

Tone

Consider:

And I started to play. It was so beautiful. I was so caught up in how lovely I looked that at first I didn't worry how I would sound. So it was a surprise to me when I hit the first wrong note and I realized something didn't sound quite right. And then I hit another and another followed that. A chill started at the top of my head and began to trickle down. Yet I couldn't stop playing, as though my hands were bewitched. I kept thinking my fingers would adjust themselves back, like a train switching to the right track. I played this strange jumble through two repeats, the sour notes staying with me all the way to the end.

— Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*

Discuss:

1. How does the narrator's attitude toward her performance change in the passage?
2. How does the author's use of detail, diction, and imagery reveal the narrator's changing attitude?

Apply:

Write a paragraph about an outing that turned out badly. In your paragraph, express a change in tone. Begin with a positive tone and end with a tone of disappointment. Use detail, diction, and imagery to create the changing tone. Share your paragraph with a partner.