

# Tone

## Consider:

Shug come over and she and Sofia hug.

Shug say, Girl, you look like a good time, you do.

That when I notice that Shug talk and act sometimes like a man. Men say stuff like that to women, Girl, you look like a good time. Women always talk bout hair and health. How many babies living or dead, or got teef. Not bout how some woman they hugging on look like a good time.

— Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

## Discuss:

1. What is the tone of this passage: what attitude toward Shug, toward men, and toward women underlies the passage?
2. Walker repeats the phrase, *look like a good time*, three times in the passage. How does this use of repetition help create the tone of the passage?

## Apply:

Write a short paragraph about someone you know which, through the use of repetition, expresses a tone of admiration. Share your paragraph with a partner.