**Sample Answers from Ms. Macdonald’s Book Studies**

**Sample #1 – Fiction. The title of the book is *Wonder* by Emma Donahue**

1. This setting takes a bit of guess-work, as it doesn’t give a specific year. Within the first few pages, I learn that it is from the point of view of a nurse who has travelled from London, England, to somewhere in the middle of Ireland: “The journey was no worse than she expected. A train from London to Liverpool; the steam packet overnight to Dublin; a slow Sunday train west to a town called Athlone…[the driver] carried her trunk to what he called the jaunting car; nothing jaunty about this bare cart.” (Donahue, p. 1) So, I know that is taking place in a town or village in Ireland that does not have train service. From the method of travel, I would guess mid –to-late 1800s.
2. The setting will be important, as the nurse seems very highly trained for the time, and may run into highly superstitious clients who do not understand her methods if they are based in science. This may play into the conflict as the story develops.

**Sample #2 – Non-Fiction. The title of the book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stephenson**

1. This book is written by a lawyer who has spent most of his life fighting for rights for prisoners on death row in the Southern US: “ I wasn’t prepared to meet a condemned man. In 1983, I was a twenty-three-year old student at Harvard Law school, working in Georgia on an internship…..Georgia’s death row is in a prison outside of Jackson, a remote town in a rural part of the state. I drove there by myself, heading South on the I-75 from Atlanta…” Since this is a true story, it clearly defines the setting as the state of Georgia in 1983.
2. I suspect the setting will be very important to the story. While 1983 was well within my lifetime, and human rights had taken great strides forward, it was also the deep South of the US, where attitudes towards people of colour were much more slow to change. I suspect the conflict in this story happens BECAUSE of where it is set, making the setting one of the most important elements.

**Sample #3 – Graphic Novel. The title of the book is *The Adventure Zone: Here there be Gerblins,* by Clint, Griffin, Justin and Travis McElroy, and Carey Pietsch.**

1. The first frame on the first page shows a landscape with mountains in the distance, and a dirt road along which a covered wagon is being drawn along by an ox. Watching the cart travel along is a dragon in the foreground. So, while the cart and dirt road indicate a time in the distant past, the dragon indicates that it will be a fantasy story, which means that time may be hard to pin down.
2. The setting seems like it will be very important to the story. The placement in a fantasy means that there will be many opportunities for conflict as the dragon and any other type of mystical being may attack the crew, who seems to be on a quest. As well, the placement of the first scenes in the woods and mountains add to the possibilities for attack and conflict.