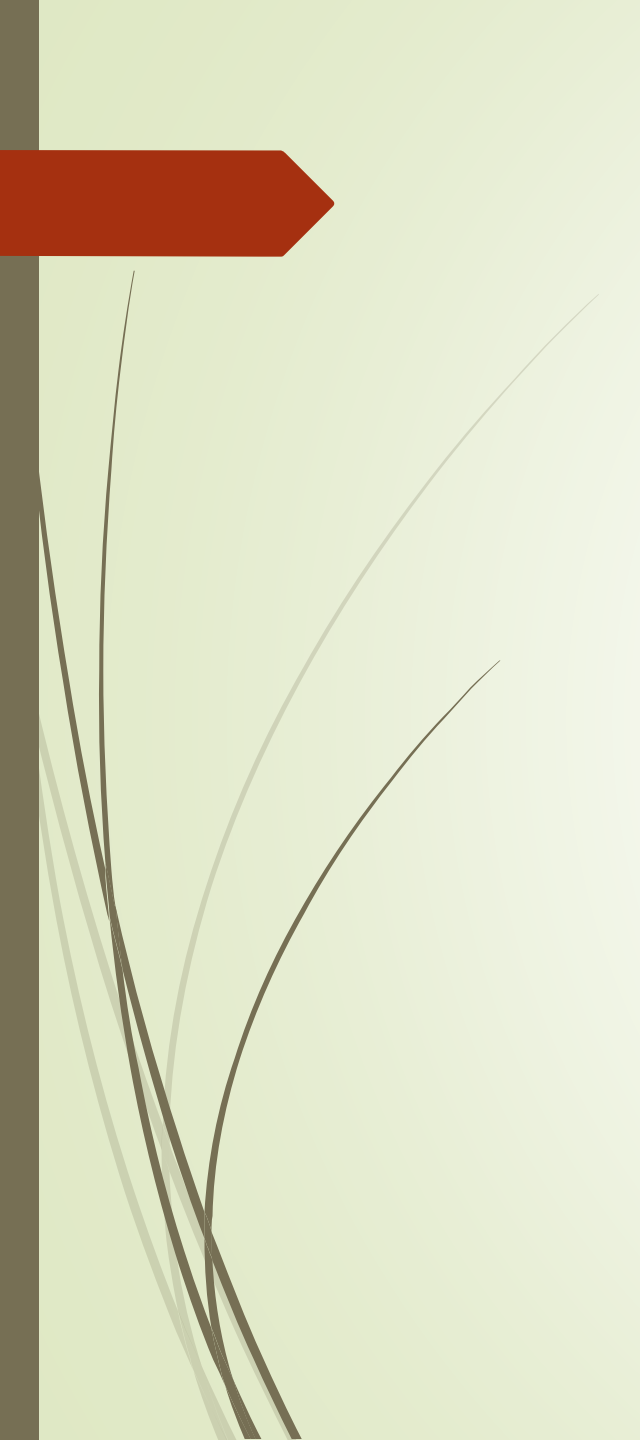




# # 1 Setting Analysis



# Various SETTINGS may be symbolic

When scenes are emphasized, they may be taken as symbols.

You *should* draw a connection between elements of setting and the characters, ideas, or situations in the story.

Here's how . . .

# **SETTING** are the descriptions or references to:

## **GEOGRAPHY**

- Country, state
- Landscape
- Climate, area, weather
- Rural or urban environments
- Manmade, manufactured.
- In SF/F what elements of “world-building” are involved?

## **TIME**

Year, seasons, time of day

## **LOCATION**

Environment of the characters as indoors, outdoors, public places, private spaces, and the condition of items within those spaces.



# Setting can create MOOD and ATMOSPHERE

- Look at the author's word choices, sensory details, and imagery when they describe something. What emotional effect is built in?
  - *A blood red sky*
  - *(versus) A slice of tangerine seemed to sit on the horizon.*
  - *The sand and sea were a single gray thing.*
  - *(versus) The silver sea crowned the gray beach.*



# Setting can reveal CHARACTERIZATION

Look at how the **character interacts with the setting**:

- the **circumstances** affect the character
- descriptions of the **character's personal spaces** reflect how they live there.
- descriptions of the **character's public spaces** – job, school, public events, reflects how they may be different in public?
- Scenes with character's **possessions (or objects)** are part of the setting – extensions of the character.
- Look at how the setting comments on the characters **frame of mind**. For example, weather almost always reveals frame of mind



# SETTING can reveal HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

- What was going on **politically** in this era?
- What was going on **culturally**?
- What were the **roles of men and women** in this era?
- Are the characters poor, middle class, or rich
- How does their **economic** lot in life determine what happens to them
- What **cultural, religious, or political conditions** are acted on in the story?
- How do the **characters adjust** to these conditions?

***Ask of the book: What were the circumstances that influence behavior and plot events?***



# SETTING can point to a MOTIF or THEME



- Look for descriptive phrases that are repeated
- Places that are repeatedly visited or talked about
- Repetition = emphasis = MOTIF or THEME

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- 
- In your book, look for a paragraph with **description**

- **What does it do most?**
  - ✓ Establish MOOD & ATMOSPHERE?
  - ✓ Reveal CHARACTER?
  - ✓ Show HISTORICAL / SOCIAL CONTEXT?
  - ✓ Reveal THEME?





## SSR Goals:

- ❖ Pause every 10 pages to summarize events on the checkpoint.
- ❖ In the margin, keep a list of page numbers with descriptions of setting.