

Tone Activity

Directions: Read the following excerpt from the story, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* by Yiyun Li.

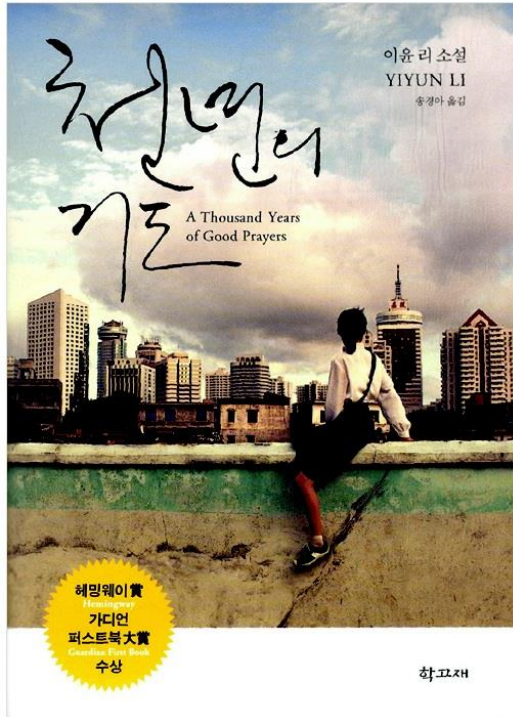
Write an **analytical thesis statement** which makes a claim about the author's tone in the passage below. (Remember, a strong thesis statement addresses what, how, and why; it must also be specific, defensible, and interpretative.) Your thesis statement must address specifically what

tone the author is using; how the author employs certain literary devices and words to reveal her tone; and why she uses that tone to develop the main character of the story.

Below are samples of analytical thesis statements.

"In Edgar Allan Poe's, "Tell-Tale Heart", the stream of consciousness narration is developed through unconventional syntax and punctuation to demonstrate how feelings of guilt can lead to a descent into madness."—AP Central (Unit 4 AP Daily Video)

"In William Faulkner's, *A Rose for Emily*, a critical tone is developed through morbid diction and grotesque details to convey that the town of Jefferson views Miss Emily as old-fashioned and outdated."—AP Central (Unit 4 AP Daily Video)



Excerpt from *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*

Mr. Shi starts to look forward to the mornings when he sits in the park and waits for her. “Madam” is what he uses to address her, as he has never asked her name. Madam wears colors that he does not imagine a woman of her age, or where she came from, would wear, red and orange and purple and yellow. She has a pair of metal barrettes, a white elephant, and a blue-and-green peacock. They clasp on her thin hair in a wobbly way that reminds him of

his daughter when she was a small child—before her hair was fully grown, with a plastic butterfly hanging loose on her forehead. Mr. Shi, for a brief moment, wants to tell Madam how much he misses the days when his daughter was small and life was hopeful. But he is sure, even before he starts, that his English would fail him. Besides, it is never his habit to talk about the past.