

tone and mood

Read this excerpt from a spooky story. The author chose many words to help set the spooky TONE of the story. These spooky words are underlined for you to see.

Danny tiptoed up the creaky stairs of the old haunted house. He peered into the mysterious shadows and his heart pounded in his chest. The walls were draped with cobwebs and the windows were shattered into jagged shards, reminding him of monster teeth. He crept through one dark chamber after the next, terrified that he might encounter a ghost.

See how the WORD CHOICE enhanced the spooky mood? What if the author was not as careful in choosing the right word? Read the next piece and look at the underlined words. Why is this less effective?

Danny scampered up the worn out stairs of the old haunted house. He gazed into the dim light and his heart pitter-pattered in his chest. The walls were decorated with cobwebs and the windows were broken into pointy triangles. He strolled through one room after the next, wondering if he might meet up with someone.