

**Directions:** Read the following excerpt from *Play in Education* (1916) by Joseph Lee and answer the questions that follow in two or three sentences each. Use evidence from the passage to support your answers.

“The seriousness of play is shown in the standard of effort and achievement that it holds up. The strictest schoolmaster of the old nose-to-the-grindstone school never secured the whole-hearted effort that is seen on the ball field every afternoon. A small boy throws a ball so as to curve in a way which a few years ago was thought to be impossible, another hits it with a round stick, while a third urchin in the distance runs as fast as he can and catches it. When you consider how little of the course of the ball the third boy saw before he started to run, and take into account—or better still experience—the other difficulties involved in the whole performance, you will realize that such feats, though seen every day on every ball field, are somewhat remarkable. At least things equally difficult done by boys in their arithmetic lessons would be considered so.”

**1. What tone would be most effective in convincing the audience to agree with the author’s claim? Why?**

An assertive and confident tone would be the most effective, which would allow for the author to effectively convey their points across to the audience straight to the point. This as well aids in motivating them towards their stance on the matter.

**2. What effect does the author’s diction have in this passage? How and for what purpose is this effect created?**

Lee’s diction, through words and phrases such as “*nose-to-the-grindstone*” and “*whole-hearted*,” he is able to add firmness to his statements, which helps to further develop the assertiveness in his overall tone. Furthermore, they describe the effort and engagement, but yet satisfaction, that goes into these sporting activities; just like regular ones such as classes at school.

**3. How does the imagery in this passage create tone?**

Lee integrates imagery into this passage through the narration of a baseball game that takes place at a school ball field. The intent of this is to bring about a sense of nostalgia among the audience, reminding them of their own fun times through sports; as well as bring light to the work and effort that goes into them. Such statements as “*another hits it with a round stick, while a third urchin in the distance runs as fast as he can and catches it*,” help to convey this.

**4. How does the theme of this passage help develop the author’s tone?**

The theme of this passage, that sporting activities should be held to the same regard as other regular mentally consuming activities, assists in manufacturing a playful tone, by encouraging Lee’s motivation of this matter. He states, “*you will realize that such feats, though seen every day on every ball field, are somewhat remarkable*,” which shows that motivation.

5. How does the author's overall tone support his argument that play is an essential part of education? Be sure to identify or name the tone specifically. Use what you have uncovered in your analysis of D.I.T.S. to help you.

Throughout his argument, Lee establishes a well-set assertive tone, in addition to a playful tone as well. His argument disproves the opposition that sporting activities have no teaching value, while arguing that they are as equally rigorous and fulfilling as other "*arithmetic lessons*." His aim, through his argument, is to embolden those who may not agree to view the matter in a different perspective; and his persuasiveness allows him to constructively communicate that point across, with a sprinkle of playfulness to add in that nostalgia of fun memories.