

Exercise walk-through

The function of setting in a narrative ■ 7.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a change of setting may suggest
- state why settings may be contrasted
- explain how a setting change can signal a character change
- identify the values attached to two settings

Method — A change of setting

When a setting changes, it may suggest other movements, changes, or shifts in the narrative. A move between places is rarely only a move.

Method — Contrasted settings

Settings may be contrasted in order to establish a conflict of values or ideas associated with those settings. The contrast is the same analytic move as 4.7, applied to places.

Method — Signalling

If a character's circumstances change when the setting does, the setting change is doing narrative work: it marks a transition the text does not have to state.

Method — Attached values

Ask what each setting permits and forbids. A city that permits anonymity and a village that forbids it are not two backdrops but two value systems.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a change of setting may suggest.

Solution 2.1

Method: A change of setting

Worked steps

other movements, changes or shifts in the narrative **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State why settings may be contrasted.

Solution 2.2

Method: Contrasted settings

Worked steps

to establish a conflict of values or ideas associated with those settings **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Settings carry values.

- (a) State the question that finds them.
- (b) State what a setting change can mark.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) what each setting permits and what it forbids **B2**. (b) a transition the text does not have to state **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Settings may be contrasted to establish a conflict of

A values or ideas

B page counts

C genres

D publication dates

Solution 3.1

Method: Contrasted settings

A values or ideas



B page counts

C genres

D publication dates

Worked steps

A. values or ideas.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A setting change may signal

- A** other movements, changes or shifts in the narrative
- B** a printing error
- C** the end of the book
- D** a new author

Solution 3.2

A other movements, changes or shifts in the narrative



B a printing error

C the end of the book

D a new author

Worked steps

A. other shifts in the narrative.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A story moves a character from a crowded city to an empty coast.

- (a) State what the move may mark.
- (b) Explain the values the two settings might carry.

Solution 3.3

Method: Contrasted settings

Worked steps

(a) a change in the character's circumstances or state of mind **B1**. (b) the city permits anonymity and demands endurance **B1**; the coast permits solitude and offers no distraction from it **B1**.