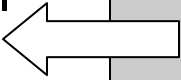
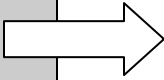
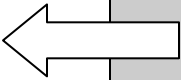
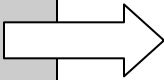
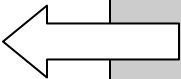
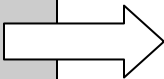


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Matching the setting to the mood...*

<i>Happy Setting</i>	<b>Setting</b>	<b>Sad or Scary Setting</b>
bright, cheerful 	flowers	 Flowers heads drop
	clouds	
	house	

Happy

Scary

**Exciting**

Sad













School Name



# Writing

Teacher Name

## Setting

This week your child has been learning about writing a story that has a clearly described setting. In order for a short story to create a vivid mental image for the reader, a writer must include specific details about the environment in which the story takes place.

As a writer is planning, their "Stop Watch" planner, it should be filled with sensory details that will create a vivid image for the reader. Student's should in-

clude details that connect to all the senses.

The following paragraph is a good example of details that connect to seeing, hearing, smelling, and touching.

*The wind howled outside as I stared out the window. Cold rain slithered down like snakes into the storm gutters. A dreary smell of dead vines and rotten trees ran up my nose.*

As a writer's ability to effectively

describe a setting develops, they will be encouraged to match the setting to the overall "mood" of the story. For example, a happy topic (finding money) may include a setting that elicits a happy image (sun shining, flowers blooming) in contrast, a scary topic (a terrifying experience) may take place within a setting that generates a feeling of fear/dread (clouds, rain, wilting plants).

**An example of a paragraph which the writer effectively described the setting is below. Notice that the reader is able to create a clear, vivid mental image based on the descriptive details.**

It was a dark, dreary night as fog danced around my nose and a quiver ran down my spine. The trees dead branches dipped over my head like a skeleton while a black crow with its beady eyes looked crossly at me. A full moon was peaking through the clouds and streaks of lightening filled the sky. The wind howled like a wolf hunting its prey. Not a soul was in sight.

Goodson and Phillips

## Keeping up with Family Writes

Family Writes is a homework assignment that will be sent home each week. Please refer to last weeks newsletter for helpful

hints on completing this homework. As a reminder; make sure your child is independently completing the initial writing portion of the

assignment. Once the assignment is complete the family becomes involved through editing and dialogue.



A dark, atmospheric photograph of a large, multi-story brick building, possibly a school or institutional structure, partially obscured by a dense network of bare, dark trees in the foreground. The scene is shrouded in a thick, grey fog or mist, creating a somber and mysterious mood. The lighting is very low, with the building's windows appearing as faint, dark shapes. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks, with the red text providing a stark contrast.

Match the setting to the mood



## Writing

The following tasks will help you to practice some of the writing skills that you need to be “juggling” in your writing...

### **Task #1 Matching the Environment to the Mood of the Story**

Time I am beginning this task: \_\_\_\_\_

**Matching the Environment to the Mood of the Story** is when the author creates a mood for the reader based upon the events of a story. In other words, if the story is scary the writer might have a lone owl hooting in the distance, a full moon covered by scattered dark clouds in the sky, and a gentle howling breeze blowing through the tattered curtains in his/her story.

Matching the Environment is important **throughout** the story and **MOST IMPORTANT AT THE BEGINNING OR INTRODUCTION** of the story to help create a mood for the reader.

#### **Example:**

1. The birds were chirping like a train whistle as the fire bright sun beamed through the curtains as I woke on a cold winter morning. As I raced downstairs to find my mom crying at the breakfast table, I noticed that she was holding the morning paper. Tears stained the newsprint as I looked over her shoulder to find an announcement that Disneyworld was free for all Florida residents. “Yippeee!” I screamed, “Let’s go to Disneyworld!”

- ☹ The mood is hard to understand in the above paragraph...Is it a sad story? Is it happy?.....Why is mom crying if Disneyworld is free?...Why were the birds chirping if mom was crying?....Why would this child be so cruel that he would ignore that his mom is crying?...**THE READER IS CONFUSED!**

**That is why matching the environment to the mood of the story is SO IMPORTANT for a writer!**

- ☺ The birds were chirping like a train whistle as the fire bright sun beamed through the curtains as I woke on a cold winter morning. I leaped out of bed as I heard my mom whistling the Disneyworld theme song. I raced downstairs to find my mom smiling as big a slice of summer watermelon at the breakfast table. I rushed over to see why she was whistling and noticed that she was holding the morning paper. As I looked over her shoulder, I read the same joyous announcement that had lead my normally morning glazed mom to such happiness. Disneyworld was free for all Florida residents! “Yippeee!” I screamed, “Let’s go to Disneyworld!”
- ☺ **Beautiful Matching!**

Why is matching the environment to the mood of the story important to a piece of writing?

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Time I completed this task: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Task #2 Introductions/Leads to Narrative Writings**

Time I am beginning this task: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the following definition & examples of Narrative Leads.**

**An introduction or lead to a narrative writing is** the hook that “catches” the reader’s attention at the beginning of the story. It makes a reader wonder and question what is to come and turn page after page until he/she reaches the end of a story.

**Examples:**

2. This summer we went camping in Canada.

☺ **As the morning sun rose over our campsite, I heard grunting noises coming from outside our tent. A curious bear cub poked its head into my tent. I laid as stiff as a turkey on Thanksgiving morning wondering why my parents had chosen the Canadian wilderness for as our destination for our summer trip.**

☺ Interesting!

3. When I was four years old, I had fun pretending and dreaming. I often dreamed of flying. I dreamed of using a Batman cape and Donald Duck umbrella.

☺ **As a young child, I had always dreamed of flying. Dressed in my midnight blue Batman costume, I rummaged through the cluttered hall closet moving broken tennis rackets and heavy woolen winter coats as I searched for my Donald Duck umbrella. “I found it!” I announced to the world. With my heart filled with courage, I climbed to the top of our stairs, opened the umbrella, balanced on the railing and jumped the determination of a soldier in war. For a brief moment, I thought that I was flying.**

☺ Attention Grabbing!

**Why is an interesting introduction or lead to a story important to a piece of writing?**

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**Which introduction or lead did you find most interesting? Explain why.**

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**Juggling the lead of the story with matching the environment to the mood! Choose two of the following ideas. As a writer, write a lead for each idea that will CATCH! the attention of your reader and keep them reading until your story ends...BE SURE TO MATCH THE ENVIRONMENT TO THE MOOD OF THE STORY IN YOUR WELL-WRITTEN LEAD!**

- A goal that you accomplished
- The day your class pet escaped
- You arrived home late one night and realized that you were alone

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Time I completed this task: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task #3 Think about your Leads**

Time I am beginning this task: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which lead did you feel was your best? 1 or 2 (circle one)  
Explain why you felt it was your best.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



In the box, draw a picture to represent your best lead!

Time I completed this task: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Task #4 Find a Partner & Share your Leads**

Time I am beginning this task: \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have a partner:

- find a quiet place to work



The oldest person will share first.

- ✍ Read your leads to your partner.
- ✍ After your partner has shared, choose the lead that you liked the best.
- ✍ Share with your partner why you especially enjoyed the lead. Be specific.
  - I liked this lead because.....
  - The part that really grabbed me was....
  - Wow! I want to keep reading your story because of this part....
- ✍ Trade papers with your partner.
- ✍ On your partner's paper (in the partner's comments section), record your explanation of why you enjoyed the lead you chose (why you thought it was great! 😊)

Partner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Time I completed this task: \_\_\_\_\_





The distant sound of thunder shattered the crisp, motionless night like brittle glass. Thousands of shattered pieces lit the night sky as the dreary fireworks illuminated the desperate forest. Below the cover of tall black trees swayed. Their leaves slammed with the weight of heavy drops, fluttered like lost butterflies barely holding onto the soaked branches. The waterfall down-poured washing the sounds of thunder as the million cold drops hit the ground creating the scary music of the night. The puddles, full of mud, filled quickly with every hum of the drops. In the background, desperate chirps tried to break the curtain of water – sounding as weak as a last breath. The violent boom of thunder continued to batter the forest, as I closed my ears trying to calm my beating heart. Then suddenly, there was nothing but the steady murmur of tears desperately slipping from the heavens as if the sky's heart was forever broken.

Dark clouds rushed over heads as crates of water came from the gray clouds of fury. White flashes of lightening were angrily striking everywhere. The night seemed as if God were above crying, while thrashing his arrows of light onto us. Electric swords crashed and whammed leaving marks on the street as if someone had set off fireworks, sending rainbow-colored flames everywhere. Water was pounding our heads like pellets—hard cold stones the sent everyone running.

The sun shined brightly on the tree leaves that sparkled a brilliant green. Standing to the side of the old wooden park bench, I walked towards the brick pathway that was bathed in golden rays of sunlight. My long skirt swayed in the cool autumn breeze, as I admired the rainbow-colored flowers poking their delicate heads through the sidewalk's boarder.

Rain pored down the window and hit the windowsill outside. Thunder cracked in the clouds. The lightning clashed against the inky midnight blackness of the sky. Lightning struck a tree sending it crashing down on to the soggy grass. My eyes flared open. Heart pounding, I could hear the midnight breeze rustling the leaves of the fallen tree on the ground.