

Setting, Mood, and Imagery

UNIT 1: NARRATIVE ELEMENTS

ADAPTED FROM HOLT MCDUGAL LITERATURE: GRADE 9



Setting

PART 1



Setting

The **setting** of the story is the time and place in which the action occurs.

Setting is another literary element authors use to develop characters, create conflict, and symbolize ideas.

Setting as an Influence on Characters

Setting can influence characters by...

- determining the living conditions and jobs available
- shaping their personalities, their dreams, and their values

Example: A poor, drought-stricken Midwestern farm town in the 1930s

- Despite months of grueling work, Joe's crops are failing again. Realizing that his life may never improve, he becomes bitter and angry.



Setting as a Source of Conflict

Setting can create conflict by...

- Exposing characters to dangerous weather, such as a storm or drought
- Making characters endure a difficult time period, such as the Great Depression

Example: Drought

- The drought has lasted seven years, and most of the farms are failing. People have begun to sell their most prized possessions because they need money. Recently, Mrs. Wilkes sold her wedding band to buy shoes for her daughter.



Setting as a Symbol

Setting can serve as a symbol by...

- Representing an important idea
- Representing a character's hopes, future, or predicament

Example: Drought

- Some people have planted a small flower garden in the town square. The garden is a symbol of their hope that their community can still thrive.



Imagery & Mood

PART 2



Imagery

Imagery is the recreation of a sensory experience via the use of vivid description. Writers use **sensory language** – specific words and phrases that appeal to the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch – to help you visualize a scene.



Mood

By using imagery and setting details, a writer creates the **mood** – or the atmosphere – of the story. A story's mood can affect your emotional reaction to the characters and events.

- Tone = TEXT/THE AUTHOR
- Mood = ME

