **feeling** your novel inspires in the reader.
- Mood will **affect how the reader feels** about your story and its characters.
- Mood **enhances** the reader's experience.
- As a writer, your goal for the reader should always be **emotional reaction**.
- Mood **can and will shift**, as the reader connects with the narrator, develops empathy for the protagonist, and experiences the ups and downs of your exquisite storytelling.
- **Tone is not the same as mood**-- it's how the narrator feels about what's happening in the story.
- To create the right mood, answer the question: **What do I want the reader to feel when reading my novel?**
- **Emotions tie the reader** to your story.
- The theme of a novel is its **big idea**.
- Setting can **set the mood**.
- The choice of words you use make a huge **impact on how the reader feels about the characters and each scene**.
- Pacing captures **the energy of the scene**.