

Literary Analysis

SETTING

Setting is the time and place of the action in a story. It also includes the culture and customs that are part of the daily life in an area. “The Distant Past” takes place in southern Ireland over a number of decades during the 20th century. Identifying details about the setting will help you understand characters’ actions and motivations. For example, it is important to know that southern Ireland was once ruled by Great Britain but became the independent Republic of Ireland in 1949. This historical event is part of the setting because it influences the attitudes of the people who live there.

Directions: Complete this chart to analyze the setting of the story. Record details of the story that reflect each of the following aspects of life in Ireland in the mid-20th century.

Elements of Setting

Economic conditions	
Political attitudes	
Religious values	
Social customs	
The influence of history	

THE DISTANT PAST