

Setting

When describing the setting, you should concentrate on including everything that is important to the plot—elements that describe the setting of the story overall, but also elements that are more limited to important events. Sometimes this information is very specific, like an hour of the day, or a specific room in a specific building. But also don't forget to include the general information that is important as well. Is it important that the story takes place in a specific country, or could it really be anywhere? Consider the cultural implications of the setting.

Always include three main components when describing the setting:

- **Time**
 - Consider century, year, season, day, hour—anything that is important to the plot
 - Consider the range of the story: does it take place over the course of a few hours, a few days, etc.?
- **Place**
 - Consider broad areas, or more specific areas, especially places where key events of the plot take place.
- **Circumstances**
 - Consider the geographic, political, environmental, and cultural circumstances that are important to the story. Sometimes they are in the background, but we still see them having an influence on the characters, the plot, or sometimes even symbolism in a story. For instance, if a story takes place in Germany in 1942, then it would be important to mention the circumstances of World War II taking place; it would be important to mention the war when describing the setting. Or, if a story takes place in a Chinese village where they don't value the opinions of women, then it would be important to mention that cultural belief, especially if it impacts the story.