

“Setting” the Word Afire

No *place* is typical

- The first requisite of effective setting is to know it fully, to experience it mentally; and the second is to create it through significant detail.
- Particularize
- Setting should support the drama of the character: artifacts and architecture, infrastructure, books, food, fabrics, tools and technology, etc.
- While characters are the center and point of what you write, setting is everything else.
- Setting is the seduction of the reader.
- We create “place” through a selection of concrete detail in our particularity of place, time, and weather. By doing so, we’re also able to manipulate the mood, reveal the character, and advance the action.
- Our genuine connection with some particularity we’ve noticed and have the ability to dream produces originality.

Setting as a camera

- Audience needs orientation
- Long shot (establishing shot), medium shot, close-up.

Setting as Mood and Symbol

- Setting creates a mood or atmosphere.
- One of the writer’s most adaptable tools: setting as atmosphere (mood).
- Setting as mood is the external manifestation of the inner, the concrete expressing the abstract, the contingent standing for the essential. Often, to some degree, symbolic.
- Use setting to bring in the emotional context of the scene through place, time, and weather (as a means to heighten the dramatic effect).