

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Setting

The Where and the When

Where are we? Huh?

I'm sitting, leaning, living, breathing,

Thinking about the book that I finished reading.

I dug the characters and liked the plot,

Was anything else important? Probably not.

Wait... what about the setting?

The setting is the one I'm always forgetting.

It gives us the where and the when,

But it's mostly in the background, know what I'm saying?

Actually maybe not,

The setting might be more important than I thought.

Here's a \_\_\_\_\_, his name is Todd.

And here's some action, that's a part of the \_\_\_\_\_:

"Todd clenched his jaw, he was sweating."

Now how could that be informed by the setting?

Well, let's say he's on a track at a race,

You'd \_\_\_\_\_ he's running, trying for first place.

But what if we switch up the setting,

There might be a different reason Todd is sweating.

Say he's in class, sitting at a desk,

You might infer schoolwork's causing him stress.

Or what if he was on a ship going down,

Fear is the reason he's sweating now.

Yep, setting can reveal \_\_\_\_\_

And plots, plus it provides \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm betting,  
You know where and when is the setting.  
The mood and themes that we're getting,  
And the plot the author is telling,  
Are informed by the setting.

x2

The setting can inform the mood and theme,  
Like a score adds a feeling to a movie scene.  
If the \_\_\_\_\_ is a cliffside drive,  
With a nice new ride under bright blue skies,  
The \_\_\_\_\_ might be exploration or freedom.,  
And there's already a mood I'm feeling,  
A \_\_\_\_\_ of hopefulness and excitement  
From the setting the author's writing.  
Good authors choose settings with care.  
They don't pick a random place and put their story there.  
Like when Odysseus is trapped in a cave  
With a cyclops who wants to eat him up right away.  
Why did the author choose a cave?  
He wanted Odysseus to be trapped, OK?  
He could have chosen a locked room,  
But a cave's gloom sets a darker mood.  
And it allows Odysseus to hide in the dark,  
Until he blinds the cyclops and then sneaks off.  
The setting of the cave was key  
To the plot and conflict, the mood and themes.  
So the next time you read a book,  
At the setting is where you need to look.  
And when you write, choose the setting with care,  
Think mood, theme and plot, and not just where.

I'm betting,

You know where and when is the setting.

The mood and themes that we're getting,

And the plot the author is telling,

Are informed by the setting.

x2

A story needs a setting like the summer needs heat,

Like yards need feet, EDM needs a beat,

Like a butcher needs meat, a dentist needs teeth,

Like wool needs a sheep, like a prez needs a veep,

Like a lock needs a key, like a bird needs a beak,

Like a day needs a week, like a curse needs on bleep on TV,

A repeat needs a repeat, a repeat needs a repeat, a repeat needs a repeat...