

Desert Decisions Answer Key

1. Setting:

- A hot desert with blazing sun, sand dunes, and a cactus.

2. Luis's actions:

- Walked across the sand, felt tired and heavy, shielded against blowing sand, hurried to shade under a cactus.

3. Influence of setting:

- The heat and dryness make Luis tired, thirsty, and desperate for shade. The desert forces him to act cautiously and seek shelter.

4. Alternate setting (snowy forest):

- Instead of seeking shade, Luis would look for warmth or shelter from snow. He might wear heavier clothes, watch for ice, or build a fire to stay warm.

Teacher Notes

- The key skill is showing **cause and effect** between setting and character behavior (e.g., hot sun → search for shade).
- Accept varied student answers for Q4 as long as they logically connect to the new environment.
- Encourage students to use **text evidence** (words like “blazed,” “shade,” “sand”) to support their explanations.
- For extension, ask students to **draw two scenes**: Luis in the desert vs. Luis in the snowy forest, then list how his actions differ in each.