

1.2 Textual details that convey setting

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS setting 场景 • character 人物 • plot 情节

Objective

Build the skills to read **setting** 场景 from textual detail.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's definition of setting at this level
- distinguish setting from description of place
- explain why time is half the definition
- select details that establish setting

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The definition

Setting includes the time and place during which the events of the text occur. At this stage the definition is deliberately simple; 3.3 widens it.

■ Setting and description

A description of a room is a detail; the setting is what the details together establish about **when** and **where**. Several details can establish one setting.

■ Time

Time is half the definition and the half students most often drop. “A city” is not a setting; “a city on the night of a curfew” is.

■ Selecting details

Look for what fixes time (clothes, technology, speech, references to events) and what fixes place (landscape, buildings, weather, language). One clear detail of each is worth more than a list.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s definition of setting. [2]

2.2 Distinguish a detail of place from a setting. [2]

2.3 Students often drop half the definition.

(a) State which half. [1]

(b) Name two kinds of detail that fix it. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Setting includes place and [1]

- **A** time
- **B** narrator
- **C** conflict
- **D** theme

3.2 “A city” is not yet a setting because it lacks [1]

- **A** a time
- **B** a character
- **C** a plot
- **D** an author

3.3 A story mentions oil lamps, a horse and a telegram.

(a) State what these details establish. [1]

(b) Explain how the reader uses them.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 the time and place during which the events of the text occur.

2.2 a detail of place describes one thing; a setting is what details together establish about when and where.

2.3 (a) time. (b) any two of: clothes; technology; speech; references to events.

3.1 A. time is the other half.

3.2 A. no time is fixed.

3.3 (a) a period, roughly. (b) the reader combines them to date the events, since no single detail is decisive on its own.