

Literary Elements: Setting

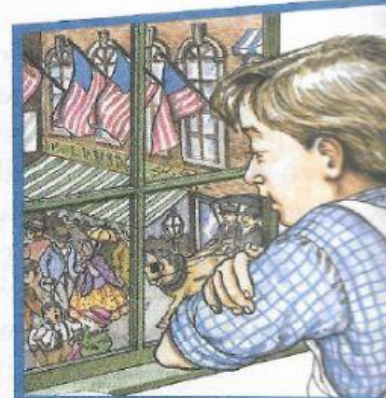
Where and when a story takes place is called the **setting**. The place where a story happens can be a real or make-believe place. The time when a story takes place might be many years ago. Other stories might tell about events that are happening now or events that could happen in the future.

Sometimes an author tells you the story's setting. Other times you have to look for details to figure it out. As you read, think about why a setting is important for the characters and events.

Read the story. Think about when and where the story takes place.

Jess is spending the summer with Aunt Minnie and Uncle Frank. It took two days on a railroad train to get to their home. Aunt Minnie and Uncle Frank have a two-story house with a grand staircase inside. Jess has his very own bedroom on the second floor.

As Jess looks down from the windows of his room, he notices crowds of busy people rushing in and out the many houses and shops that line the street. The clatter of the horses as they pull the fancy carriages never stops. This visit will be quite an exciting adventure for a boy from the prairie!



What is the setting of this story? Fill in the circle.

- ☐ a house on the prairie long ago
- ☐ a house on the prairie today
- ☐ a house in the city long ago
- ☐ a city in the future

What words or phrases gave you clues that helped you figure out the setting?

Tip

As you read a story, picture the setting in your mind. Think about how the story would change if events happened in a different time and place.



Story Elements

What's the Setting?

For each passage below, write the setting, or time and place, in the correct column.

Passage	Time	Place
1. As the night ended, the sun splashed across Casey's bed. He opened his eyes slowly. The first thing he saw was the beautiful blue ribbon on his bookshelf.		
2. Jenny ran as fast as she could down the path. There were trees in front of her, trees behind her, and trees on both sides. While the snow was falling heavily in the valley, only a few snowflakes made it to the ground around her.		
3. Oscar thought it was time to get a breath of air, so he began to make his way to the surface. Before he reached it, a large shadow came toward him. Was it a shark? He thought of his parents on the beach. Would this be the end of vacation?		
4. Kwamba the lion cub rolled around near her mother's feet. Her mother would be leaving soon to start to hunt. While humans could not see in the darkness, it was easy for lions. Kwamba hoped her mother would get a gazelle. Those were her favorite dinners.		