

How does the setting shape the main character in “Rikki Tikki Tavi”?

In this lesson you will learn  
how to analyze how  
particular story elements  
interact by determining  
how the setting shapes  
the main character.

# Let's Review

## “Rikki Tikki Tavi” From The Jungle Book By Rudyard Kipling

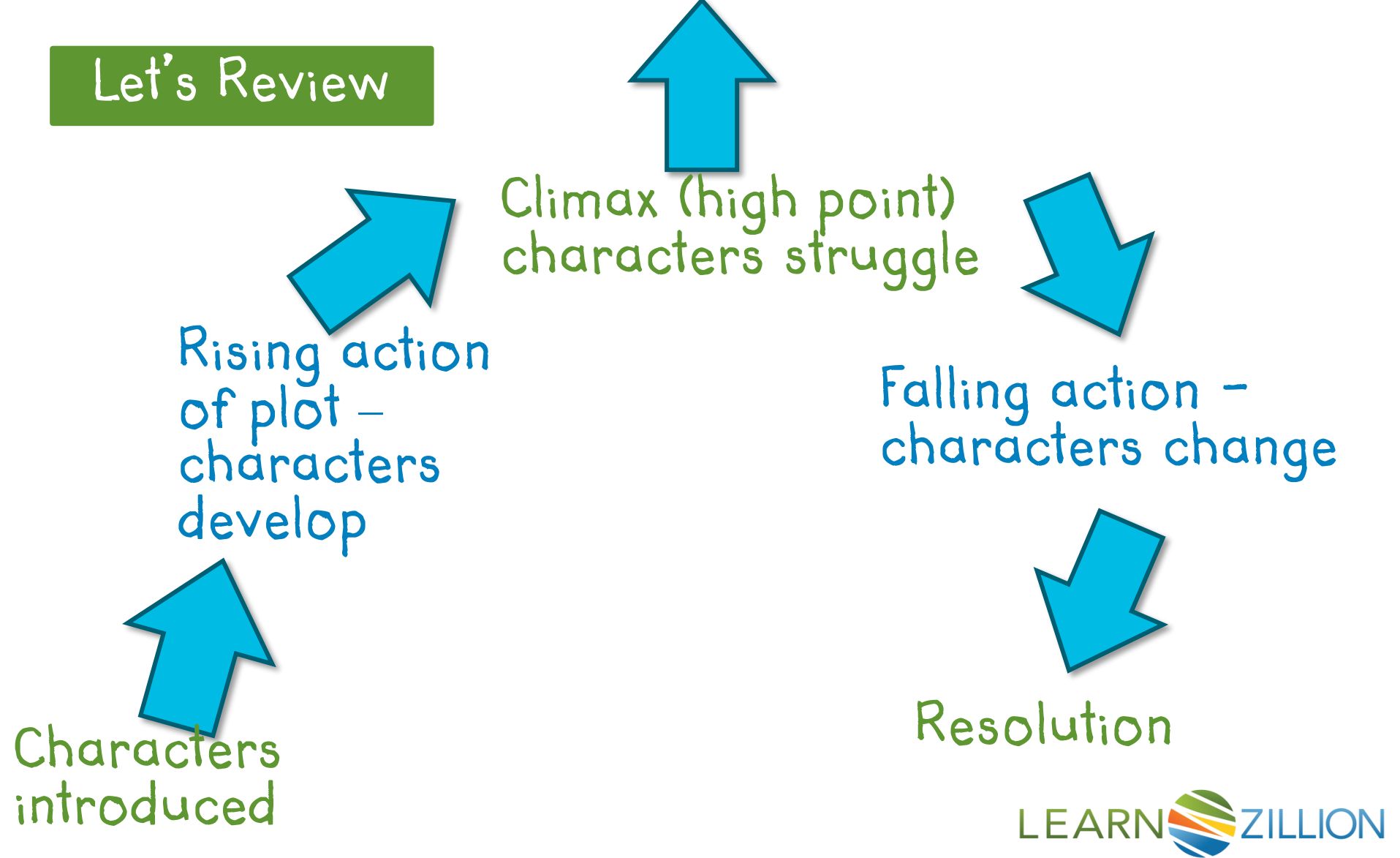
This is the story of the great war that Rikki-tikki-tavi fought single-handed, through the bath-rooms of the big bungalow in Segowlee cantonment. Darzee, the tailorbird, helped him, and Chuchundra, the muskrat, who never comes out into the middle of the floor, but always creeps round by the wall, gave him advice; but Rikki-tikki did the real fighting.

Main character =  
Rikki-tikki-tavi, a  
mongoose

Setting = where a  
story takes place

Characters –  
interact with  
setting and plot of  
a story

## Let's Review



## Core Lesson

- 1 Identify sections of the text that describe the setting and the character and ask, “How does the character respond to the setting?”
- 2 Use these notes and ask, “How would the main character change if the setting changed?”
- 3 Add this together to determine how the setting shapes a character.

## Core Lesson

Identify text that describes the setting and the character:

Then Rikki-tikki went out into the garden to see what was to be seen. It was a **large garden, only half cultivated, with bushes as big as summer-houses of Marshal Niel roses, lime and orange trees, clumps of bamboos, and thickets of high grass.** Rikki-tikki **licked his lips.** “This is a splendid hunting-ground,” he said, and **his tail grew bottle-brushy** at the thought of it, and **he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing** here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn-bush.

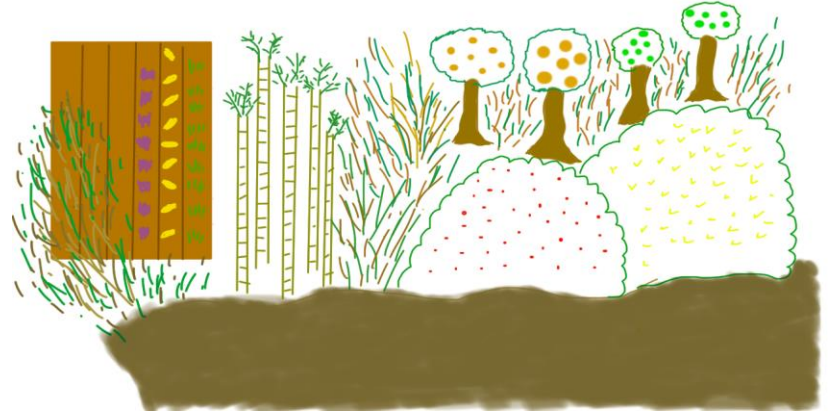
Ask, “How does the main character feel about it?”



## Core Lesson

Ask, “How does the character respond to the setting?”

Rikki-tikki licked his lips. “This is a splendid hunting ground,” he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it, and he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn-bush.



What does the main character think or feel about the setting?

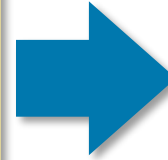
## Core Lesson

Analyze what the character says and does when responding to the setting.

Rikki licked his lips.



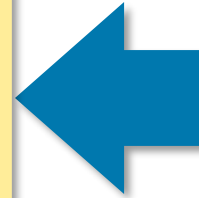
Then he said, "This is a splendid hunting ground."



His tail grew bottle-brushy.



He scuttled up and down the garden.



He snuffed here and there.






# Core Lesson

Rikki might:

- Roll his eyes
- Say, “This is awful. How will I hunt here?”
- Run and hide in a sewer pipe

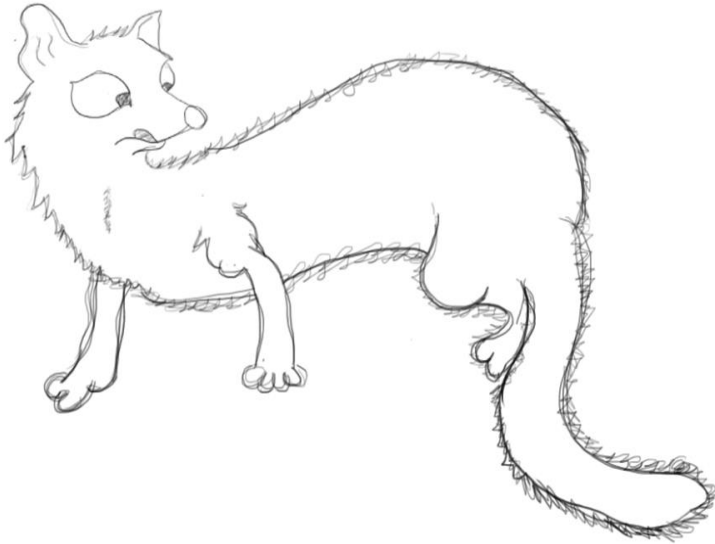


What if the  
setting in a  
story  
changed?

## Core Lesson

Add this together to determine how the setting shapes a character.

### Garden Setting



“This is a splendid hunting ground.”

### City Setting



“This is awful. How will I hunt here?”

## Core Lesson

# How does the setting shape the main character in “Rikki Tikki Tavi”?

Kipling uses words and phrases to describe the setting that the main character reacts to by licking his lips, scuttling up and down the garden and snuffing here and there. The reader can infer that Rikki is excited about the hunting ground by the way he reacts. If the setting were different the character's actions and dialogue would probably change too. Rikki might not be able to hunt; therefore, it would be difficult for him to demonstrate his strength and courage.

## Core Lesson

- 1 Identify sections of the text that describe the setting and the character and ask, “How does the character respond to the setting?”
- 2 Use these notes and ask, “How would the main character change if the setting changed?”
- 3 Add this together to determine how the setting shapes a character.

In this lesson you have  
learned how to analyze how  
particular story elements  
interact by determining  
how the setting shapes  
the main character.