



## SETTING

Imagine Jack London's story *To Build A Fire* taking place in Florida at noon. The significance of lighting a match, the necessity of a fire, means nothing. The fact that we know we are in Alaska surrounded by trees cracking with ice and the sun setting makes fumbling, stiffening fingers real and threatening.

Setting is the stage upon which the story happens. What you put on the stage influences the story. Time, weather, smell, touch, sound and light combine to create vivid scenes. Setting creates mood.

Geography matters if it matters to the story. What can happen in California may cause a riot in Iowa. History matters. Culture matters. Population matters. Lonely is a different lonely in New York City than it is in Lost Springs, Wyoming, population 4.

Use setting to enhance, strengthen and set the stage for your narrative.