

III. B.A English Literature
Skill Based
Creative Writing

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SETTING THE
ATMOSPHERE

Setting

Definition of Setting

Setting is an environment or surrounding in which an event or story takes place. It may provide particular information about placement and timing, such as New York, America, in the year 1820. Setting could be simply descriptive, like a lonely cottage on a mountain. Social conditions, Historical Times, geographical locations, weather, Immediate surroundings, and timing are all the different aspects of setting.

There are three major components to setting: social environment, place, and time. Moreover, setting could be an actual region, or a city made larger than life, as James Joyce characterizes Dublin in [*Ulysses*](#). Or, it could be a work of the author's imagination, such as Vladimir Nabokov's imaginative place, space-time continuum in *Invitation of a Beheading*.

There are two main types of setting:

- **Backdrop Setting**
- **Integral setting**

• **Backdrop Setting**

Backdrop setting emerges when it is not important for a story, and it could happen in any setting. For instance, A. A. Milne's story *Winnie-the-Pooh* could take place in any type of setting.

• **Integral Setting**

It is when the place and time influences the [theme](#), [character](#), and action of a story. This type of setting controls the characters. By confining a certain character to a particular setting, the writer defines the character. Beatrix Potter's [short story](#) *The Tail of Peter Rabbit* is an example of integral setting, in which the behavior of Peter becomes an integral part of the setting. Another good example of this type of setting can be seen in E. B. White's [novel](#) *Charlotte's Web*.

Wuthering Heights (By Emily Bronte)

- In [Emily Bronte](#)'s novel *Wuthering Heights*, its setting plays a vital role, as it reflects the [mood](#) of major characters and their actions, while contributing to its overall [atmosphere](#). The novel has three main settings:
- The Moors
- Wuthering Heights
- Thrushcross Grange

Atmosphere

Definition of Atmosphere

A literary technique, atmosphere is a type of feeling that readers get from a [narrative](#), based on details such as [setting](#), background, objects, and [foreshadowing](#). A [mood](#) can serve as a vehicle for establishing atmosphere. In literary works, atmosphere refers to emotions or feelings an author conveys to his readers through description of objects and settings, such as in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* tales, in which she spins a whimsical and enthralling atmosphere. Bear in mind that atmosphere may vary throughout a literary piece.

The Vision (By Dean Koontz)

“The woman raised her hands and stared at them; stared through them.

Her voice was soft but tense. ‘Blood on his hands.’ Her own hands were clean and pale.”

When we read these lines, they immediately bring to our mind an emotional response, and draw our attention. This is exactly what atmosphere does in a literary work.

Function of Atmosphere

- The purpose of establishing atmosphere is to create emotional effect. It makes a literary work lively, fascinating, and interesting by keeping the [audience](#) more engaged:

Style & Rhythm

Rhythm:

Rhythm, in music, the placement of sounds in time. In its most general sense, rhythm (Greek *rhythmos*, derived from *rhein*, “to flow”) is an ordered alternation of contrasting elements. The notion of rhythm also occurs in other arts (e.g., poetry, painting, sculpture, and architecture) as well as in nature (e.g., biological rhythms).

Elements Of Rhythm

- Unlike a painting or a piece of sculpture, which are compositions in space, a musical work is a composition dependent upon time. Rhythm is music’s pattern in time. Whatever other elements a given piece of music may have (e.g., patterns in pitch or timbre), rhythm is the one indispensable element of all music.
- Rhythm can exist without melody, as in the drumbeats of so-called primitive music, but melody cannot exist without rhythm. In music that has both harmony and melody, the rhythmic structure cannot be separated from them. Plato’s observation that rhythm is “an order of movement” provides a convenient analytical starting point.

How to use rhythm in Creative Writing:

- Writing starts with reading. The single most important thing for a writer is to read constantly **and when you're not reading, you should be writing**. That's the formula. Read lots and write often.
- If you're searching for inspiration to write, start by looking deeper into your reading. If you want to take your writing to the next level and really engage your reader, you need to start detecting the rhythm of your favourite authors.
- Watch how they craft their clauses. Watch how they sculpt their sentences. It's far more than words and punctuation, the writing breaths and squeals like a living life form.
- It might go without saying but emotive writing is so very important when engaging your reader, especially if it's a creative piece. Rhythm adds a melody to your words, it adds a dimension of reality to letters on paper.
- **Jack Kerouac** was renowned for his idiosyncratic use of rhythm. His novels, *On the Road* and *Dharma Bums*, are famous for their use of lightning fast rhythm to achieve excitement and anxiety, anticipation and energy. **Kerouac became famous for his rhythm** and the style **beat poetry** was born.

Compare and Contrast: Characters and Setting

- Stanley Yelnats believes he is under a curse, which started with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. Stanley gets into trouble for something he claims he didn't do, and goes to a boy's detention center called Camp Green Lake to serve his punishment. The boys at the camp dig holes five feet wide by five feet deep every day to build character.
- Soon, Stanley thinks there is more than just digging going on. He thinks the Warden is looking for something, but what? Stanley is determined to figure out what could be hidden in a dried up lake.
- Now that you know a little bit about the story, let's dig in to compare and contrast the setting.

Setting

- When Stanley first arrives at Camp Green Lake, it's kind of funny because there is no lake! It has been dried up for over 100 years. The land is barren and it is extremely hot outside. He sees a bunch of holes and close to the Warden's cabin there is a hammock hanging between the only two trees there.
- As the story unfolds, we learn that over 100 years ago Camp Green Lake was different. The lake was filled with crystal clear, blue water. Surrounding the lake, you would see peach trees. It was a small town with only one school.

Types of characters

- ❑ Round characters are those the reader/listener/viewer gets to know well. They have a variety of traits that make them believable. Central characters are well developed in good literature. Meg, Claudia, Duck, Wilbur, and Jess are the central character, or protagonist (hero or heroine).
- ❑ Flat characters are less well developed and have fewer or limited traits or belong to a group, class, or stereotype. Fern in *Charlotte's Web*. A character foil are minor characters whose traits contrast with a main character. The lamb is young and naive as Wilbur, but she is smug instead of humble.
- ❑ Anthropomorphic characterization is the characterization of animals, inanimate objects, or natural phenomena as people. Skilled authors can use this to create fantasy even from stuffed toys (Winnie-the-Pooh). The characterizing of inanimate objects from tiny soldiers to trees and so on is represented in Andersen's works and the ballet *The Nutcracker*.
- ❑ Animal characters in realism are best when the animals act only like animals as in *The Incredible Journey*.

Narration:

In writing or speech, **narration** is the process of recounting a sequence of events, real or imagined. ... For **example**, if a story is being told by someone insane, lying, or deluded, such as in Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," that **narrator** would be deemed unreliable. The account itself is called a narrative.

In a moment, we'll work through **three types of narration**: first person, second person, and third person. Each serves its own purpose. But, before we enjoy some examples of **narration**, it's important to distinguish between a narrative and **narration**.

To write a **narrative** essay, you'll need to tell a story (usually about something that happened to you) in such a way that the audience learns a lesson or gains insight.

To write a **descriptive** essay, you'll need to describe a person, object, or event so vividly that the reader feels like he/she could reach out and touch it.

Difference between description and narration:

Description lists the appearance, smell, mood, or other characteristics of something. Descriptive text might account the appearance of a person (he had blue eyes, a big nose, and curly brown hair), or the details of a location (two stands of tall oak trees dripping with ivy lined the long, narrow driveway), or some other element that lets you immerse yourself into the story.

Descriptive text adds the details that help you visualize the characters and events in your mind's eye. It — quite literally — describes a person, place, or thing.

Narration is the act of giving an account. The narrator is the person or entity within a story that tells the story to the reader. First-person narration presents the story from the viewpoint of one of the characters ("I maintain that the Ewell's started it all, but Jem said it started long before that" From *To Kill a Mockingbird*).

Third-person narration presents events from the viewpoint of the writer, as if watching the story. ("She slept lightly at first, half awake and drowsily attentive to the things about her." . . . From *The Awakening*).

As described above, the main difference between narrative and descriptive essay is their purpose. A narrative essay is written to narrate a certain incident or experience while a descriptive essay is written in order to describe a person, a thing, or a place

Thank

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