

Name: _____ Date: _____

What's the Tone?

Tone is the author's attitude toward either the subject he or she is writing about or toward the reader.
Words that could describe tone include doubtful, humorous, gleeful, serious, and questioning.
Authors create tone through word choice, the information they include, and how they organize the text.

In this activity, you will analyze Maggie Pierce's tone in "Is It OK to Lie?"

1.

Consider this passage from the introduction on page 26:

Your best friend shows up at school with a new haircut. It is *not* a good haircut. In fact, it looks like he lost a wrestling match with a lawn mower.

In this passage, Pierce's tone could be described as lighthearted. Let's look at why.

Lighthearted
means
"amusing and
entertaining."

A. First let's look at a small detail. The author put the word *not* in italics in the sentence "It is *not* a good haircut."
How does the author's choice to put *not* in italics help create a lighthearted tone?

B. Now let's look at the simile the author uses to describe the friend's haircut. The author writes, "... it looks like he lost a wrestling match with a lawn mower."
How does this simile help create a lighthearted tone?

2. Now consider this passage from page 27:

Perhaps the key is to think about why you're lying. There's a difference between lying to spare yourself—like faking illness to miss a big test—and lying to spare someone else. Of course, even lying out of kindness can be complicated. It would be cruel to tell your sister she's an awful cook. But if she plans to audition for *Chopped Junior*, being honest and telling her she needs to hone her skills first could save her from colossal disappointment.

A. Choose the word that best describes the tone of this passage.

- Ⓐ nervous
- Ⓑ disapproving
- Ⓒ thoughtful

B. Explain your choice in part A.

3. If you think about this article as a whole, what is the author's tone as she writes about lying? Choose the best answer.

- Ⓐ She has a shocked and scolding tone. She sounds like she is horrified that Americans lie as often as they do and strongly disapproves of anyone who lies for any reason.
- Ⓑ She uses a calm, reasonable, and thoughtful tone as she respectfully presents different points of view about lying. Sometimes she uses humor to keep her article lighthearted.
- Ⓒ She sounds indifferent about the question of whether it's ever OK to lie, like she doesn't understand why anyone would make a big deal out of it. She sounds like she doesn't think it's worth worrying about it.

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In this passage, Pierce's tone could be described as lighthearted. Let's look at why.

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means
"amusing and
entertaining."

A. First let's look at a small detail. The author put the word *not* in italics in the sentence "It is *not* a good haircut."

Finish the sentence to explain how the author's choice to put *not* in italics helps create a lighthearted tone:

The author's choice to put "not" in italics emphasizes that the friend's haircut is _____. The idea of this haircut is kind of funny.

B. Now let's look at the simile the author uses to describe the friend's haircut. The author writes, "... it looks like he lost a wrestling match with a lawn mower."

Finish the sentence to explain how this simile helps create a lighthearted tone:

The simile is a(n) _____ way of describing the friend's hair. It creates a(n) _____ image in the reader's mind.

2. Now consider this passage from page 27:

Perhaps the key is to think about why you're lying. There's a difference between lying to spare yourself—like faking illness to miss a big test—and lying to spare someone else. Of course, even lying out of kindness can be complicated. It would be cruel to tell your sister she's an awful cook. But if she plans to audition for *Chopped Junior*, being honest and telling her she needs to hone her skills first could save her from colossal disappointment.

A. Choose the word that best describes the tone of this passage.

- Ⓐ nervous
- Ⓑ disapproving
- Ⓒ thoughtful

B. Explain what creates the tone you chose in part A.

3. If you think about this article as a whole, what is the author's tone as she writes about lying? Choose the best answer.

- Ⓐ She has a shocked and scolding tone. She sounds like she strongly disapproves of lying for any reason.
- Ⓑ She uses a calm, reasonable, and thoughtful tone as she respectfully presents different points of view about lying. Sometimes she uses humor to add lighthearted moments.
- Ⓒ She sounds unconcerned about the question of whether it's ever OK to lie, like she doesn't understand why anyone would spend time worrying about it.

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Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Is It OK to Lie?" Complete the essay kit on page 27.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Is sit ever OK to lie?

Consider what you read in the article, as well as your own viewpoints.
Check the box next to the point of view you will argue in your essay.
Or write your own opinion in the space provided.

☐ **Yes!** Kindness matters most.

☐ **No!** Lying is wrong. Period.

☐

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 27. Which points support your opinion?
What other information supports your opinion? List at least three supporting details on the lines below.

Here's an example: If you think it's never OK to lie, one of your supporting details might be:
"... if we can't assume that others are telling the truth, how can we trust anything we hear or read?"

1.

2.

3.

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE	

STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)

STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK

The beginning of your essay is called the hook because it “hooks” your readers’ attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be:

- 1. An anecdote** (a very short story): Describe your experience with lying. Have you ever told a lie that spun out of control? Have you ever told a white lie that made a friend feel better?
- 2. A surprising fact**: Find a fact that will raise your readers' eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.
- 3. A rhetorical question** (a question to which you don't expect an answer): Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view. Here's one way you could structure your question:
"Is lying really that harmful if _____?"
- 4. A quote**: Find a thought-provoking quote that relates to the topic of your essay.

Choose one of the ideas above, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided.

Your hook: _____

Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it's a brief summary of the issue. Finish the summary of the debate over lying that appears below.

Sometimes people don't tell the truth to spare someone's feelings or to be polite. Some people think that lying in this way is OK. Others think that _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your essay.

Argument Essay Outline

Directions: Use the outline below to write your essay. You will use what you wrote on the first three pages of this activity.

1	<h2>INTRODUCTION</h2> <p>Open with your hook from Step 5.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether it is ever OK to lie.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>(See <i>Scope's</i> handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Finish with your thesis from Step 4.</p>
2	<h2>BODY PARAGRAPH(S)</h2> <p>Now write your supporting points from Step 2. For each one, write 1-3 sentences that provide additional details.</p> <p>You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph or you can split them into several paragraphs. It depends on how much you want to write about each point.</p> <div data-bbox="1182 907 1529 1213" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.</i></p> </div>
3	<h2>ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE</h2> <p>Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.</p> <p>Use what you wrote in Step 3.</p> <p>Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.</p>
4	<h2>CONCLUSION</h2> <p>Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.</p> <p>Finish with a strong final sentence.</p> <div data-bbox="1205 1558 1529 1768" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Need an idea? Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</i></p> </div>
5	<h2>READ AND REVISE</h2> <p>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</p>

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“Is It OK to Lie?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Is It OK to Lie?” Then answer the questions below.

- The author writes, “Plus, if we can’t assume that others are telling the truth, how can we trust anything we hear or read?” (p. 26)
What literary device is she using?
 (A) metaphor
 (B) hyperbole
 (C) rhetorical question
 (D) symbolism
- Why does the author use the literary device you chose in Question 1? Select **TWO** answers.
 (A) to show how lying can be harmful
 (B) to encourage readers to think about how lying can affect their lives
 (C) to help readers understand what a lie is
 (D) to support the argument that lying is OK
- The author most likely includes the statement from psychologist Jane Frank on page 27 to
 (A) convince people to be kind.
 (B) support the argument that lying is OK in certain situations.
 (C) refute the argument that lies are harmless.
 (D) show that even psychologists lie sometimes.
- Which claim could be supported by information in the article?
 (A) Most people lie because they don’t feel lying is wrong.
 (B) Americans don’t lie very much.
 (C) It’s OK to lie if you are trying to protect someone’s feelings.
 (D) It’s OK to lie if you’re doing it to help yourself.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answer to each question in a well-organized response.

- What idea about lying does the cartoon on page 26 express? In the article, how does author Maggie Pierce express a similar idea? Explain, using text evidence to support your answer.
- On page 26, author Maggie Pierce writes, “. . . deceiving those we care about can damage our relationships.” How well does she support this statement? How could Pierce have strengthened her argument? Explain your answer.

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“Is It OK to Lie?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Is It OK to Lie?” Then answer the questions below.

1. The author writes, “Plus, if we can’t assume that others are telling the truth, how can we trust anything we hear or read?” (p. 26)

What literary device is she using?

- (A) metaphor
- (B) hyperbole
- (C) rhetorical question
- (D) symbolism

2. Why does the author use the literary device you chose in Question 1? Select TWO answers.

- (A) to show how lying can be harmful
- (B) to encourage readers to think about how lying can affect their lives
- (C) to help readers understand what a lie is
- (D) to support the argument that lying is OK

3. Which line BEST supports the argument that lying is OK in certain situations?

- (A) “Most Americans lie about twice a day.” (p. 26)
- (B) “‘Most of the time, being kind to someone is more important than telling the absolute truth,’” says Jane Frank, a psychologist in New York City.” (p. 27)
- (C) “Telling tiny lies, experts say, makes us more likely to tell bigger, more harmful lies in the future.” (p. 26)
- (D) “We depend on each other to be honest, and deceiving those we care about can damage our relationships.” (p. 26)

4. Which claim could NOT be supported by information in the article?

- (A) It’s OK to lie if you are trying to protect someone’s feelings.
- (B) Americans lie often.
- (C) Many people tell lies without knowing it.
- (D) Telling one lie can lead to more lies.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answer to each question in a well-organized response.

- 5. What idea about lying does the cartoon on page 26 express? Explain your answer.
- 6. On page 26, author Maggie Pierce writes, “Wrong or not, the fact is we all lie—a lot.” How well does she support this statement? Do you agree with her? Support your answer with text evidence.

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Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Is It OK to Lie?"

- 1. accumulate (uh-KY00-myuh-layt)** *verb*; *Accumulate* means "to collect, gather, or let pile up over a period of time." A stamp collector accumulates stamps. *Accumulate* can also mean "to gradually increase in number or amount over time." Mail might accumulate on the counter.
- 2. administer (ad-MIN-uh-ster)** *verb*; As it is used in the article, *administer* means "to give" or "to direct the taking of." Nurses administer drugs to their patients. Your teacher might administer an exam to your class.
- 3. charade (shuh-RAYD)** *noun*; A charade is something done just for show—something done to make it seem like something is true when really it is not. If you think Doug's apology is a charade, you might not accept it. It might be hard for your family to keep up the charade that they aren't throwing your sister a surprise party.
- 4. colossal (kuh-LAHS-uhl)** *adjective*; Something that is colossal is extremely large. Blue whales are colossal animals. If you haven't logged in to your email account for a month, you might have a colossal number of messages awaiting you when you log in.
- 5. deceive (dih-SEEV)** *verb*; To deceive people is to mislead them or make them believe something that is not true, usually to gain some personal advantage.
- 6. fib (fib)** *noun or verb*; A fib is a small lie or a lie about something unimportant. *To fib* is to tell a fib.
- 7. hone (hohn)** *noun or verb*; A hone is a special stone used for sharpening blades. As a verb, *hone* means to sharpen something using a hone. A chef might hone her knife before cutting tomatoes.

Hone is also used to describe sharpening a skill, an idea, or a product. In other words, to hone something means to improve it, make it more effective, or perfect it. You might hone your juggling skills by practicing every day.

Directions: Below or on the back of this page (if necessary), list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Is It OK to Lie?"

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. **colossal**

- Ⓐ enormous Ⓑ miniature

2. **fib**

- Ⓐ nonfiction Ⓑ fiction

3. **deceive**

- Ⓐ protect Ⓑ trick

4. **hone**

- Ⓐ improve Ⓑ worsen

Directions: Fill in the circle to show whether you think each statement is true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

5. Skyscrapers are colossal buildings.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

6. Friends who deceive you are good friends to have.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

7. Sara **fibbed/accumulated** and said she'd heard the new Ariana Grande record, though actually she hadn't.

8. Two inches of snow had **accumulated/deceived** on our porch in just an hour.

9. My sister said the man who **fibbed/administered** her driving test was not very friendly.

10. In *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, Katniss feels **deceived/colossal** by those who had a secret plan to rescue her from the arena.