

▲ Owen had deep empathy for his war comrades.



SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE

SUBJECT VOCABULARY

setting the place where something is or where something happens, and the general environment
atmosphere the feeling that an event or place gives you

KEY POINT

The setting and the atmosphere it evokes are important devices used by a writer in order to influence readers. Careful choice of language is important in conveying this.

▲ SETTING

ACTIVITY 5

A02

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, REASONING, INTERPRETATION

Look at the questions in the list above. Answer them in response to one of the fiction texts in the Anthology.

- The **setting** of a text can tell you a lot about the text and helps to create **atmosphere**. If a novel is set entirely in one room, it can evoke a tense, claustrophobic feeling. A poem featuring open countryside under clear skies could suggest feelings of freedom and opportunity.
- CONSIDERING SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE**
- When approaching a new text, identify the setting and atmosphere more closely by considering the questions below. Does the writer:
- establish the sense of place, weather, time?
 - create a particular atmosphere? For example, is it tense or mysterious?
 - give details of the setting? How does this link with the atmosphere created?
 - choose specific vocabulary to create mood? Can you find examples of nouns, adjectives, verbs which do this?
 - use images or stage instructions to create effects? Are these linked to a subject or theme?
 - link setting and mood to the action or characters' feelings? For example, is a sad scene set in a rainy, windy, open space?

In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*

Pro patria mori.

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