**SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE ACTIVITY SHEET 1**

**ESTABLISHING THE SETTING**

The place in which a story is located is usually an important part of the story’s *identity*: it helps make the story what it is. Fairytales often have particular settings: palaces, castles and forests are all familiar settings for these kinds of story. Other kinds of story might have particular settings also: ghost stories, for example, might be set in haunted houses, or fantasy stories set in other worlds.

In a novel, the author will usually describe important aspects of setting in some detail, using a wide range of carefully chosen vocabulary with an emphasis on descriptive words such as adjectives to give the reader a clear impression of place.

**ACTIVITY**

* Find or think of examples from texts you have read as a class. How do different writers describe different settings?
* What sorts of words and sentence structures do they seem to use?

When a filmmaker sets out to produce a film, choosing a setting is a key decision. They might choose to film in a particular location because it has exactly the 'look' they wanted for their film. Sometimes a real location may be used; sometimes a set might be built, or a combination of the two. Computer generated images can also be used. In a film, the setting is visible right away: you do not need to imagine it, as when reading a book, though different people may respond to particular locations in different ways. For example, if a film is set in a country you grew up in, you may think it looks familiar whereas someone who has never seen that country’s landscape before may think it looks unfamiliar or even exotic.

**ESTABLISHING SHOTS**

In film, a *long shot* or *extreme long shot* may be used to give a broad view of the setting. This is where the camera has a wide field of view showing a landscape or a wide cityscape. Where it is used at the start of a scene, this can also be called an *establishing shot* because it establishes where the action is taking place.

Here are some examples of long shots from some of the films in this pack. For each one, produce a short ***descriptive*** paragraph identifying what you can see in the shot in as much detail as possible.



