

“ A Fable for Tomorrow” SOAPSTone Analysis

CLOSE READING			How do you know? Cite specific evidence in the text.
S	Who is the Speaker?	- Who is the speaker? - Identify the speaker’s age, gender, class, and education. - The voice tells the story. Whose voice is being heard within the text? - What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?	Rachel Carson is the speaker/narrator She is a highly-educated woman with an affinity for nature and the environment. Her voice and the collective voice of those who are concerned about the dangers of pesticide are being heard.
O	What is the Occasion?	- What is the time and place of the piece? What is the current situation (that prompted the writing)? - Is this a political event, a celebration, an observation, a critique, or...? - Identify the context of the text.	The piece, published in 1962, is set in the 1950s in an idyllic American town. This piece could be considered political as it was the government using large quantities of the pesticide DDT and Carson’s work eventually resulted in political action.
A	Who is the Audience?	- Who are the readers to whom this piece is directed? It may be one person or a specific group. - Does the speaker specify an audience? - What assumptions exist in the text about the intended audience?	This piece is directed at the American public and the government; Carson specifically addresses the citizens of American towns. Carson assumes that readers love and wish to preserve their hometowns.
P	What is the Purpose?	- What is the purpose behind the text? Why did the author write it? What is his goal? (To find the purpose ask, “What did the author want his audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?”) - What is the message? - How does the speaker convey this message?	The purpose is to expose the dangers of the use of DDT and other harmful pesticides and to counter the government’s narrative that DDT was safe for wildlife and people. The purpose is NOT to ban pesticides, but to consider the consequences of overuse.
S	What is the Subject?	- What topic, content, and ideas are included in the text? - State the subject in a few words or a short phrase. - Is there more than one subject? - How does the author present the subject? Does he introduce it immediately or do you, the reader, have to make an inference?	The subject is the harmful effects of pesticide use. The author presents the subject as a fable- a cautionary tale about a fictional American town in which spring is disturbingly silent.
T O N	TONE What is the Tone?	- What is the attitude of the author? - Is the author emotional, objective, neutral, or biased about this topic? - What types of details “tell” the author’s feelings about the topic?	The author is quite emotional, which her use of pathos reveals. Her word choice and use of figurative language also project her emotion. Overall the tone is concerned, solemn,

E		• What types of diction, syntax, and imagery help reflect the tone? • How would you read the passage aloud if you were the author?	and earnest.
---	--	--	--------------