

Setting

Setting is the time and place in which the story takes place. It is used in novels, short stories and plays (and sometimes poems). Setting is usually established early in the story, as the characters and their situation are established.

- May be as small as a room (The Diary of Anne Frank) or building, or as big as a world.
- May be active, or hostile.
- May assume you know history.
- Authors use sensory details (imagery) to create setting.
- May be more than one place:
 - The character may travel, as in a quest or journey.
 - The character may grow up and move away.
 - The characters may live in different countries or cities.
- May be more than one time:
 - The story may follow a character over a lifetime, or for generations.
 - There may be flashbacks to the character's youth, or an earlier time.
 - The story may look into the future.

May also include other elements:

- Weather or climate
- Social conditions (before/during a war, during a time of cultural advancement, etc.)
- Circumstances in which a major revelation or realization takes place.