**Tone Worksheet 2**

**Directions:** Read each poem and then answer the following questions.

**Heat**
By Hilda Doolittle

O wind, rend¹ open the heat,
Cut apart the heat,
Rend it to tatters².

Fruit cannot drop
Through this thick air --
Fruit cannot fall into heat
That presses up and blunts
The points of pears
And rounds the grapes.

1. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
Explain your answer using textual evidence.

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1. rend: to tear or rip apart
2. tatters: ragged clothing, fabric, or paper

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**from The Land of Beginning Again**
By Louisa Fletcher Tarkington

I wish there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
And all our poor, selfish grieves¹
Could be dropped, like a shabby² old coat, at the door,
And never put on again.

We would find the things we intended to do,
But forgot and remembered too late--
Little praises unspoken, little promises broken,
And all of the thousand and one
Little duties neglected³ that might have perfected
The days of one less fortunate.

3. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
Explain your answer using textual evidence.

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1. grieves: to feel very sad about something
2. shabby: torn, worn, in poor condition
3. neglected: failed to care for something
Strange Meetings
By Harold Mono

If suddenly a clod\(^1\) of earth should rise,
And walk about, and breathe, and speak, and love,
How one would tremble, and in what surprise
Gasp: "Can you move?"

I see men walking, and I always feel:
"Earth! How have you done this? What can you be?"
I can't learn how to know men, or conceal\(^2\)
How strange they are to me.

1. clod: a lump of something, especially dirt or clay
2. conceal: hide

5. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

6. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
Explain your answer using textual evidence.

from Riding to Town
By Paul Lawrence Dunbar

When labor is light and the morning is fair,
I find it a pleasure beyond all compare
To hitch up my nag\(^1\) and go hurrying down
And take Katie May for a ride into town;
For bumpety-bump goes the wagon,
But tra-la-la-la our lay.
There's joy in a song as we rattle along
In the light of the glorious day.

A coach would be fine, but a spring wagon's good;
My jeans are a match for Kate's gingham\(^2\) and hood;
The hills take us up and the vales\(^3\) take us down,
But what matters that? we are riding to town,
And bumpety-bump goes the wagon,
But tra-la-la-la sing we.
There's never a care may live in the air
That is filled with the breath of our glee.

1. nag: a horse
2. gingham: a cotton fabric
3. vales: valleys

7. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

8. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
Explain your answer using textual evidence.