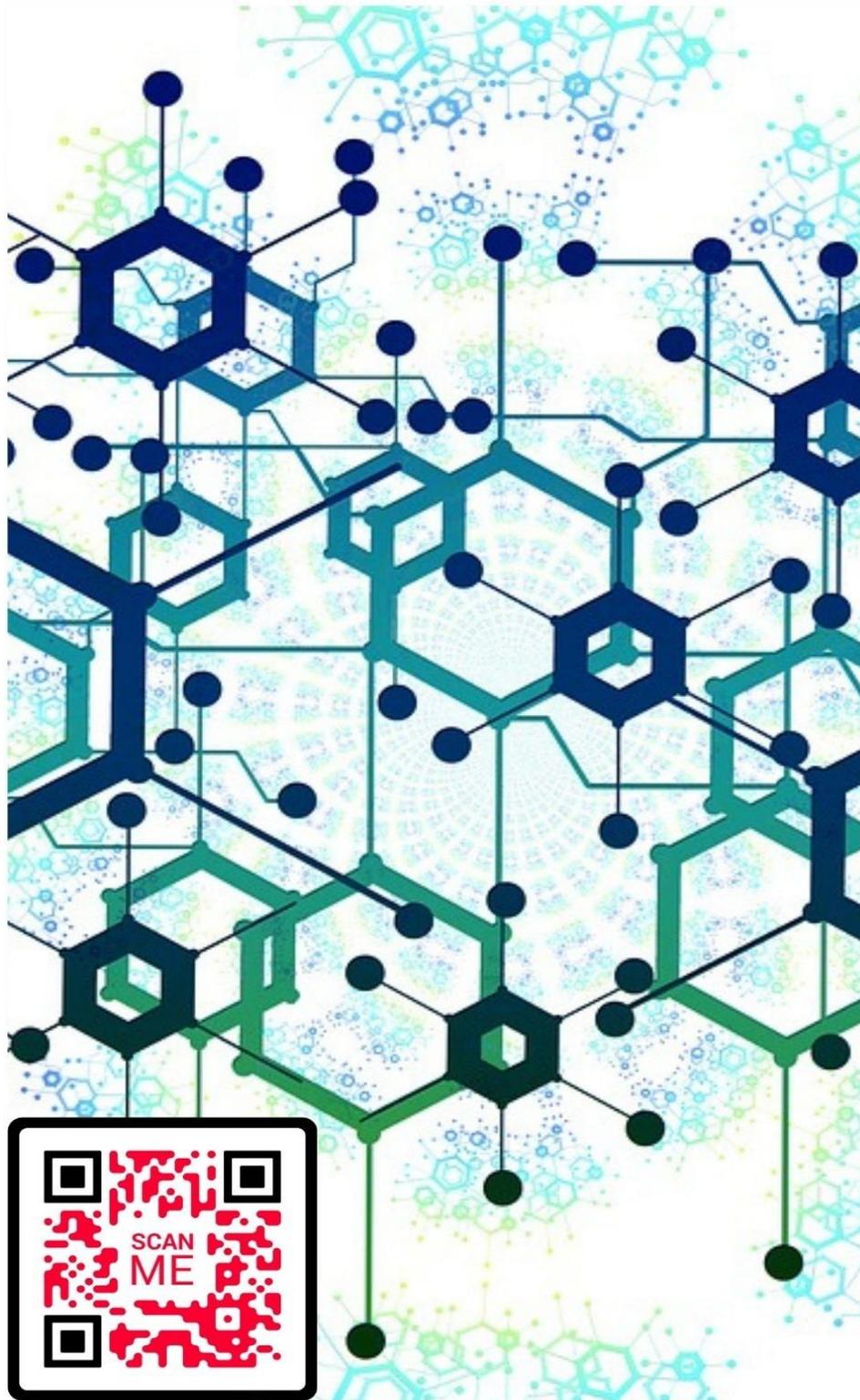


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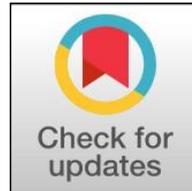
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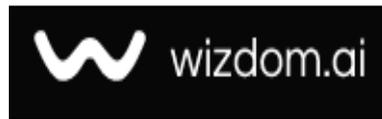
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THE ROLE OF SETTING IN ANGELA CARTER'S "NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS"

Kamolova Feruza,
Master student of BSU

Before analyzing setting in the book, we would like to give information about types of setting and how it is important to reveal the events in a particular place.

In fiction, setting includes the time, location, and everything in which a story takes place, and initiates the main backdrop and mood for a story. Setting has been referred to as story world [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setting_\(fiction\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setting_(fiction)) - cite note-0 or milieu to include a context (especially society) beyond the immediate surroundings of the story. Elements of setting may include culture, historical period, geography, and hour. Along with plot, character, theme, and style, setting is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction.

Setting is a critical component for assisting the plot, as in man vs. nature or man vs. society stories. In some stories the setting becomes a character itself. The term "setting" is often used to refer to the social milieu in which the events of a novel occur. Novelist and novel-writing instructor Donna Levin has described how this social milieu shapes the characters' values. The setting is often established as the "place" where the story occurs. As children advance, the elements of the story setting are expanded to include the passage of time which might be static in some stories or dynamic in others (e.g. changing seasons, day-and-night, etc.). The passage of time as an element of the setting helps direct the child's attention to recognize setting elements in more complex stories.

People exist in a particular time and place. Where we live may contribute not only to our personality, but also to our values, attitudes, and even our problems. In literature, setting (time and place) can also influence characters and what they do.

We need to consider four kinds of time that may carry particular associations with them:

- **Clock time:** this can be used to provide suspense or create certain moods or feelings.
- **Calendar time:** the day, month, year, or more generally a day of the week or time of the month may provide an understanding of what takes place in a piece of literature.
 - **Seasonal time:** the seasons or a span of time associated with a particular activity may be important.
 - **Historical time:** this can establish a psychological or sociological understanding of behaviors and attitudes.

We may find significance in the actual location where the action occurs, but *we need to pay attention to the nonphysical as well as the physical environment.*

The **physical environment**, including weather conditions, may be specifically described.

The **nonphysical environment** includes cultural influences such as education, social standing, economic class, and religious belief. These may be revealed by physical properties in the scene or through the characters' dialogue, thoughts, statements, and behaviors.

The setting may be nothing more than the backdrop for what occurs; however, it may be directly linked to mood or meaning.

- It can create an atmosphere that affects our response to the work.
- It may have a direct effect on a character's motivation.

- An external force may enter the setting and change it, causing conflict for the characters.
- The setting itself may be an antagonist.
- Two settings may come into conflict with each other, causing conflict in the characters who must live in them and perhaps have to choose between them.

Sometimes the setting is clearly described by the narrator. However, some works will require you to search for clues, especially with regard to the nonphysical environment.

- Learn about the author and the time and place of writing.
- Notesuggestivedetails.
- Note unique uses of language and, perhaps, hidden references to the historical or cultural environment.

Social setting. While the setting refers to the time and place in which the action occurs, the term **social setting** is used to indicate the social environment in which a story takes place. The social setting of a novel or story may be explicitly indicated by the author or it may be conveyed through the use of **social or class markers**, i.e. the way the characters talk, where and how they live, the clothes they wear, how they eat, and so on. Like the physical and temporal setting, the social setting may be relatively unimportant or it may play a determining role in a novel or story. In many novels characters are presented as products of their social class, and many authors have explored the themes of conformity to or rebellion against the values and mores of specific social settings.

Setting includes three closely related aspects of a work of fiction: the physical, sensuous world of the work, the time in which the action of the work takes place, the social environment of the characters (i.e. the manners, customs, and moral values of the characters' society).

The environment in which the character lives may help the reader to understand the character's motives and behavior. (e.g. *The theft of a loaf of bread from the rich by a poor, starving person would give one interpretation of a character, whereas the same theft from other poor people would give another. The theft by a rich person of that same loaf of bread would lead to a different impression.*)

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