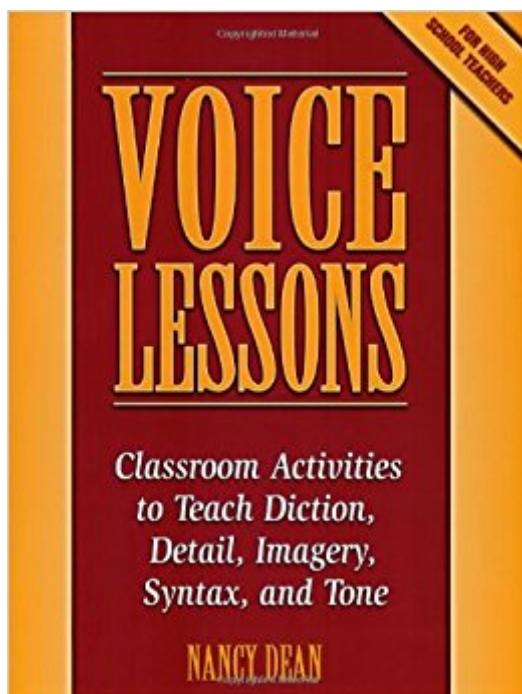


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# Voice Lessons: Classroom Activities To Teach Diction, Detail, Imagery, Syntax, And Tone (Maupin House)



## **Synopsis**

Prepare your high school students for AP, IB, and other standardized tests that demand an understanding of the subtle elements that comprise an author's unique voice. Each of the 100 sharply focused, historically and culturally diverse passages from world literature targets a specific component of voice, presenting the elements in short, manageable exercises that function well as class openers. Includes teacher notes and discussion suggestions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Nancy Dean, professor emerita at the P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, University of Florida, is an experienced teacher, literacy coach, and curriculum specialist. Committed to school improvement and meaningful professional development, Nancy has worked extensively with teachers and school leaders in both urban and rural schools throughout the United States. She is the Associate Director for Professional Learning at the National Literacy Project and a national consultant in secondary literacy and literacy leadership. Nancy is a co-author of several books on adolescent literacy and the author of *Voice Lessons: Classroom Activities to Teach Diction, Detail, Imagery, Syntax, and Tone* and *Discovering Voice: Lessons to Teach Reading and Writing of Complex Text*.

I love the book itself. It is exactly what I had hoped for a workbook of useful exercises to help

students focus on the minutia within writing. However, I am vastly disappointed in the delivery person. This was, like other orders, inserted into a mailbox which was not designed for anything larger than a standard envelope. The cover is torn and the spine broken in two places. It was obvious that it happened as it was being delivered since the address label was defaced to the point of not being legible.

I bought this intending it for using with my AP Language classes, but also tried it with my regular English 11 class. It's good for simple close reading in accessible form. Also, the pages are easy to reproduce, which is key. I get so irritated with oddly sized books. Why else would I buy this book? To use with my classes.

These make excellent bell-ringers for high school students. These exercises really improve students' ability to analyze and identify/describe literary elements. A must-have for any English teacher.

Few things are more challenging than the teaching of "tone". Telling a student that tone is equivalent to the vocal quality of the speaker's delivery can be misleading-what if the student can't easily interpret the speaker's intention? Thankfully, Ms. Dean's examples aid in clearing up the confusion and getting to the heart of the matter. Her exercises lend themselves to small group discussions/debates. What could be better? Alternatively, the exercises can be employed as "warmups", wherein the whole class can discuss an exercise, followed by a second exercise for an individual. These classroom activities were designed by a veteran teacher, perhaps why I believe they are best utilized in either upper-level or honors classes. They will not easily yield their best to a casual reader. Over time, this leads to superior results in the reading and writing skills at the heart of the communication arts.

I must admit that I was reticent to purchase this item because most books designed to help students become better writers have unnecessary or unusable activities. *\_Voice Lessons\_*, however, is different: organized by technique (diction, imagery, detail, etc.), each lesson begins with a passage from prose or poetry, moves into analytical questions, and finishes with applied practice. From there, it's easier for students to incorporate these techniques in their writing. I teach grades 10-12 (including AP Language), and *\_Voice Lessons\_* has helped all students in these grade levels improve their writing. They seemed to enjoy the activities as well.

This book is a must to have the UNDERSTANDING of what TONE is all about. Nancy Dean does the excellent job. I further disagree with any 3-star reviews telling this is an average book. This is not such a book. This is the book which would allow you to understand voice and step onto the next level. Thanks GOD such professors still exist. These are People who actually teach you to read instead of telling about their great achievements in reading, editing, writing, etc. in their books.

I am a former high school English instructor and decided to see if this book would work for my remedial English courses at the community college I'm at now. I think the lessons are great, and the textual (poetry, short story) examples they use are actually texts you might be covering in class, so you don't even have to change up lessons. They are all well thought out and practical to use in class.

I will use these lessons as Bell Ringers for my AP English classes.

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