



# Study Island 7.5 Pathways

## Study Island *Study Guide*

# Setting



# Setting

**Setting** is the time, place, and circumstances in which a story takes place. It tells the reader where and when the story occurs.

The main components of setting include the following:

- place (geographical location)
- time
- weather
- social conditions
- mood (atmosphere)

The setting is essential to the development of the characters and the plot of a story. Sometimes, the setting provides details about the mood of the story.

## Examples:

A story set in a haunted house would probably be filled with suspense and horror.



Other times, the setting may actually be part of the conflict in the story. This is common in adventure stories in which characters become trapped or lost in forests, avalanches, etc. The setting may also provide the way in which the conflict is resolved. In such instances, a character uses a feature of the setting to his or her advantage.

The setting of the story can also determine who the antagonists (characters that oppose the main character) of the story will be.



If the story is set during a war, the antagonists would probably be the enemy soldiers.

# Practice!

Which of these is an example of a setting?

a protagonist

conflict

a plot outline

a beauty salon



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# And the answer is...

Which of these is an example of a setting?

- a protagonist
- conflict
- a plot outline
- a beauty salon

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# Setting and Plot

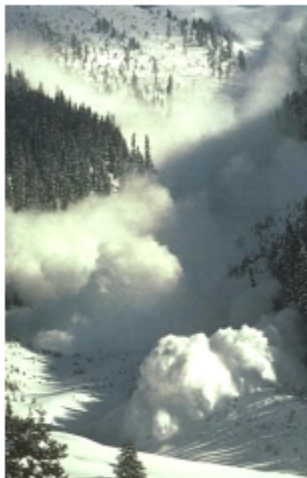
*It is important to know the ways in which the **setting** and the **plot** of a story are related.*

## Setting

The setting is the background for the story's plot. It includes elements such as place, time, and weather. The setting is more important in some stories than in others.

## Plot

The plot is the series of events that occur in a story. The way that these events relate to each other and affect the characters in the story are what make each plot different. Usually a plot will have five parts: the exposition, the rising action, the climax, the falling action, and the resolution or denouement.



Sometimes, the setting provides details about the mood and tone of the story. For example, a story set in a haunted house would probably be filled with suspense and horror. A story could also be set in a historical time period. How might a story set in the 1800s have a different plot than one set in the 2000s?

Other times, the setting may actually be part of the conflict in the story. This is common in adventure stories in which characters become trapped or lost in forests, avalanches, and so forth. The setting may also provide the way in which the conflict is resolved. In such instances, a character uses a feature of the setting to his/her advantage.

The setting of the story can also determine who the **antagonists** (characters that oppose the main character) of the story will be. For example, if the story is set during a war, the antagonists would probably be the enemy soldiers.