

Name _____



Setting Sparks Action

The **setting** is more than just a backdrop. Sometimes the *place* or *time* makes the plot possible. Storms, cities, deserts, schools, and even outer space can change what characters do and what events unfold. Good readers ask: *What happens because of where the story takes place?*

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow

As the storm clouds rolled in, Jamal tightened the ropes holding down the family's small boat at the dock. Lightning flashed across the sky, and waves slapped against the wooden posts. Suddenly, one of the ropes snapped, and the boat lurched away from the dock. Jamal sprinted after it, trying to grab the line before the storm carried it into the open water.

1. What is the setting of this passage?

2. What major event happens in the plot?

3. How does the stormy setting directly cause this plot event?

4. Imagine the same story taking place on a calm, sunny day. How would the plot be different?