**Assignment # 4**

**May 4 - 8**

**English 12**

**Novel Study Questions: Setting**

Setting includes the **time, location, context,** and **atmosphere** where the plot takes place. Good authors try to;

1. **Combine setting with characterization and plot**.
2. **Include enough detail** to let readers picture the scene but only details that actually add something to the story.
3. Use **two or more senses** in the descriptions of setting. (Hearing, sight, smell, etc.)

Rather than feed readers information about the weather, population statistics, or how far it is to the grocery store, good authors will **substitute descriptive details** so the reader can experience the locations the way the characters do.

**Place:** Remember that the place can be as broad or as limited as needed. For example it may suit the novel to only tell the reader that the story takes place in Canada. Or the author might want to tell the reader that it takes place in a very specific location, such as a certain town or even a specific building.

**Time:** Again this can be as precise or as vague as needed. Does the reader need to know that the story takes place in winter time? Or is it more important to tell the reader that it is 1965? Or both?

**Context/atmosphere:** This is about creating the backstory for the reader. An example would be if the novel is setting during wartime (or maybe during a pandemic). These details would be important in helping the reader understand the plot and the actions of the characters.

Most novels have more than one setting. Authors will often attach some importance to the change of setting. It may just be to further develop the plot, but it may also hold some significance. Perhaps an important change in the plot or in the character(s). It is also possible that the change of setting holds some symbolism, has some deeper meaning. This often requires the reader to read “deeper” or read “between the lines”.

**Questions**

1.) Explain/describe the **SETTING** at the beginning of the novel. Include some words and phrases **directly from the novel** that help to create this setting.

2.) Why do you believe the author chose this specific setting? Do you believe this setting has specific importance to the story?

3.) Does the setting of your novel change? If so, provide an explanation/description of **TWO other settings** provided in the novel, **and** why that change of setting was necessary to the plot.

If the setting does not change can you give a reason why you believe the author did not want to change the setting?

4.) Do you believe this novel could have been set in a different setting (time and place) *without changing the major plot elements of the story*? (Did this novel **have** to be in this setting?)