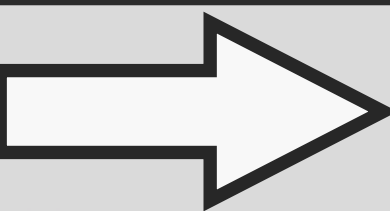


The Hero's Journey



Learning Objective:

To be able to describe a setting.



So far, we have planned our plots and created our protagonists.
Today, we are going to be exploring how to write interesting
settings for our stories.

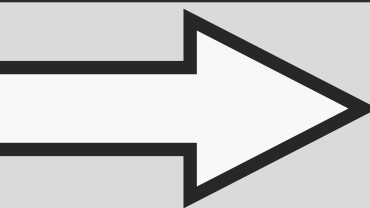
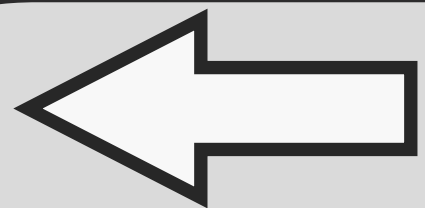
Where does
your story take
place?



Does your
story have
more than one
setting?



Why is it
important to
describe a
setting in a
story?



Describing a setting is important because it helps the reader picture where the story is taking place. Effective setting descriptions can evoke a mood, influence how the characters behave, reflect the world the characters live in and, most importantly, immerse the reader in the story.

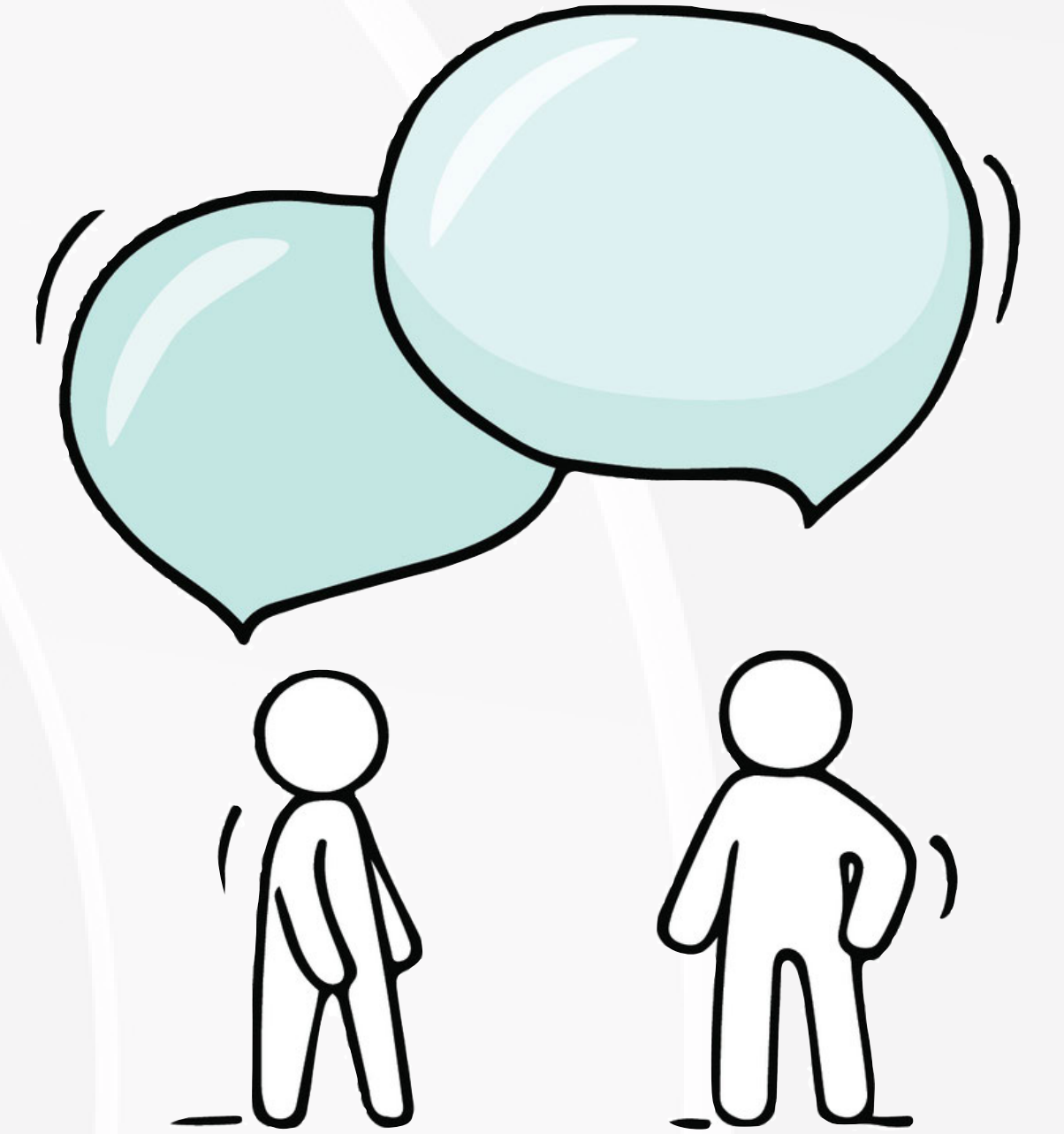
Let's read an extract of a setting on the next slide. It's taken from a book called 'Heart of Darkness' written in 1902 by Joseph Conrad...



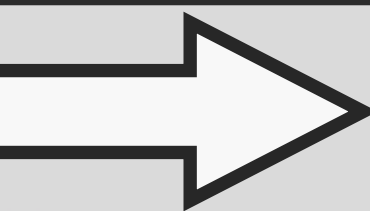
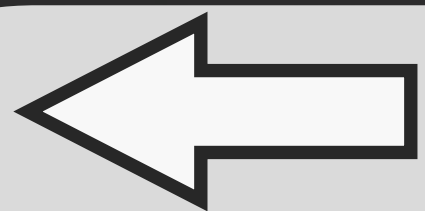
“Going up that river was like travelling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings. An empty stream, a great silence, an impenetrable forest. The air was warm, thick, heavy, sluggish. There was no joy in the brilliance of sunshine. The long stretches of the waterway ran on, deserted, into the gloom of overshadowed distances. On silvery sand-banks hippos and alligators sunned themselves side by side. The broadening waters flowed through a mob of wooded islands; you lost your way on that river as you would in a desert, and butted all day long against shoals, trying to find the channel, till you thought yourself bewitched and cut off for ever from everything you had known once—somewhere—far away—in another existence perhaps.”

‘Heart of Darkness’ by Joseph Conrad

Discuss...



- Where do you think this scene is taking place?
- What kind of emotions does this setting description evoke? How does the extract make you feel?
- What literary devices has Conrad used to describe the setting? Are there metaphors and similes? Is there personification?



This extract is taken from a section of the book when the narrator is travelling up the River Congo in Africa to find a man who runs an isolated trading post in the jungle.

“Going up that river was like travelling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings. An empty stream, a great silence, an impenetrable forest. The air was warm, thick, heavy, sluggish. There was no joy in the brilliance of sunshine. The long stretches of the waterway ran on, deserted, into the gloom of overshadowed distances. On silvery sand-banks hippos and alligators sunned themselves side by side. The broadening waters flowed through a mob of wooded islands; you lost your way on that river as you would in a desert, and butted all day long against shoals, trying to find the channel, till you thought yourself bewitched and cut off for ever from everything you had known once—somewhere—far away—in another existence perhaps.”

‘Heart of Darkness’ by Joseph Conrad

 metaphors

 similes

 senses

 personification



Did you spot any of these things?

When describing a setting, it's always a good idea to try and use your five senses to help describe the setting:

- What can you see?
- What can you hear?
- What can you smell?
- What can you touch?
- What can you taste?



You don't need to include each of the five senses in your descriptions but including two or three will really help immerse the reader in your setting.

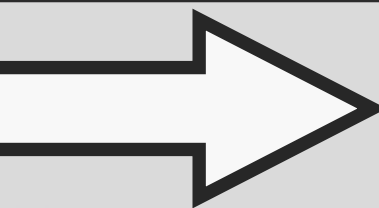
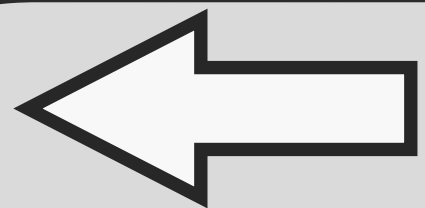


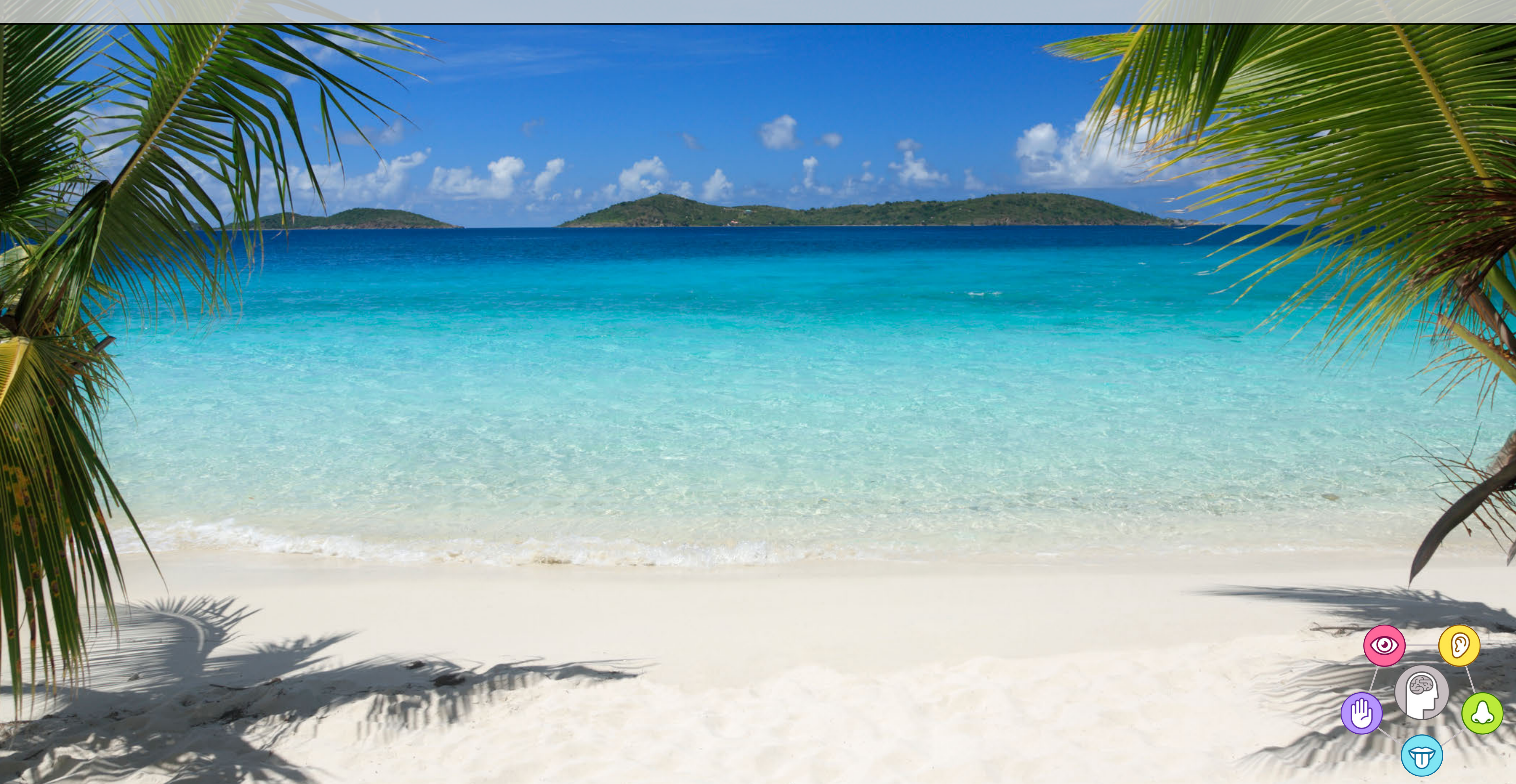
You're going to be shown some pictures of settings on the next slides.

For each one, write a short description.

Try to include some of the following in your descriptions:

- The senses
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Alliteration
- Interesting vocabulary

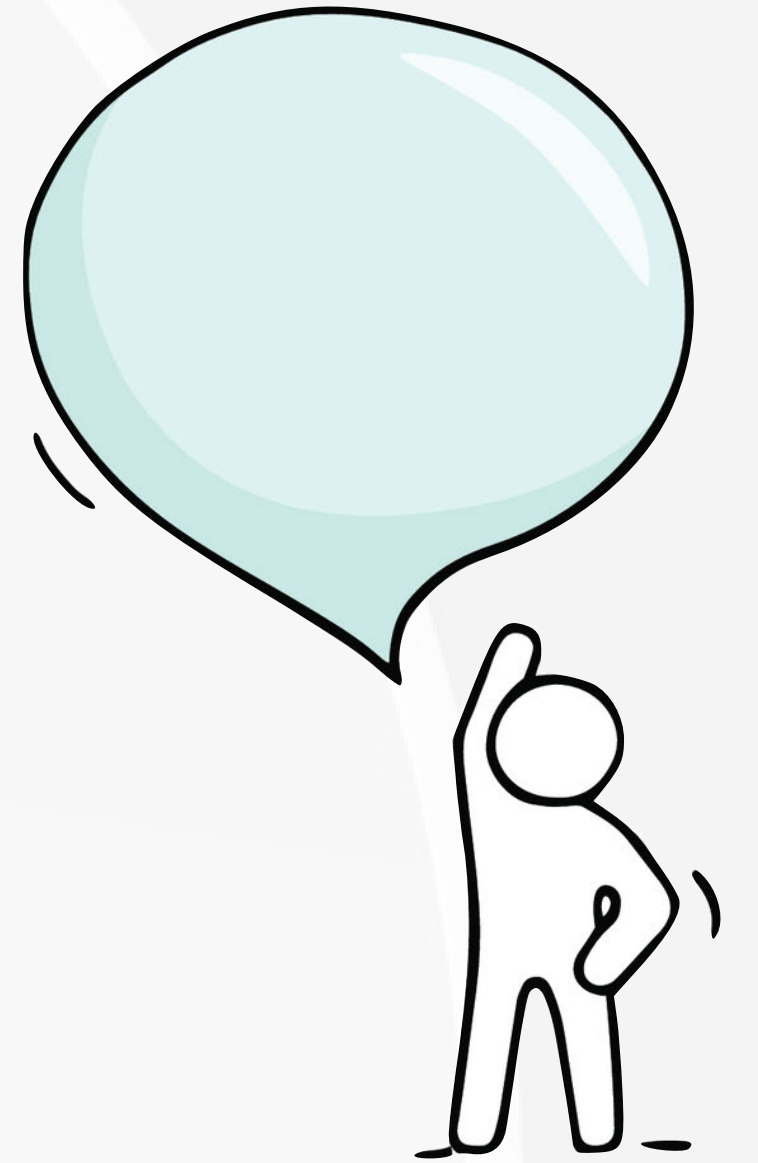


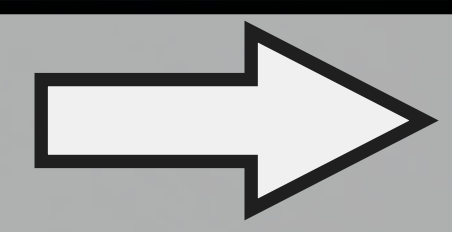
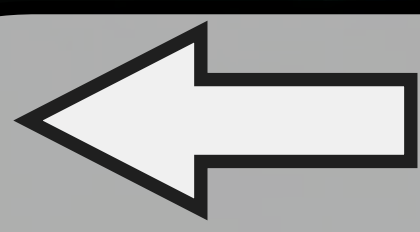


Who would like to share their description?

Which of these things have they included?

- The senses
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Alliteration
- Interesting vocabulary

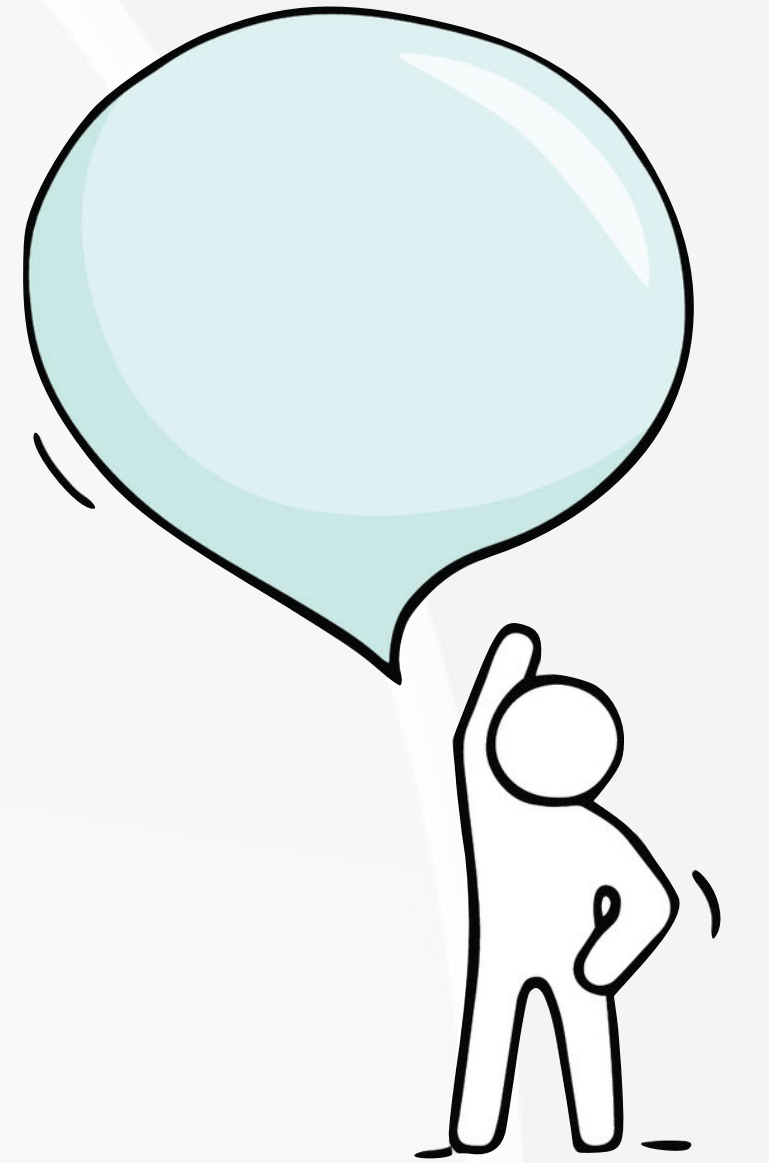




Who would like to share their description?

Which of these things have they included?

- The senses
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Alliteration
- Interesting vocabulary





W Broadway

W 8th Ave

W 8th Ave

W Broadway

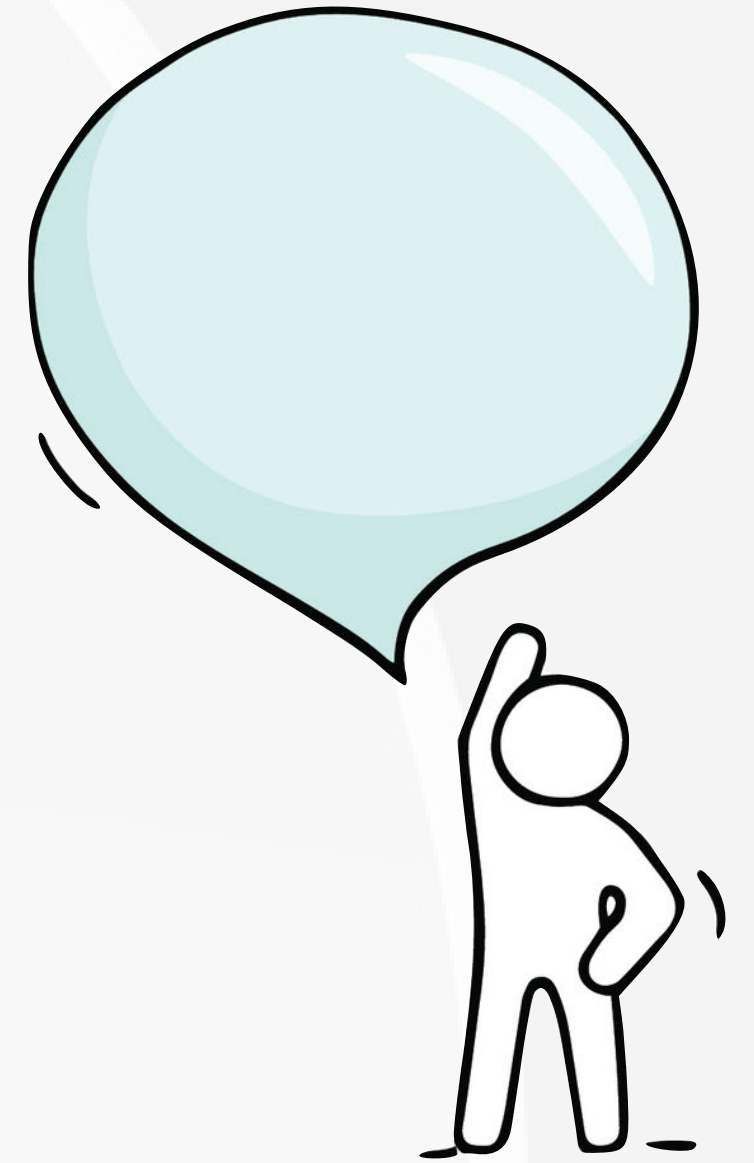
Wendy's
QUALITY
IS OUR RECIPE.
HIRING
PART-TIME FULL-TIME

VALENTINE'S
PATTISON

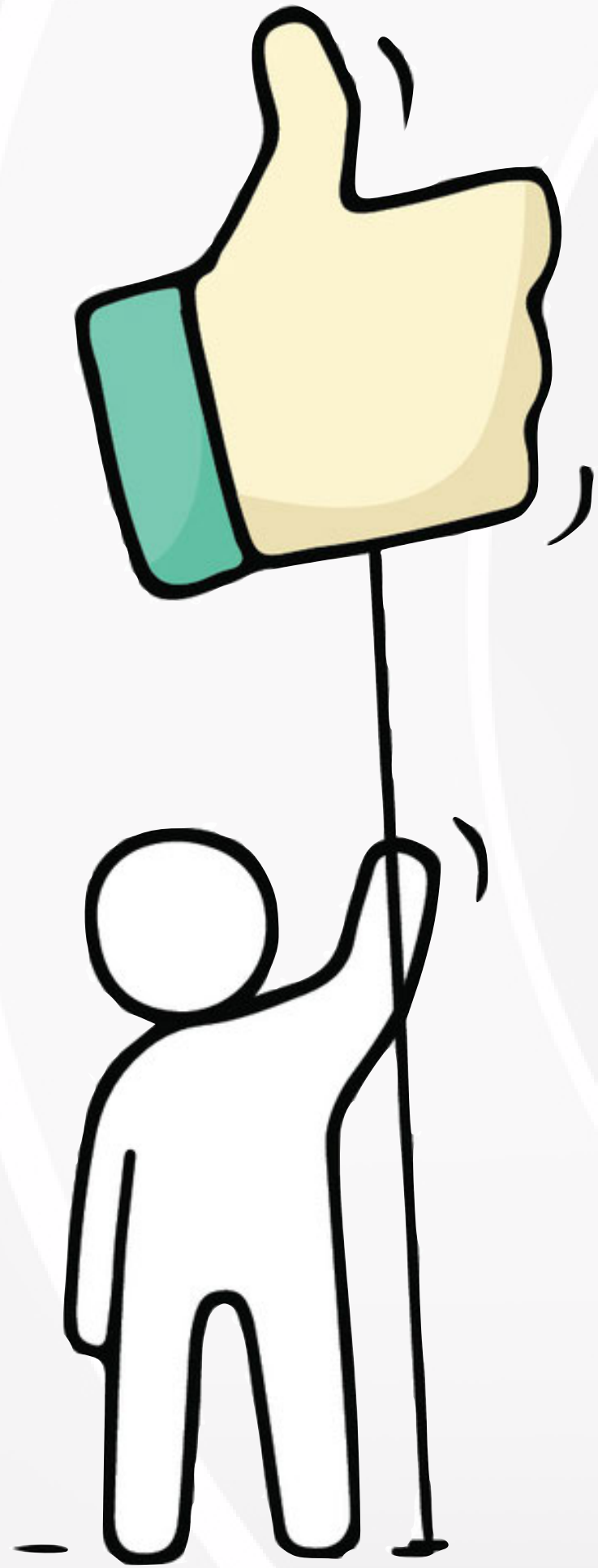
Who would like to share their description?

Which of these things have they included?

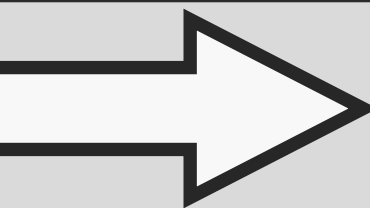
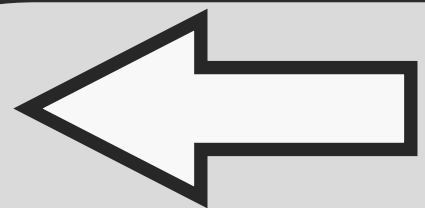
- The senses
- Similes
- Metaphors
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- Alliteration
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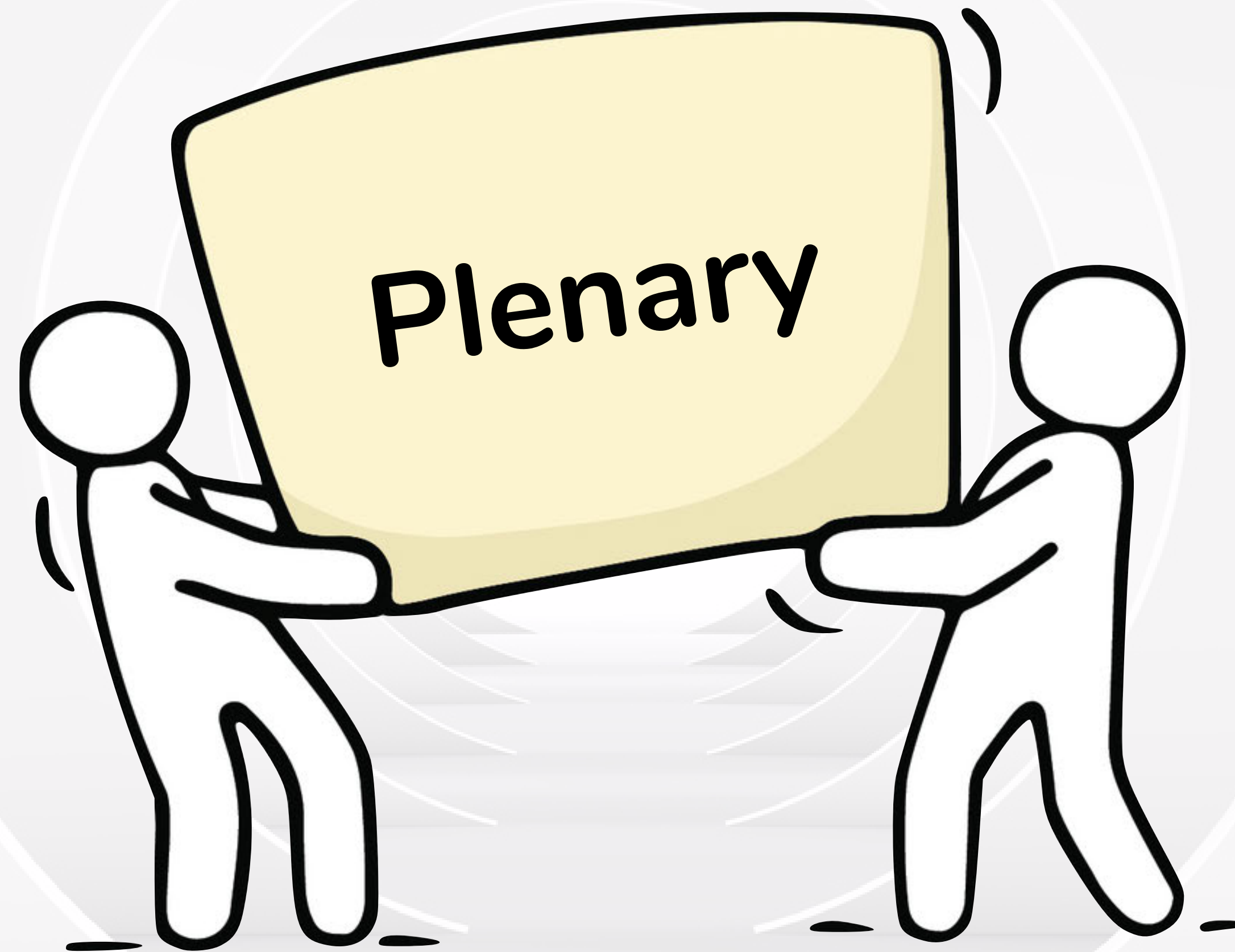


Today, you're going to write a description of the setting or settings in your own story!



**Are you ready to go and write a
description of your setting?**





These two descriptions describe the same setting.



Where do you think this scene takes place?

The wind screamed through the branches as I walked along the shadowed footpath. The ground crunched with each footstep, the white, frosted path solid and sharp beneath my feet. Gnarled trees reached out to grab me, catching at my hair and clothes as I made my way through the dense undergrowth.

How do these two descriptions evoke different emotions?

How has the author used vocabulary and literary devices to create an atmosphere?



The wind whistled and sang through the dancing branches as I walked along the dappled footpath. The ground crackled and crunched with each footstep, the white, frosted path glittering like stars beneath my feet. Tree branches reached to greet me, tickling my hair and clothes as I made my way through the dense undergrowth.

