

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:

Elijah's Favorite Holiday

Elijah pulled his hood up as he stepped onto the sidewalk. The chilly air made his nose tingle, and the wind sent dry leaves skittering across the pavement. Porch lights glowed all along the street, making long shadows stretch across the ground. The tall, old trees swayed in the breeze, and the moon shone brightly.

All around him, kids in costumes hurried from house to house, their treat bags bouncing. Some wore masks, some had painted faces and a few had capes that flapped behind them as they walked. Elijah recognized some of them: Matty , from a few houses down, had turned into a robot, and Noah, from the house on the corner, was a pirate, waving his plastic sword in the air.



Elijah's little sister, Lucy, tugged at his sleeve. "Do you think we'll get the good candy?" she asked, her eyes wide. She wore a furry black costume with a long tail trailing behind her, and her ears poked up from her hood.

Elijah grinned. "Let's go find out." He grabbed her hand, leading her across the familiar street.

Their shoes crunched over fallen leaves as they walked past mailboxes, glowing jack-o'-lanterns and bushes covered in pretend spiderwebs. He walked this way to catch the school bus every day, but it looked different tonight!



Elijah and Lucy stopped in front of a house with three pumpkins glowing on the steps. The biggest one had a funny-looking smile that flickered as if it were laughing. The wooden porch creaked under their feet as they climbed the steps. Lucy held onto Elijah's arm as the big door slowly opened.

An older man stood in the doorway, holding out a huge bowl of candy. "Look at you two!" he said with a grin. "Take a handful."

Lucy gasped. "The big candy bars!" she whispered, grabbing one and dropping it into her bag. "Thanks!"

As they walked back down the steps, a sudden gust of wind sent leaves swirling around their feet. Across the street, more kids ran up and down the sidewalks, their voices echoing through the night. A dog barked somewhere nearby, and a cloud covered the moon.

Lucy hugged her bag to her chest. "It's kinda spooky," she whispered.

Elijah just smiled. The night was dark and the wind was cold, but he knew every house, every street lamp and every turn in the sidewalk. It all looked different in the flickering light, but that's part of what made tonight so fun.

"Come on," he said, nodding toward the next house. "We've got more candy to get!"

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

Setting clue

Setting clue

Setting clue

Setting clue

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

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 in Elijah and Lucy's neighborhood on Halloween night.