

## **LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: SETTING AS CHARACTER**

### Handout

Setting is the physical locale in which your story takes place: time period, physical space

The locale can be many things:

- a wide-angle perspective (city vs. country)
- a medium shot perspective (a house or room)
- individual details (a chair, a lamp, a bed)

### **SETTING IS NOT NEUTRAL**

Just as in real life, characters choose the environment in which they live. So choose environments that reflect the type of person you want to create.

Setting can also reflect your character's inner life. Use character point-of-view to skew setting descriptions to give reader insight into character.

Words are important. Choose carefully to create character mood, tone, point-of-view.

#### Exercises to do at home:

- Pick a setting from a magazine and create a character that would inhabit it. Write a brief description of the character
- Pick a character from a magazine and describe a setting that character would inhabit.

What details are important to delineate character? What details aren't? What specific words can you use to create mood, tone, character point-of-view?