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# 6 Comparing and Contrasting Settings

**1** PART

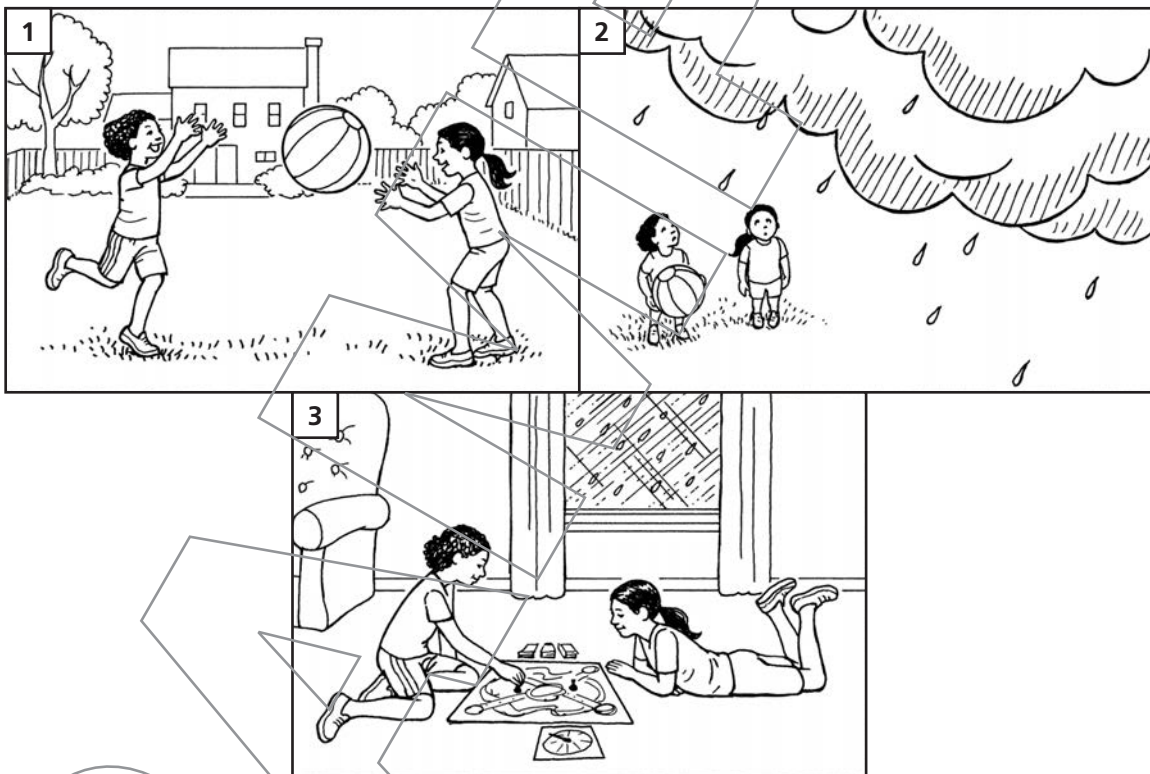
## Introduction

**THEME: >>> Memorable Moments**

Every story has a **setting**. The setting is the place where the story happens and the time when it takes place. Many stories contain more than one setting. The author describes the setting to help the reader make a picture in his or her mind of the place and time. The setting may also affect the characters' experiences. For instance, if characters walked through a dark forest, they might feel scared. If they walked into a party, they might feel happy. The setting helps set the **mood**, or feeling about a place.

When a story has more than one setting, it is important to compare and contrast the settings to understand the backdrops for the actions and mood of the characters in each setting.

**Look at the illustrations.**



**Think about how each setting affects the girls' attitudes. Answer the questions.**

How does the setting contribute to the girls mood in the first illustration?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

How do the girls feel in the second illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the setting in the third illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do the girls feel? \_\_\_\_\_

Whenever you read a story or a play, pay attention to details about the settings. Comparing and contrasting the settings will help you understand the characters' feelings and actions.

SAMPLE

Read the first part of the story. Then answer the questions.

## A New Home for Gabriella

1 “I’m sorry, Gabby,” said Gabriella’s dad. “I know you love Austin and Texas, but when my company offered me a better job in Columbus, Ohio, Mom and I knew we had to go. It’s going to be better for all of us. We’ll have a nicer house, and you and Luis will make new friends.” Dad’s expression let Gabby know he felt sorry to tell her about moving, but he expected her to act more grown up. Tears wouldn’t change anything.

2 The next morning, Gabby walked slowly around her neighborhood. She entered the sunny park and pushed herself gently in a swing for a while, just thinking about everything she was going to have to leave behind. Then, jumping from the swing with a sigh, she wandered on toward her school building. She circled around it and peeked in the dark window of what would have been her fifth-grade classroom in the fall. Finally, she knocked on Elena’s door. They’d been friends since preschool. How could she leave Elena behind? “I’ll text you every day,” she promised Elena as she left an hour later. “I’ve got to go home now and finish packing.” The friends hugged one last time.

### Think About It



**How is one setting similar to or different from another?** The setting refers to the times and places in which the story takes place.

**Underline clues about where the characters are and what time it is.**

What places does Gabby visit in the story so far? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways are the park and the school different? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The author doesn’t say it is summertime. How can you figure out the season?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A CLOSER LOOK**

Gabby's house in Columbus, Ohio, is new to her and different from the house she left behind. Underline details that describe the setting of Gabby's new home.

Continue reading the passage. Then answer the question.

3 Several days later, Gabby climbed stiffly out of the back seat of the family car. It had been a 1,200-mile trip, and even though she had been reluctant to leave Austin, she was glad to be out of the car. The new house loomed high above as Gabby stared up to the second floor. It appeared huge compared to their smaller one-floor house in Austin. The trees were tall and skinny, and the grass felt different under Gabby's feet. She pulled her phone from her pocket and began to text Elena. *In Columbus...house too big...trees skinny...grass weird. Wish I were in Austin.*

4 The house was a disaster zone after the moving van brought in the furniture and what seemed like thousands of boxes. Gabby felt as though she had dropped into a strange world, but she had to admit it was nice to have a large bedroom with a gigantic closet.

5 "Hey, Gabby," Dad called up the stairs. "Luis and I are going to the park down the street to play catch. Take a break from unpacking and come with us."

6 The park was bigger than the one in Austin and had a baseball field, soccer field, and lots of playground equipment. While Dad and Luis practiced pitching and catching, Gabby settled into a swing. She pushed herself higher and higher. As she closed her eyes, she imagined herself back in Austin. When she opened her eyes, she was surprised to see another girl swinging beside her. "What's your name?" the girl asked.

7 "I'm Gabby, and I just moved here from Texas."

8 The girl smiled as she said, "I'm Emma, and I've lived here all my life. If you're going to be in fifth grade, we might be in the same class at school this fall."

Who lives in each city?

Which tells something that was *only* in the Austin setting?

- A a park
- B Elena's house
- C a school
- D summertime

**DISCUSS IT**

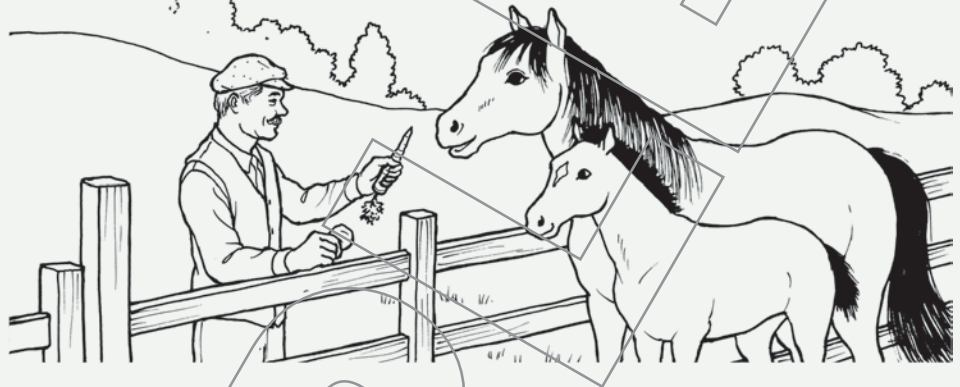
With a partner, choose setting details that appear in the first and second parts of the story. Compare and contrast them.



Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## Black Beauty

by Anna Sewall



### A CLOSER LOOK

Black Beauty remembers the place where he grew up. Underline details that describe this setting.

1 The first place that I can well remember was a pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside. While I was young I lived upon my mother's milk, as I could not eat grass. In the daytime I ran by her side, and at night I lay down close by her. When it was hot we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold we had a warm shed near the grove.

2 There were six young colts in the meadow beside me. They were older than I was. I used to run with them, and had great fun. We used to gallop all together round the field as hard as we could go. Sometimes, we had rather rough play, for they would frequently bite and kick as well as gallop.

3 One day, when there was a good deal of kicking, my mother whinnied to me to come to her, and then she said, "I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say. The colts who live here are very good colts, but they are cart-horse colts, and of course they have not learned manners. You have been well-bred and well-born. Your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather won the cup at the Newmarket races. Your grandmother had the sweetest temper of any horse I ever knew, and I think you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play."

4 I have never forgotten my mother's advice; I knew she was a wise old horse, and our master thought a great deal of her. Her name was Duchess, but he often called her Pet.

5 Our master was a good, kind man. He gave us good food, good lodging and kind words; he spoke as kindly to us as he did to his little children. We were all fond of him, and my mother loved him very much. When she saw him at the gate she would neigh with joy, and trot up to him. He would pat and stroke her and say, "Well, old Pet, and how is your little [colt]?" Then he would give me a piece of bread, which was very good, and sometimes he brought a carrot for my mother. All the horses would come to him, but I think we were his favorites. My mother always took him to town on a market-day in a light gig.

Where did the young colts gallop?

- The story tells that Black Beauty lived on his mother's milk when he was young because he could not eat grass. This means that the horses \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A lived in a field of grass
  - B ate food inside the shed
  - C ate carrots and bread from the master
  - D played in the plowed field

Why do the horses move from one place to another when the temperature changes?

- How are the settings of the pond and the shed different?
  - A The pond has grassy fields. The shed is near town.
  - B The pond has shade. The shed is warm.
  - C The pond is hot. The shed is warm.
  - D The pond is near the grove. The shed is near the master's house.

Look for words that describe Black Beauty's home and the gate.

- Write a paragraph describing how the setting of the field is right for certain activities while the setting at the gate is right for different activities. Use details from the story in your description.

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Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### *excerpt from Kidnapped*

by Robert Louis Stevenson

*The following is from the book Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson. The story takes place about 250 years ago in Scotland. In this excerpt, the main character's parents have recently died. Now he is walking to find his Uncle Ebenezer, who lives at the House of Shaws.*

1 In the forenoon of the second day, coming to the top of a hill, I saw all the country fall away before me down to the sea; and in the midst of this descent, on a long ridge, the city of Edinburgh smoking like a kiln. There was a flag upon the castle, and ships moving or lying anchored in the firth; both of which, for as far away as they were, I could distinguish clearly; and both brought my country heart into my mouth.

2 Presently after, I came by a house where a shepherd lived, and got a rough direction for the neighborhood of Cramond; and so, from one to another, worked my way to the westward of the capital by Colinton, till I came out upon the Glasgow road. And there, to my great pleasure and wonder, I beheld a regiment marching to the fives, every foot in time; an old red-faced general on a grey horse at the one end, and at the other the company of Grenadiers, with their Pope's-hats. The pride of life seemed to mount into my brain at the sight of the red coats and the hearing of that merry music.

3 A little farther on, and I was told I was in Cramond parish, and began to substitute in my inquiries the name of the house of Shaws. It was a word that seemed to surprise those of whom I sought my way. At first I thought the plainness of my appearance, in my country habit, and that all dusty from the road, consorted ill with the greatness of the place to which I was bound. But after two, or maybe three, had given me the same look and the same answer, I began to take it in my head there was something strange about the Shaws itself.

4 The better to set this fear at rest, I changed the form of my inquiries; and spying an honest fellow coming along a lane on the shaft of his cart, I asked him if he had ever heard tell of a house they called the house of Shaws. He stopped his cart and looked at me, like the others.

5 "Ay" said he. "What for?"

6 "It's a great house?" I asked.

7 "Doubtless," says he. "The house is a big, muckle house."

8 "Ay," said I, "but the folk that are in it?"

9 "Folk?" cried he. "Are ye daft? There's nae folk there—to call folk."

10 "What?" say I; "not Mr. Ebenezer?"

11 “Ou, ay” says the man; “there’s the laird, to be sure, if it’s him you’re wanting. What’ll like be your business, mannie?”

12 “I was led to think that I would get a situation,” I said, looking as modest as I could.

- 1 One thing the settings in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of *Kidnapped* have in common is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A the narrator is close to the sea
  - B the narrator is near a shepherd’s house
  - C the narrator is traveling to the house of Shaws
  - D the narrator is in the capital by Colinton
- 2 What is unique about the Glasgow road?
- A It has soldiers marching.
  - B It has ships in the harbor.
  - C It has a shepherd.
  - D It has a man with a cart.
- 3 The narrator is walking, and the setting changes as he walks. Which part of the setting brings him pleasure?
- A the firth, because he sees the ships
  - B the city of Edinburgh, because it is smoking like a kiln
  - C the Glasgow Road, because he sees soldiers marching
  - D the castle, because of the flag

