

## Elements of a story: Setting

### Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

The **setting** is where and when the story takes place. Sometimes, you have to use clues from the story to figure out the setting.

### Read the story and underline clues about the setting:

#### Across the Wide Ocean

Eliza gripped the wooden railing, staring out at the endless waves. The ship rocked beneath her feet, rising and falling with the water. The salty wind blew her hair into her face, and a spray of cold ocean mist stung her cheeks. She pulled her wool shawl tighter around her shoulders. It had been weeks since they had seen land.

Behind her, people sat close together on crates and barrels. Women in long dresses whispered to one another. A man in a wide-brimmed hat mended a torn coat. Nearby, children played a quiet game with pebbles, their bare feet tapping on the wooden boards. The air smelled like damp wood, seawater and salted fish.

A sailor walked past, carrying a coil of thick rope. The ship's sails flapped in the wind, and above them, seagulls called out in sharp cries. The whole ship creaked as it moved forward.



Eliza's stomach grumbled. That morning, she had eaten only a small biscuit and a piece of dried meat. The food, stored in barrels below deck, had to last the whole journey. Last night, her mother had mixed flour and water to bake bread over the ship's iron stove. It wasn't much, but it was better than nothing.

"Look!" someone shouted.

Eliza turned as a young boy pointed to the sky. A flock of birds soared overhead. Excited voices filled the air. They had learned that birds meant land was near.

Her heart pounded. Could it be true? Would they finally see the new land they had dreamed about for so long?

A sailor climbed the ropes, shading his eyes as he looked ahead. "Watch straight ahead," he called. "It won't be long now."



Eliza gripped the railing. The journey had been long—weeks of rocking waves, stormy nights and endless water in all directions. She thought about the stories her father had told her about the new land. According to him, it would be a place with tall forests, wide rivers and rich soil where they could build a home.

Eliza took a deep breath. The ocean air was cold and sharp, but she didn't mind. Soon, she would step onto new ground.

Then pick your top four clues and record them in the chart below:

Setting clue

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Setting clue

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Setting clue

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Setting clue

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**Based on these clues, *when* and *where* do you think the story takes place?**

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## Answers

### Setting Clues:

*Accept any clue as long as it comes from the story.*

### Based on these clues, when and where do you think the story takes place?

*The story takes place on a ship a long time ago (e.g., hundreds of years ago!).*