

Lesson 4: Setting

The Setting

All stories have a setting. The author will describe the **time**, **place**, and **environment** to give the readers a mental picture of where the story is taking place.

Let's take a closer look at each element of setting.

Time

This is important to know about because the time of day and time of year will let you create a better mental image of the story.

The Time	Detail that's missing
"One time..."	Is it in the morning? Afternoon?
"One day..."	Night?
"Once upon a time..."	What time of year is it? Is it close to a holiday? Did the story already take place? Or is it in the present or future?

Place

The place a story happens is often the only element of setting that gets paid attention to by the reader. It is important to be specific about the place a story happens so the reader can imagine the story.

The Place	Detail that's missing
"Outside..."	<i>It could be...</i> In the jungle In the ocean In the yard In the mountains By a school In a pool
"Inside..."	<i>It could be...</i> In a house In a classroom In the gym In your bedroom In a fish tank

Environment

The environment is what it is like around you. In a book or story, the environment would be what is around the characters. It often is what type of weather and mood is around.

Details about Environment

"It was cloudy..."

"It was cold..."

"It was a hot day..."

"It was a happy place to be..."

"Everyone around me seemed sad"

Complete the following.

Write a sentence describing the setting to replace the sentences below. Be sure to describe time, place, and environment.

1. "One day, a boy was playing outside."

2. "A long time ago there was a mouse that lived inside."

3. "One summer night, I was outside."
