

Setting—Mood and Atmosphere

Setting is commonly defined as the time and place of the action of a story. Though this is true, setting is also a more complex element of fiction that is intertwined with both character and plot. In addition, setting plays an important role in creating a mood and atmosphere (a certain feeling or sense about the setting within the reader). As Professor Edward Bloom writes in *The Order of Fiction: An Introduction*,

The main thing about setting is that it must contribute to the development of plot and character, and never be extraneous to them. Setting is not merely scenic; it is connected with the happenings of the story. Like character and plot, setting arouses and helps to sustain our thoughts and feelings. It also calls into play our visual imagination. . . . Setting establishes a place and season (time) for the action, but more significantly it creates an atmosphere and mood (pp. 106-109).

Part A.

Directions: For each setting identified below, list three or more specific descriptions or details about that particular setting. For each description you list, attempt to explain the mood or atmosphere the detail creates for the reader. Answer, in complete sentences, the questions that follow.

Winston's Home—Victory Mansions Apartments

Detail or description	Mood or atmosphere created
Example: Poster of Big Brother stating that he is watching you. (in hallway)	Creates a threatening or fearful mood; no sense of privacy or freedom
1.	
2.	
3.	

1. How does this setting affect Winston psychologically?

2. How does this setting contribute to the plot or action?