

## N2K Week 5 Lesson 2

Remember that **MOOD** refers to the overall emotional impact or atmosphere created by the story. The feelings of the characters affect the mood of the story. Mood answers the question: *How does this story make us feel?*

It is important to tell the difference between meanings that are literal and those that are inferred.

**Literal** means “the exact words of the original.” Literal meaning is the meaning the author gives the reader by direct statement or by the characters’ dialogue.

**Inferred** means “derived by reasoning; implied.” Inferred meaning is the meaning that the reader gets from word clues provided by the author rather than by direct statement. The reader must figure out the meaning that the author intends. This process is called making an inference.

The mood of a story or play can be inferred.

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

### The Astronaut

The astronaut sat stiffly in her seat. She was the sole survivor, and she had to get back to Earth. Her hands shook as she reached for the controls of the space shuttle. She was not sure there was enough fuel in the small craft, but she had no choice now. The parent ship had been destroyed by alien lasers. Perspiration dotted her forehead, but her throat was dry. She pulled the lever toward her, and the shuttle shot forward toward home.