

**Setting and Its Roles**

**Review:** The **setting** is the time and place where the action of a story or play unfolds. Details in the text show whether the setting is real or imaginary and whether the action takes place in the present, past, or future. The setting can affect the story in many ways. For example, the setting can help shape events and cause a conflict. The setting might also reveal details about the characters. Oftentimes, an author uses the setting to help create a certain mood or atmosphere.

**Directions:** Read each excerpt. Then write the answers to the questions below.

1.

The sun was setting as we loaded the loose hay into the barn and watered the workhorses. Ma had lit the gas lamp in the kitchen and was setting supper out on the table. Just then, Doc Harris's buggy clattered up the road in a cloud of dust. "Look's like Mrs. Heron is fixin' to have her baby tonight," Pa observed.

2.

"Frozen again!" Mrs. Hilton screamed, turning the faucet angrily. All winter long, the water lines to the kitchen sink had been freezing at the most inconvenient times. "Why did I ever let that husband of mine persuade me to leave the city and buy this drafty old barn of a place!" she muttered. And for good measure, she kicked the dining room door, which was swinging crookedly on a half-broken hinge.

3.

Davina spurred her stallion across the moor toward the blazing bonfire in the circle of ancient oaks. At the tall stone altar in the center, the wizard raised his staff at her approach. "Bring me the captive!" Davina commanded, reining in her steed. The wizard shrank backward, shielding his face from the flash of firelight on her silver armor.