

## Setting The Stage Practice Activities

### The Age of Dinosaurs

206 million years ago, the Jurassic Period began. The Earth groaned for the next 70 million years with all its changes. Transforming into a hot, steamy greenhouse, lush plants and trees sprung forth. The ground became blanketed in a dense cover of greenery.

Life during the Jurassic Period was on the move. Massive plant-eating dinosaurs gathered food. Smaller, yet fiercer meat eaters stalked it. The oceans stirred with aquatic reptiles. Flying reptiles commanded the skies. The first tiny mammals darted and hid in the underbrush.

In the background, volcanoes rumbled and erupted. Lava spewed, creating displays of hot, molten fireworks.

**First, please read the story.**

**Next, answer the following questions:**

1. Where did the story take place?
2. When did the story take place?
3. What was the setting like in the story?

**Finally, locate descriptive words, details, and images the author used to create a realistic and accurate setting. How would you describe the mood of the story?**

Compare your answers with **Joel's Think Aloud**

### Before You Read:

One of the most important aspects an author must choose for a story is the setting.

#### The setting includes:

**Location of the story** (General or Specific) and **Time period of the story** (Past, Present, or Future)

A strong setting unifies the story by helping the author describe the characters, location, and plot accurately and realistically.

A well-written setting can also help establish the mood and atmosphere of the story.

### A Night In The Woods

The campground hushes as evening falls. Inside tents, drowsing campers are tucked into sleeping bags and nodding off. Campfires with cooling embers send thin fingers of smoke into the air.

Beyond the dewy grass, the woods wait for darkness to settle. Then it gives hints at the undercover life it holds. Nameless hoots and howls make up a spooky lullaby. Deep croaks bubble from a black pond. From perch to perch, nature places its mystery calls.

While campers dream, animals hunt and hide by milky moonlight. Branches crack and leaves rustle as the night passes. With the first traces of morning, the shadowy woods grow quiet once again.

**First, please read the story.**

**Next, answer the following questions:**

1. Where did the story take place?
2. When did the story take place?
3. What was the setting like in the story?

**Finally, locate descriptive words, details, and images the author used to create a realistic and accurate setting. How would you describe the mood of the story?**

Compare your answers with **Gray's Think Aloud**