**Part 1: Settings That Create Moods**

Now that you have an outline of your plot, it's time to explore some of the settings for your novel. The **setting** of a novel is where and when the story takes place. As you know, most novels have more than one setting. Usually, the author decides to have one large **setting** (like Los Angeles in 1995), and then many smaller settings (like the laundromat where the characters hang out on the weekends, or the classroom where they get in a fight).

Settings do more than serve as a backdrop to the action in your novel. They can also create or enhance the mood of your novel.

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| **Mood** means the feeling of your novel; its emotional quality. You can also think of the **mood** as how you want someone to feel while reading your novel. *Examples: playful, serious, mysterious, tense, warm, dangerous, joyous* |

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| If you wanted to create a creepy mood for a scene in your novel, you could start with something like: **"A one-eyed crow blinked from the branch of a dead tree in the yard, while a three-legged dog howled at the moon."**These images remind us of dark, disturbing things, and show the reader that the scene of the novel is “creepy” without having to tell them directly |

**Describe the settings that would help create each of the moods listed below. Try to write two or three sentences for each mood. Include specific details about the sights, sounds, sensations (and maybe even smells) of the settings you choose!**

Creepy (something different than the example we gave on the previous page):

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Joyous:

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Suspenseful/tense:

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**Now make up 2-3 of your own moods and describe a setting that would go along with each one.**

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| Mood #1:  |

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| Mood #2: |

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| Mood #3: |

**The last step is to apply your new skills to your upcoming novel. Think of a scene from each section of your novel (it may help to look at your plan from the previous activity). Then, write or list details to describe a setting that will help create the right mood for each scene. For example, you might set your climax on the edge of a crumbling cliff at sunset in the middle of a thunderstorm.**

A setting from your set-up:

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A setting from your inciting incident:

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A setting from your rising action:

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A setting from your climax:

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A setting from your falling action:

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A setting from your resolution:

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From NaNoWriMo’s Young Writers Workbook