

AP Literature Study Guide

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Unit 4: Short Fiction II

Setting:

- **Setting:** an environment in which a story takes place in
- There are **two main types** of settings:
 - **Backdrop setting:**
 - Emerges when it is not important for a story; when a setting does not really matter
 - **Integral Setting:**
 - Place and time influences the theme, character, and action of a story.
The setting controls the characters
- **Example** of how setting brings out symbols and mood:
 - In Emily Bronte's novel, *Wuthering Heights*, the mood of the characters and their actions are determined by the **setting** in which they are placed in; whether it is in Wuthering Heights or Thrushcross Grange, the characters act differently depending on the setting.
 - Furthermore, these two settings characterize different things. Wuthering Heights is very depressing, dark, gloomy, and mysterious; while Thrushcross Grange is dull, skeptical, yet calm. This affects the characters significantly. (*I recommend all AP Literature students to read this novel; it will help a lot*)
- **Function of Setting:**
 - Setting is one of the most important things in a story or novel.
 - It **affects the plot and characters** greatly since it could either be in support of or against the characters in the story, which can lead to an increase or decrease in conflict and tension.
 - It also helps to **establish mood**, which then allows the audience to relate to the characters in the story more.
 - When reading a prose or passage, make sure to **highlight or underline descriptive words** and details that reveal the setting, in order to understand the significance of the story better and what the characters actions and attitudes are based off of.

Archetype:

- A character, action, or situation that represents universal patterns of human culture and nature
- **Archetypes In Characters:**
 - **The Hero:** goodness, struggles against evil, attempt to restore harmony in society
 - **The Mother Figure:** Fairy Godmother; guides, directs, and emotionally nourishes the lost
 - **The Innocent Youth:** inexperienced, weak, and dependent
 - **The Mentor:** main task is to protect the protagonist
 - **The Doppelganger:** duplicate or shadow of a character; is more evil
 - **The Scapegoat:** character that takes the blame for everything bad that happens
 - **The Villain:** main duty is to go against the hero
- **Archetypes In Situations:**
 - **The Journey:** protagonist takes a journey that is either physical or emotional to understand themselves and the world
 - **The Initiation:** events and situations that lead to the maturity of the protagonist
 - **Good Versus Evil:** clash of forces that represent goodness and evil
 - **The Fall:** protagonist falls from grace as a result of their own actions; karma in some way
- **Function of Archetype:**
 - Gives a literary work universal acceptance
 - Readers identify the characters and situations in their own society and culture, as a result.
 - Gives writers the opportunity to make their work more realistic

Point Of View And Narration:

- **First person point of view:** narrator, often protagonist, tells the story from their experiences and perspective; uses pronouns like: “I,” “me,” and “my.”

- **Limited third person point of view:** the narrator (who is not involved in the story) tells the story in third person, and focuses on the experiences, emotions, and thoughts of one character.
- **Omniscient third person point of view:** the narrator knows everything about the characters and events and can move about in time in the minds of all characters.
- **Unreliable narrator:** narration is biased based off of their experiences and thoughts that may blind them from the truth.
- **Stream of consciousness:** similar to a rant; usually no punctuation and thoughts are simply spilled onto a page. Mental and emotional flow of a character

