

Setting

Reading Comprehension



What is the **setting**?

The **time** and place where a story happens

- **Knowing the setting helps you visualize the text.**
- **Allows you to form expectations**
Ex: If it takes place in the 1700s, there are no cars.

How to Determine the **Setting**

- The **narrator may tell you** exactly when and where the story are taking place.
- Sometimes you may have to **determine the setting based on clues.**
- **If the exact date isn't listed**, it is good enough to say something like **modern times**, in the **recent past**, in the **distant past**, in the **distant future**, etc.

Example

Jake hopped on his horse and trotted around the stables. He looked around the range from his mount and considered going on a ride through the prairie. He decided against it. Then he heard a train whistle in the distance. This was it. More settlers had arrived. Now Jake would take some of the weaker horses to the station and sell them to the new folks, who were horseless.

**When and where is this story taking place?
Explain your answer.**

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place in the past, perhaps the late 1800s, on a ranch near a train station.

Explanation

I believe this because the train whistle seems important to Jake. There are no cars and Jake is selling horses.

Review

- The setting is the **time and place**.
- Look for clues as to where and when the story is happening if it isn't clearly stated.
- Saying things like modern times, the recent past, the distant past will work if the date isn't clearly stated.

Practice

1. Read the passage.
2. Write the setting.
3. Explain your answer.

1

Dirk adjusted his space suit. He wasn't used to fighting aliens in zero gravity. He was more of a terrain fighter. He looked around the spaceship. Three Zorlak warriors were splattered against the wall. He pressed the communi-button. A second later a voice spoke into the cabin, "*Commander Dirk, how may I support you?*" Dirk smirked and replied, "We need someone to clean up an awful mess in here. I'm in the control chamber by the engine room."

Suggested **Answer**

This story is taking place on a spaceship in the distant future.

Explanation

I believe this because there is advanced technology and they are in a spaceship.

2

Orlak pulled Gorth near the fire. He wrapped his arm around him and spoke from his heart, “Orlak need mammoth fur. Orlak too cold in cave.” Gorth grunted and looked around the cave walls. Gorth remembered what it was like sleeping in a cave before he had a mammoth fur. He spoke to Orlak, “Ok, Orlak. We get you fur.” A cold wind blew through the cave

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place in the distant past in a cave.

Explanation

I believe this because the characters appear to be cavemen plotting to acquire mammoth furs.

3

Chuck kicked the basketball. It bounced off the wrestling mats on the wall of the gymnasium with a thud. There was no one around to get offended by his behavior. He crumpled up his progress report and threw it into the bleachers. He screamed, “Ahh! All I wanted to do was play in that game! This is so unfair.” He was miserable and sweating. His phone started ringing in his pocket.

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place during modern times in a gym.

Explanation

I believe this because Chuck is in a gym and he has a phone.

4

Abraham Lincoln looked around the table at the senators. He saw a few of his supporters, but most of them opposed him. While they argued amongst each other over issues of little matter, Mr. Lincoln listened and looked around the restaurant. As the conversation dwindled, Mr. Lincoln spoke.

Suggested **Answer**

This story is taking place at a restaurant in the past, around the 1860s.

Explanation

I believe this because this is the time when Abraham Lincoln was president.

5

Max sat in the living room. He did not feel like studying, so he took out his phone. He pressed the holophone button and a hologram image of his friend Spencer appeared in the room. *“Hey, Max! What’s up?”* Spencer said. Max said, “I don’t feel like studying. May I borrow your hoverboard?” The holographic Spencer scratched his head and replied, *“Well, the thing is, I just got it. And, my grandma wouldn’t want me lending it out at least for a little bit...”* Max looked skeptically at the holographic image in his living room.

Suggested Answer

This story is taking place in the distant future in Max's living room.

Explanation

I believe this because the characters are using advanced technologies that do not currently exist.