**SETTING**

Setting is one of the fundamental components of fiction along with the plot, character, theme, and style. The setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the surrounding in which the action occurs. The geographical location, historical time, social circumstances, timing, all form different aspects of setting.

The overall setting of *Macbeth*, for example, is medieval Scotland and the setting for the particular scene in which Macbeth comes upon the witches is a heath. In several works the setting, both overall and individual, contribute to the atmosphere of the work. For example, works by Edgar Allan Poe, Thomas Hardy and William Faulkner. In some works, the setting assumes a character itself, lending flavor to the plot. Setting has an immense role to play in any work as it has a huge effect on plot, character and progression of the work. It can also present symbolic images and establish the mood or atmosphere of a scene or story.

The Greek term *opsis* (scene or spectacle) is occasionally used to denote a particular visible or imaginable setting in any work of literature, including lyric poem. When applied to a theatrical production, setting is synonymous to décor which indicate both the scenery and the properties used on stage. The French *mise en scene* (placing on stage) is often used synonymously to setting but actually signifies a director’s overall conception of the theatrical production.