

Setting/Characters/Plot Anchor Chart

(Example for Teacher Reference)

Key	
Setting	the specific time and place in which a story (or an event in the story) takes place
Characters	the people (or animals) the story is about
Plot	causal sequence of events that provide the “why” for what happens in a story

What happened?	What is the setting?	How does the setting shape characters?	How does the setting shape plot?
<p>Chapter 2: Nya still walking; gets a thorn in foot</p> <p>Salva still walking; taken to rebel camp; put with women and children; left behind</p>	<p>Southern Sudan in 2008 and 1985.</p> <p>Both times, the setting is dry and dangerous (thorns for Nya and war for Salva).</p>	<p>The setting shapes Nya because she is walking on a dry dangerous path: “spiky plants grew along the path” and “their thorns littered the ground everywhere” (8).[*] Nya has to be strong and persevere to overcome obstacles in a harsh setting.</p>	<p>The setting shapes the plot in 1985 because there is war, so Salva must flee his village and become separated from his family: “there was no one from his family” (10). Salva has to be brave and persevere to flee his home and lose his family.</p>

^{*} Quotations from the text are not necessary but are included as part of a full example.

What happened?	What is the setting?	How does the setting shape characters?	How does the setting shape plot?
<p>Chapter 3: Nya gets to pond, fills container, begins long walk home</p> <p>Salva stays with old woman for a few days, must leave with other walkers</p>	<p>Southern Sudan in 2008 and 1985. In both times, the setting is dry and dangerous (thorns for Nya and war for Salva).</p>	<p>Nya feels better with “so much life around the pond” (14) but has to walk home. Has to persevere.</p>	<p>War forces Salva to stay with old woman and dryness forces him to leave her. Has to be brave and persevere.</p>
<p>Chapter 4: Nya stops at home; goes back to the pond with little sister Akeer</p> <p>Salva leaves the old woman’s house and joins a new group of people escaping</p>	<p>The settings are Nya’s house, the old woman’s house, and the country in which they are traveling.</p>	<p>Because she is at home, Nya must obey her mother. Nya must be obedient and responsible for little sister.</p> <p>The difficulty of the terrain and the lack of food force Salva to find ways to survive and not become hopeless as he walks.</p>	<p>For Nya, the setting forces her to walk back and forth to the pond for water.</p> <p>The setting makes Salva and the others hungry; forces them to search for food; discovery of the beehive.</p>
<p>Chapter 5: Nya’s family moves to a big lake for five months; must dig hole and wait for water</p> <p>Salva full of honey; makes friend (Mariel); walking lion-country</p>	<p>Both times, setting is dry and dangerous (no water and fighting for Nya; war and lions for Salva).</p>	<p>Setting shapes Nya because it is so dry, she has to wait all day to get water: “Nya would crouch by the hole, waiting. Waiting for water . . . for hours at a time . . . every day for five long months” (27). Nya has to be strong and persevere to overcome obstacles to get water.</p>	<p>Setting shapes the plot because Salva must face bees and lions on their journey: “Salva woke often to sound of roars in the distance and sometimes to the death-squeal of an animal under a lion’s claws” (31). Salva has to be brave and persevere to travel without family in a dangerous place.</p>

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Chapter 6: Nya likes lake: no walk to water; mother hates lake: no house, and husband/son in danger Salva uncle in group, shoots an antelope, all get sick; Mariel missing . . . lion?	(Answers provided in the Mid-Unit Assessment answer guide.)	(Answers provided in the Mid-Unit Assessment answer guide.)	(Answers provided in the Mid-Unit Assessment answer guide.)

What happened?	What is the setting?	How does the setting shape characters?	How does the setting shape plot?
<p>Chapter 7: Akeer has bad stomachache; can kill children or elderly; walk her long way to clinic?</p> <p>Salva scared of lions, uncle will protect; reach Nile and make boats</p>	<p>Both times, the setting is dangerous (sickness for Nya's family and lions and a larger river for Salva).</p>	<p>Setting shapes Nya because the bad water makes her sister sick, so Nya must be strong and responsible to care for her sister and rely on her uncle and parents to make good decisions for her and her sister.</p> <p>The setting shapes Salva because he is so scared of the lions and cannot swim, so he must rely on his uncle and the others to protect and guide him.</p>	<p>The setting shapes the plot in 1985 because the people must spend a whole day building rafts.</p>