BUILD-A-PLAY
YOUR SETTING

Last week we worked on CHARACTER – the WHO of our story. TODAY, we are going to work on SETTING - the WHERE of our story.

In the theatre, we think about our theatre space in two ways:

1) The space of the theatre -The stage where actors perform the story and the house where the audience sits and watches actors perform.

2) How the stage is designed to show the setting of our play – where our story takes place.

Let’s think about where our story takes place and how we can create a setting for this to happen. But, never forget that in the end, actors need to be on the stage in front of an audience to tell the story.

FIRST: THINK about your different characters that you created last week. THEN, THINK about where these characters could all exist together. USE YOUR IMAGINATION. HAVE FUN.

SECOND: AFTER THINKING ABOUT WHERE your characters could all act out a story, let’s WRITE ABOUT IT! USE THE EXERCISES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE TO WORK OUT YOUR PLAY’S SETTING.

You can write your answers on a piece of paper or type them up on a tablet or computer.
ALL ABOUT MY SETTING

1) **WHERE** do these CHARACTERS live? Again, use your imagination. But, be specific and place it somewhere you can imagine scenes between your characters happening. Is it a city? A fantasy name of your choosing? A town? The moon? A school? Someone’s home? Is it a real place? Or a made-up place?

If you have it as someone’s home or a school – then what town or city is that home or school located? - **FOR EXAMPLE**: The Franklin School for Intelligent Children in Tarleton, South Carolina. But you could just say – A space station on the moon. Or Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Or it could be your main character’s home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**NAME THE PLACE WHERE YOUR CHARACTERS LIVE AND INTERACT:**

2) **LIST THREE SPECIFIC SPACES WITHIN THIS LARGER PLACE WHERE THESE CHARACTERS COULD MEET AND INTERACT.**

**FOR EXAMPLE** – If my play is in the Franklin School for Intelligent Children in Tarleton, South Carolina then my three specific places may be:

1) A Science Classroom
2) A Hallway lined with Lockers
3) The Lunchroom.

**NAME THE THREE SPECIFIC SPACES WITHIN YOUR SETTING:**

1)
2)
3)

3) Describe these three specific places with as much detail as possible.

**FOR EXAMPLE**: For the science classroom I might write:
A science classroom with an old wooden door opening up into groups of plastic tables and chairs. There is a large, old wooden table at the front with supplies for experiments. The room is lined on one side by large windows.
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR SETTING

DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR SETTING

Here’s a link to a video from our RESIDENT DESIGNER – Jim Hibbler about drawing a picture of a setting: https://youtu.be/cwAlstqV254

DESIGN A MODEL OF YOUR SET

Share your model with us and we can make it look like it is on our stage at Stages Theatre Company.

NEXT TIME

We will outline the DRAMATIC ACTION of YOUR PLAY.