

The Land of The Pharaohs Practice Activities

The Land of The Pharaohs

Scorching winds blew across the desert land. It was Egypt's Old Kingdom era, 2400 B.C. The Nile River spilled out of its banks. The flooding left behind dark, rich soil for farmers planting their crops. But the crops weren't all that was growing. The mighty pyramids were under construction. Cities in the pyramids' shadows sprung up. Egyptian pyramid workers lived in homes provided by the pharaoh. Others worked as merchants, craftspeople, and bakers.

The cities hummed with activity. Inside the finished pyramids, however, there was silence and secrets. The pyramids held royal tombs. There were also storage rooms, courtyards, and secret passageways. Traps waited for robbers planning to steal the treasures locked inside.

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?
4. What type of verbs did the author use: past, present, or future tense? List 3 examples.

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 **Kimberly'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 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.

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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 **Becky's Think Aloud**