

4 Character, setting, and what a place reveals – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

inaction

selection

Recall

- You have judged someone by the room they keep.
- You know a place can be chosen or imposed.
- You have felt uneasy in a setting a story described.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Choices reveal values

A character's choices - in speech, action and **inaction** - reveal what they value. The third is the one readers miss: staying silent is a choice.

Worked example. A character who says nothing when a friend is accused has revealed something they value more.

■ 2 Environment as evidence

The environment a character inhabits provides information about that character. A room they arranged shows taste; a room they cannot leave shows constraint.

Worked example. The same bare room means different things depending on whether it was chosen.

■ 3 Mood from selection

A setting may help establish mood, and mood comes from **selection** . A place has many features; the narrator names three, and which three is the evidence.

Worked example. Describing a wedding by heat, noise and crowding tells the reader how to feel about it.

Watch out: Do not skim descriptions. If setting is evidence about character, the passages readers skip are the ones carrying the analysis.

Practice

2.1 Name the three things through which choices reveal values. [3]

2.2 Explain why inaction counts as a choice. [2]

2.3 Distinguish a chosen environment from an imposed one. [2]

2.4 Explain how selection produces mood. [2]

2.5 State what skipping descriptions costs a reader. [1]
