Tone, Mood, and Theme

Through Word Art
What is Tone?

The general feeling or attitude of a place, piece of writing, or situation. **Tone** is generally conveyed through the choice of words, or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject. The **tone** can be formal, informal, serious, comic, sarcastic, sad, or cheerful, or it may be any other existing attitude.

What was the tone of the Packer/Bear game on Sunday?  
How did it change as the game went on?  
How was it different for each team?
What is Mood?

Mood is a **literary** element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions. Usually, **mood** is referred to as the atmosphere of a **literary** piece, as it creates an emotional setting that surrounds the readers.

What kind of feelings did you get when you saw this? What kind of feeling did you get when you saw this?
Ohio-based artist, John Sokol, has created a collection of portraits depicting some of the world’s most famous writers, using their own immortal words. Face reading takes a literal meaning when it comes to Sokol’s “Word Portraits” as he uses lines from some of their most popular works to outline their faces, and recreate lines and wrinkles.
Barack Obama - A United Nation
E.E. Cummings
- Selected Poems
“A picture paints a thousand words” except for artist Michael Volpicelli, in which case, a thousand words paints a picture, and then some. He is a gifted portrait artist, but in his art, the words Volpicelli uses like other artists use colour, are intimately connected with his subject, so they speak just as much about the subject as the portrait does itself. And each portrait is weighted with powerful emotion in a gripping, lifelike image.

To produce such a portrait, Volpicelli’s technique may seem simple, which is hardly the case. It’s the application of his technique that impresses. He begins with a photograph and alters it “digitally into a grayscale to see the various shades.” He continues describing his process:

I lay down my darkest layers first and go from dark to light. The entire piece is done with micron pens in various sizes. I use the thicker microns for my darks, and progress to thinner microns for the lighter areas. . . . I also adjust the word size to help with the shading. The words in the darker areas of the art piece are smaller and more compressed than the words that make up the lighter areas of the drawing. There is some overlay for shading, but I try to keep the words as legible as possible. (Volpicelli, “Eye of Truth”)

The words Volpicelli uses in his Word Art portraits are in some way associated with the subject. The effect of this technique is that while the portrait is amazingly realistic and lifelike under Volpicelli’s care, and expresses a great deal about the inner being of his subjects, the words amplify that effect because they also express the soul of the subject with equal power.
In this portrait of Israel Kamakawiwo’ole, he uses words from the lyrics of Israel’s songs.
Student Work:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=10IDS3M8OtbfHpSgtHm7hN_znsxydg4