

Science Fair Setting Answer Key

1. Setting:

- A school gymnasium during a science fair.

2. How the setting affects the story:

- The competition environment creates tension and excitement. It also explains why Mia is nervous and why judges and crowds are present.

3. Why the author chose this setting:

- A science fair provides a natural place for experiments, competition, and audience reactions. It creates opportunities for conflict (nervousness, judging) and action (robot demonstration).

4. How the story would change in a different setting:

- In a classroom: Mia might present only to her teacher and classmates, with less tension and no judges.
- In a park: The focus would shift to outdoor play or nature, not science experiments, so the robot project wouldn't fit naturally.

Teacher Notes

- Stress that **authors make purposeful choices**: the science fair setting allows for pressure, competition, and an audience, all of which heighten the plot.
- Accept varied student answers for Q3 and Q4 as long as they are logical and connect to how the events would differ.
- Extension: Have students pick their favorite book and discuss why the author might have chosen *that* setting.
- Differentiation idea: For younger or struggling students, provide sentence starters such as: *The author chose this setting because...*