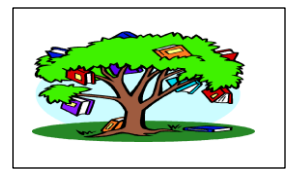


# Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



## Writing about Setting

The Setting is the time and place an author chooses for a story.

### The Setting Can Reveal:

- What characters must deal with
- The background for the action
- What goes into defining relationships
- Something about the theme or the motif

### Setting and Probability:

- Settings can impact the probability of certain things happening
  - Oceans are needed for shark attacks
- Certain people together in certain places can produce a foregone conclusion
  - Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

### Atmosphere:

- A mood is created by a setting
- Characters, their interactions and their backgrounds help to create a mood or atmosphere

### Characters:

- Where characters operate provides the arena where their desires and decisions come out

### Theme:

- When details are repeated or emphasized, or when a setting is unusual or contradictory, this helps reinforce imagery that aids in bringing the author's theme to the reader

### Journey Motif:

- A protagonist, like Odysseus in *The Odyssey*, will move from one setting to the next
- This change will follow a change in psychology
  - A desire, a belief, a habit, a level of maturity can change with each setting encountered

### Writing a Paper on Setting:

- Mark the details of setting
- Understand the governing motif, theme or major idea of the work
- A thesis will state and outline how the setting serves the theme
- Supporting paragraphs will focus on an aspect of setting and its impact on development of the governing idea