Teaching Setting

Setting is the location of a story’s actions, along with the time in which it occurs. It can also include weather conditions, social conditions, and/or mood and atmosphere.

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A Selective Annotated Bibliography

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td>Barrett, Judy. <em>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</em>. New York: Atheneum, 1978. Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers--until the weather takes a turn for the worse.</td>
<td>E B27553C</td>
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<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td>Becker, Aaron. <em>Journey</em>. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013. Using a red marker, a young girl draws a door on her bedroom wall and through it enters another world where she experiences many adventures, including being captured by an evil emperor.</td>
<td>E B38838J</td>
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Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis.


Four people enter a park, and through their eyes we see four different visions. There's the bossy woman, the sad man, the lonely boy and the young girl whose warmth touches those she meets. As the story moves from one voice to another, their perspectives are reflected in the shifting landscape and seasons.


Callie and her family are moving from their house to an apartment, so they're having a yard sale. It can be hard to let things go, but in the end, it's who you have - not what you have - that counts.


After she falls headfirst into a bird's nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother.


The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.


Nighttime is a wonderful time to enjoy the lights, the games, and the rides at a fair. It's time! The gates are open, the rides are spinning–come to the fair! The sky goes dark and the colored lights begin to flash and sparkle. There are games to play and treats to eat. From the top of the Ferris wheel you can see where you've been-and where you have yet to go. So much to do and see. Hurry!


When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.

Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty -- and fun -- in their routine and the world around them.


A whimsical tribute to the myriad possibilities of home depicts homes in different real-world environments as well as fantastical settings.


Twelve people set aside their fears and ride a roller coaster, including one who has never done so before.


Sylvie the cat persuades her boy to go into the darkness very late at night, where they're greeted by the shadows of roses and other flowers, and by nocturnal animals who whisper, "It's almost here."


The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.


When her friends Tommy and Annika have a day off from school, Pippi takes them on a far from ordinary picnic.


When a big new yellow tractor arrives, Otis the friendly little tractor is cast away behind the barn, but when trouble occurs Otis is the only one who can help.


Jeremy Jacob joins Braid Beard and his pirate crew and finds out about pirate language, pirate manners, and other aspects of their life. When Braid Beard's pirate crew invites Jeremy Jacob to join their voyage, he jumps right on board. Buried treasure, sea chanteys, pirate talk--who wouldn't go along? Soon Jeremy Jacob knows all about being a pirate.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring.


A literal-minded housekeeper causes chaos in the Rogers household when she attempts to make sense of some instructions.


A loud clap of thunder booms and rattles the windows of Grandma's old farmhouse. "This is Thunder Cake baking weather," calls Grandma, as she and her granddaughter hurry to gather the ingredients around the farm. A real Thunder Cake must reach the oven before the storm arrives. But the list of ingredients is long and not easy to find . . . and the storm is coming closer all the time!


An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.


At sunset, when their work is done for the day, a crane truck, a cement mixer, and other pieces of construction equipment make their way to their resting places and go to sleep.


An evocative remembrance of the simple pleasures in country living: splashing in the swimming hole, taking baths in the kitchen, sharing family times, each is eloquently portrayed here in both the misty-hued scenes and in the poetic text.


A little boy's dream-fantasy in which he helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter.


A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

When our hero stubs his toe, he decides to find a less troublesome place to live. Soon he's off on a journey "to the City of Solla Sollew, on the banks of the beautiful River Wah-Hoo, where they never have troubles! At least, very few." But between his encounters with the Midwinter Jicker and the Perilous Poozer of Pompelmoose Pass, he soon finds out that confronting his problems might actually be easier than running away from them.


Long before saving the earth became a global concern, Dr. Seuss, speaking through his character the Lorax, warned against mindless progress and the danger it posed to the earth's natural beauty.


In 1957, a young girl is torn between life in the neighborhood she grew up in and fitting in at the school she now attends.


Laszlo is afraid of the dark which lives in the same big, creaky house as him, until one night the dark pays him a visit.


Wendell Flutz's room isn't a mess. It's a total pigsty. But Wendell's mother can't get him to clean it up. Wendell doesn't think the mess is so awful. In fact, he doesn't even mind it when one day he discovers a real pig sitting on his bed!


Eloise is a precocious six-year-old who lives at the Plaza Hotel and enjoys getting and giving presents at Christmas.


The enigmatic origins of the stranger that Farmer Bailey hits with his truck and brings home to recuperate seem to have a mysterious relation to the weather. Could he be Jack Frost?


On a Tuesday, frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore nearby houses while their inhabitants’ sleep.

Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends?


A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.


Follow the red canoe from page to page as it journeys down river carrying the family on a camping tour. It's the next best thing to paddling it yourself.


Despite pleas from his court, a fun-loving king refuses to get out of his bathtub to rule his kingdom.


Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.


Late one winter night a little girl and her father go owling. The trees stand still as statues and the world is silent as a dream. Whoo-whoohoo, the father calls to the mysterious nighttime bird. But there is no answer. Wordlessly the two companions walk along, for when you go owling you don't need words. You don't need anything but hope. Sometimes there isn't an owl, but sometimes there is.


Al, a janitor, and his faithful dog, Eddie, live in a single room on the West Side. They eat together, they work together, they do everything together. So, what's the problem? Their room is crowded and cramped; their life is an endless struggle. Al and Eddie are practically at each other’s throats when a large and mysterious bird offers them a new life in paradise. After some debate, they decide to accept. Transported to a gorgeous island in the sky, Al and Eddie are soon living a life of ease and luxury. But they come to find that the grass can be a little too green on the other side. After a dramatic, nearly tragic escape from their paradise prison, both man and dog agree: there really is no place like home.

PreK-3  Zweibel, Alan. *Our Tree Named Steve*. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons,
In a letter to his children, a father recounts memories of the role Steve, the tree in their front yard, has played in their lives.

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