

Setting

Video Lesson 3
May 4th-May 8th

What is the setting?

- The time and place where a story happens
- When you know the setting, it helps you imagine what you are reading.

How to determine the Setting

- If you are lucky the narrator will tell you exactly where and when the story is taking place.
- If not, 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 in modern times, in the recent past, or in the distant future.

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

The story is taking place in the past, perhaps the late 1800's, 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 for people to get around on.

Example 2

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.

When and where is this story taking place?

Explain your answer.

Suggested answer

The 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 don't exist.

Another Missing Person

Ulrich's friend Anne was missing at school. His mother said that perhaps she had gone into hiding. That was the hope anyway--that the family had left on their own and had not been sent on one of the prison trains to Germany or Poland. So many people in his city had disappeared since the Nazis came to Amsterdam in 1940. "It's not our home anymore," Ulrich thought. The streets, once brimming with busy shoppers, were now filled with tanks and soldiers. No one felt safe, except maybe the collaborators.

Who were they? Who would betray their friends and let their neighbors be captured? Ulrich remembered his friend Anne; her father had a small business right down the road from his house. Her sister, Margot, was in the upper school, where Ulrich's sister was in her class.

When he walked to or from school, Ulrich studied the faces of the people on the street. Some looked concerned and cast their eyes downward as they walked, trying not to be noticed. His own parents had that look, like ghosts walking and wondering what had happened to them. The ones that bothered him were those who smiled, who acted like nothing was wrong. "Were they blind?" he wondered. Worse were those who moved into the houses and took the businesses of their missing neighbors. They seemed too assured, too content. They may be Dutch, Ulrich thought, but they are the enemy, too. They were the ones who made the occupation easy. He hoped that when the war was over, the rightful owners would come back and toss them out on their ears.

School was not the same either. It was more than the missing students, though that was the biggest part of it. The teachers, who once seemed to know everything, were different, too. They seemed afraid to teach history, afraid that the authorities would not like what they said. They jumped when a student dropped a book. It was as if they all had to hold their breath.

It was nearly spring. Already tulips were fighting their way out of the cold ground. How many more winters, springs, summers, and falls would go by until they were free? Ulrich waited, and hoped that his friend Anne would soon come home.

Another Missing Person
Questions

What was the setting of *Another Missing Person*?

When did this *Another Missing Person* take place?

Explain your reasoning.



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, recent past, or distant past will work if the time isn't clearly stated.

Thank you very much for watching!

Please complete the Setting worksheet next.

I miss you all and look forward to seeing you again next year.