

The Last Day of Pompeii

Part 1 Lucius ran through the streets of Pompeii. He was supposed to meet his friend Cassius at one of the city gates in ten minutes. He was late and in such a hurry that he didn't see the old merchant step out of his shop. Lucius collided with him, sending both of them falling to the ground.

"Oh, I'm so sorry!" Lucius exclaimed.

The merchant got to his feet, chuckling. "All right, my boy. But it's wise to look where you're going, especially on streets as crowded as these."

Lucius knew the man was right. Pompeii was a busy city these days. It was located in a beautiful area, in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

Part 2 "You're right, sir," Lucius said. "It seems like Pompeii is getting more crowded every year."

The ground beneath them began to rumble. The merchant listened and frowned.

Lucius laughed. "That happens once in a while, but it's nothing to worry about."

"Indeed. . . . And what is your hurry, young man? Remember—every moment is special. Slow down from time to time. Now, proceed on your way."

Part 3 Lucius started running again. He was halfway to the main gate when the ground shook, knocking him off his feet. He glanced at Mount Vesuvius. Then Lucius saw the mountain explode! Flames and black smoke burst from its top. Mount Vesuvius was a volcano, and it was raining fire down on Pompeii.

Part 4 Lucius tried to run, but the crowds that had slowed him before had turned into a mob. Everyone was running and pushing one another in search of safety. Lucius looked to one side and saw the same merchant he had seen before. He was sitting on a bench, calmly sipping a glass of water.

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Resource Links RDI Book 1: p. 366

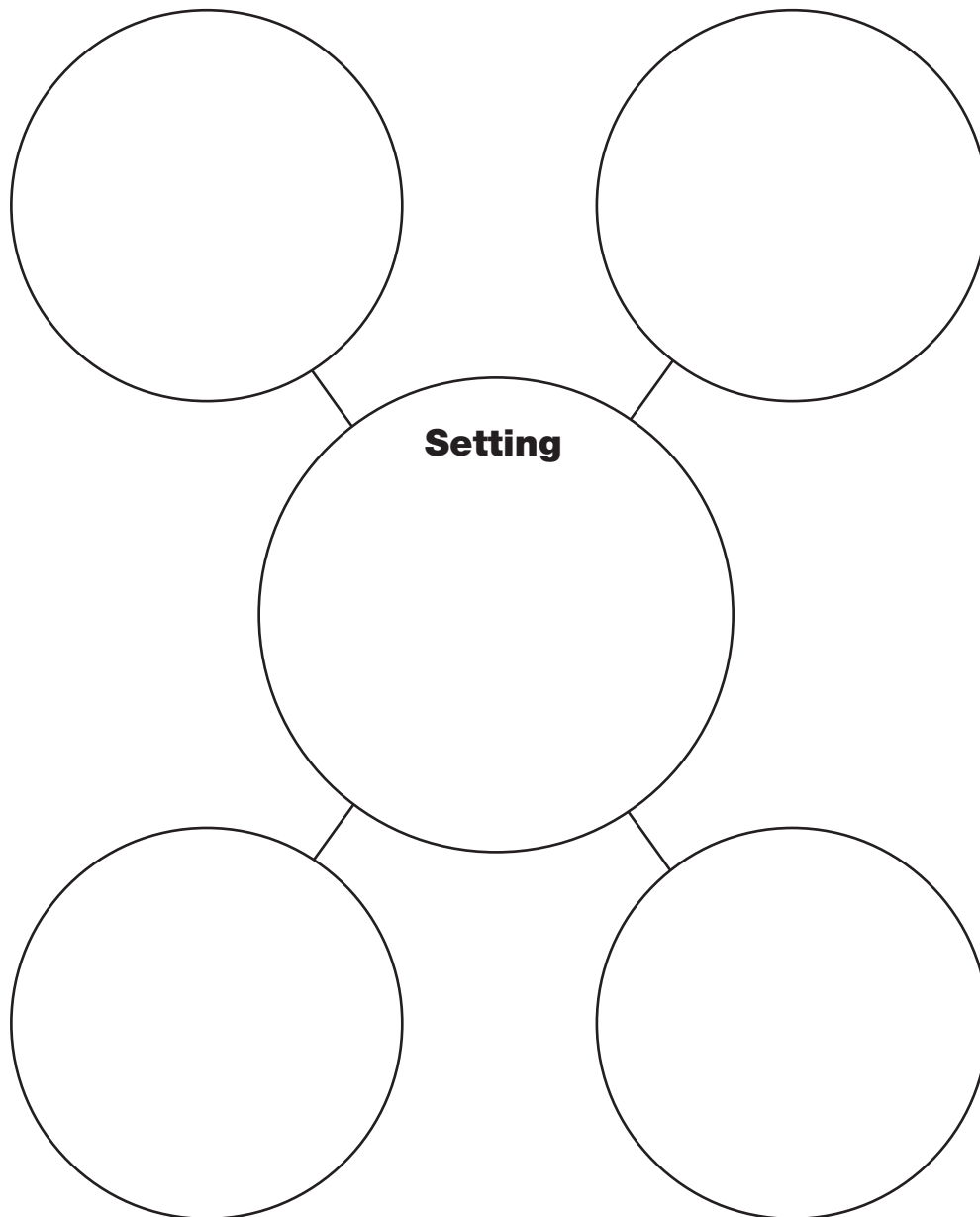
SAM Keyword: Setting

Analyze Setting

The **setting** is the time and place of a story. The setting can affect things a character does. It can also affect what happens in a story.

Use this web to list details about setting.

Passage: _____



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