

Setting Shapes Sofia's Day

Trace how a historical and cultural setting moves a plot forward.

4.8.D "explain the influence of the setting, including historical and cultural settings, on the plot."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show when, where, or in what culture the story happens. Write 1 by a setting detail that creates Sofia's problem and 2 by a setting detail that helps solve it.

Sofia's Saturday Errand

- ① In 1903, twelve-year-old Sofia lived with her family in a crowded apartment on New York City's Lower East Side. Many neighbors had come from Italy, as Sofia's family had. On Saturday morning, Mama handed Sofia a note in Italian and asked her to buy bread, beans, and tomatoes before her aunt arrived for dinner that evening.
- ② The market was only six blocks away, but Sofia could not read the English signs above most shops. She followed the smell of warm bread to Mr. Russo's bakery, where customers spoke Italian. Mr. Russo read Mama's note, packed the food, and explained that a parade would close the main street at noon that day.
- ③ Sofia hurried home by a side street. At the corner, she saw workers hanging flags for the Italian parade. The blocked street made her trip longer, and the crowded sidewalk slowed her down. Still, she reached home before Aunt Elena. When the family sat down to eat, Sofia told them how a neighbor had helped her find the safer route.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the Lower East Side setting create a problem for Sofia during her errand?

2 How does Sofia's Italian cultural setting help her solve part of her problem?

3 What event in the setting makes Sofia's trip home harder? Explain its effect.

4 How might the plot change if Sofia lived in a place with no Italian-speaking bakery nearby?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story set in a historical time or a cultural community. Include one setting detail that creates or solves a character's problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show when, where, or in what culture the story happens. Write 1 by a setting detail that creates Sofia's problem and 2 by a setting detail that helps solve it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the Lower East Side setting create a problem for Sofia during her errand?	Sofia cannot read most of the English shop signs.
2	How does Sofia's Italian cultural setting help her solve part of her problem?	She finds Mr. Russo's bakery, where people speak Italian and he can read Mama's note.
3	What event in the setting makes Sofia's trip home harder? Explain its effect.	The Italian parade closes the main street, so Sofia must take a side street and her trip takes longer.
4	How might the plot change if Sofia lived in a place with no Italian-speaking bakery nearby?	She might have trouble finding the correct food because no one nearby could read Mama's Italian note.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the 1849 gold rush, Nia's family ran a supply tent near a busy California mining camp. When rain washed out the trail, miners could not reach town for food. Nia used the family's stored beans and flour to make meals for the hungry miners.

Accept answers that connect a specific setting detail to an event, problem, action, or solution in the plot. For the final question, accept reasonable inferences supported by the fact that Mr. Russo can read Italian and help Sofia.