

## Personal Narrative—Winter (Lesson 2)

### Story Elements: Setting

**Minilesson Teaching Point:**

Students will focus on basic story elements such as character, and setting in their personal narrative writing.

**Standards:**

CC.1.4.K.N

**Materials:**

- Chart paper picture from previous day
- Markers
- Mentor Texts: A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams, Alexander and the... by Judith Viorst
- Peter's Chair, A Whistle for Willie, A Letter for Amy all by Ezra Jack Keats, ThunderCake and others by Patricia Polacco
- In addition: Bear Snores On and Little Quack (from the Scott Foresman collection) work well for characters and setting but are not personal narratives

**Connection:**

*“Writers, it is important as readers to know who the characters are in a story but it is also important to know where the story happens. What is the setting? Writing about the setting, where the small moment happens, helps make a picture in the minds of our readers.”*

You may want to reference and/or read one of the mentor texts at the beginning of this lesson to make a direct connection to the setting in one of the familiar texts.

**Teach (modeling):**

*“Yesterday I wrote about making a sandcastle. Last night I realized I did not write where I made my sandcastle. It could have been in my backyard, it could have been at the park or the beach. As readers, you need to know where my story happened. It did happen at the beach. Now I am going to include the details of the beach so you know where the story happens. I can also include clues to the reader about the time of day (day or night) and what the weather was like in the story.”*

Add setting details and talk about your thinking to the students as you add to the picture.

*“Writers, I have included **characters** and **setting** in my picture. Look at all of the **details** in this **small moment**, this story of my life.”*

**Active Engagement (guided practice):**

*“Writers, now you are going to make a picture in your mind about your own story. Who is in your picture, who are the **characters**? Now look around at your picture, where does the story happen? Focus on the **setting**. Is it outside, inside, day or night, where exactly are you? Turn and talk with a neighbor about the **setting** of your small moment.”*

ELD: My setting is: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Bridge to Independent Practice:**

*“Writers, please remember to include who is in your story, all of your **characters** in your writing today.”*

**Closure:**

Bring students back to the carpet and have them share the setting from their story.

**Reflection:**

**Resources & References: (adapted from, acknowledgments)**