

We are looking at narrative writing for our next scheme of written English. What is narrative writing and what is its purpose?

Narration means the art of storytelling, and the purpose of narrative writing is to tell stories. Any time you tell a story to a friend or family member about an event or incident in your day, you engage in a form of narration. On occasion we refer to a narrative as 'creative writing' or story writing. The purpose of a narrative is simple, to tell the audience a story. It can be written to motivate, educate or most commonly entertain. Narratives can be both fact or fiction.

The elements of narrative writing are in the wrong order. Can you correct the order of the events?



main event

Introduction

build-up

resolution

L.O. To know how to write an atmospheric setting description

To be successful I know:

How to describe a setting

Know how word choices impact the reader

What is a setting?

A story setting is the time and location in which a story takes place. The setting could be a school, someone's home, a witch's lair or Mars!

Agatha sat gloomily on the old, rickety wooden chair that squeaked every time she moved. The desk felt grainy and chalky under her sweaty palms. There were only three other children in detention, who scribbled manically on their papers and did not dare look up for a second. A grey-faced teacher with dark eyes stared at her. His skin seemed as thin as dusty paper and she was scared to hold his gaze for more than a second. The walls were yellowed with age and the paint was peeling and cracking like dry earth. There was a disgusting smell of boiled cabbage coming from the corridor.

Questions

Think of a word to sum up the mood of the setting.

Find references for the following senses:
Sound, sight, touch and smell.

Can you identify any of the similes? Why have they been used? Why are they effective?

How can we make an atmospheric setting description?

- weather
- mood
- description of the place (setting)
- time of day

It was on a dreary night of
November that I beheld the
accomplishment of my toils.
It was already one in the morning;
the rain pattered dismally against
the panes, and my candle was
nearly burnt out,

Mary Shelley - Chapter 5 - Frankenstein

How does the description
of the weather make the reader
feel?

And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it - oh so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly - very, very slowly, so that I wouldn't disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed.

Edgar Allan Poe - The Tell-Tale Heart

How does the description in the text alter your mood?

It had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle. The door opened on to a tube-shaped hall like a tunnel: a very comfortable tunnel without smoke, with panelled walls, and floors tiled and carpeted, provided with polished chairs, and lots and lots of pegs for hats and coats – the hobbit was fond of visitors.

The Hobbit - Chapter 1 - J.R.R. Tolkien

The description is establishing the tone of the setting. What effect is the author trying to suggest to the reader?

The driver tried to interfere, but he pinned him down in his seat with one elbow, and put on full speed. The rush of air in his face, the hum of the engines, and the light jump of the car beneath him intoxicated his weak brain.

The Wind in the Willows - Chapter 10 - Kenneth Grahame

What senses in the text have been used to provide more information to the reader?



Watch the video clip from Coco which we will be basing our own atmospheric setting description about. Watch it first for enjoyment

[Click here](#)

If the link doesn't work then try pressing control + clicking



Watch the video again and fill in the planning grid with powerful vocabulary which will help us create a brilliant atmosphere.

[Click here](#)

If the link doesn't work then try pressing control + clicking

