Setting

“Places are never just places in a piece of writing. If they are, the author has failed. Setting is not inert. It is activated by point of view.”  
― **Carmen Maria Machado,**[**In the Dream House**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/65787792)

# How can the beginning of a book hook the reader and introduce plot, mood, and characters?

## Writing techniques commonly used in introducing a novel:

Direct and indirect characterization

Foreshadowing

Imagery

Word choice

Poetic devices

Dialogue

1. What is the physical setting of your book? Is this at all related to the author’s position and background?
2. When does it take place?
3. How is the setting described in the book?
4. Where do you see the Indigenous lens in the setting?
5. How does the authors’ backgrounds and cultural perspectives influence their portrayal of setting? Revisit your mind map and make connections.

**Challenge:**

Consider the concept of "place" versus "space" within the setting. How do specific locations or environments serve as more than just backdrop, but rather as active participants in the narrative? Sometimes the setting is another character! Can you think of any stories that use the geographical space almost like a character?