

# THINKING ON MY OWN

## Video: The Land of the Pharaohs

*Setting*  
*(historical fiction)*

Becky enjoyed listening to folk tales when she was a little girl. She often dreamed of enchanted castles and far-away kingdoms. Now that she was older, she wondered what it would be like to live in a real castle. She started exploring the topic on the Internet and found that real castles weren't as fabulous as she thought. She found one article in particular, that portrayed a very different setting from the ones she remembered from her childhood.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***A Medieval Morning***. Create your own *Think Aloud*.

Then compare your thinking with **Becky's Think Aloud**.



#### Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about castles. Think about what you've learned about setting. Then, jot your ideas.

#### While You Read:

As you read this passage, ask yourself, "Am I making sense?" Look for words that can help you determine the time and place of the setting and what it was like there. You may want to highlight these words in orange. (You may use any color available to you!)

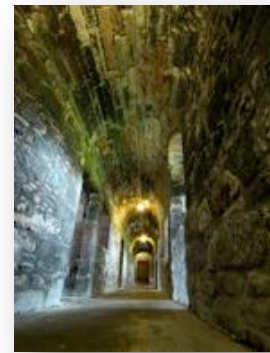
#### After You Read:

- Now it's time to try Thinking Aloud on your own. Ask yourself these questions, "When did the story take place?" "Where was the chambermaid? What was it like there?"
- Use the information you've read in this story to determine the setting. Explain how this helps you to understand the story better.

#### A Medieval Morning

Through the dense morning fog, three castle guards trumpeted the day's beginning.

It was the first day of work for the young chambermaid. Shivering, she pulled her wool shawl tighter around her thin shoulders. She had not imagined the castle so dark and damp. Her footsteps echoed as she pushed open the immense double oak front doors of the great hall. Stone walls



stretched to a sky-high ceiling. Dirty straw and reeds lay strewn on the castle floor. The chambermaid sniffed, and her nostrils burned. Smudgy wood smoldered, unattended in the hearth. Behind her, two dogs growled over scraps under a heavy wood table. She shooed them aside. The lord and the lady would arrive soon, and there was work to do.