



BORDERS

by Thomas King

BEFORE READING: _____

What does it mean to be a citizen of a place?

Why do we need to have a nationality?

List below 4 questions you have about *identity* and *belonging to a place*.

essential questions



While reading the short story, annotate closely, making a particular note of the following:

- ☐ Direct or indirect **characterization** in the story; particularly any changes in characters.
- ☐ Any **symbolism**: objects or things you think might have symbolic significance.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Blackfoot CONTEXT

Research & make notes on who are the BLACKFEET NATION.

Statement	Agree / Disagree
Borders between countries are unnecessary and harmful.	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
Explain your choice:	

Which 2 of the following do you hope to deepen your understanding of, through analyzing this story?

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Perspective | <input type="checkbox"/> Mood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Characterization | <input type="checkbox"/> Symbolism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theme | <input type="checkbox"/> Imagery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Setting | <input type="checkbox"/> Plot |

TWO specific questions you have about these elements:

Did you enjoy this story? *Explain why or why not:*

"Laetitia had a lot of PRIDE, and so did my mother."

What is his mother proud of?

<input type="checkbox"/> Her children	<input type="checkbox"/> Her independence
<input type="checkbox"/> Her language	<input type="checkbox"/> Her home
<input type="checkbox"/> Her heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Her appearance

Three quotations which *indirectly* evidence his mother's **pride**:

CHARACTERIZATION

"She had not, as my mother liked to tell Mrs. Manyfingers, gone floating after some man like a balloon on a string."

Figurative technique used:

This is used to emphasize...



Having read the story, finish the following sentences:

At first I thought _____

But now I realize _____

Identify what changed your thinking:

critical thinking

If the narrator's mother were an **animal**, she would be:

because...

What is your opinion of her pride? Is it a good quality? Why or why not?

A color to symbolize this story:

because...



INFERENCES

Does the narrator fully understand the stand his mother is taking? ☐ YES ☐ NO

How do you know?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

List the ways in which you think the topic of this story relate to your own community, or the wider world today.



Rank each of the following in terms of how prominent and significant they are as core 'messages' of the story.

(1-most / 4-least)

THEMES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Justice is tough to achieve, but we should always stand up for our beliefs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pride in one's heritage is an important quality to have. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | We should never impose external views of identity on another person. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | In a global world, self-identity and culture are extremely difficult to maintain. |

QUICK QUIZ

Read each question and answer carefully, and then choose the best answer, circling your selection.

close reading

- What is the narrative perspective of the story?
 - Omniscient narrator
 - First-person
 - Limited third-person
 - Second-person
- "...over time my mother had come to be proud of the fact that Laetitia had done this all on her own." - What can be inferred about the narrator's mother from this?
 - She doesn't want to be involved in her daughter's life.
 - She values independence and autonomy.
 - She is an extremely proud woman.
 - She always disapproves of her daughter's actions.
- Which of the following evidences the fact that the narrator's mother foresees the conflict at the border?
 - "She bought two new tires for the car"
 - "My mother got a coffee at the convenience store, and we stood around and watched the prairies"
 - "My mother...drove all the way to the border in first gear, slowly, as if she were trying to see through a bad storm"
 - All of the above.
- How does the narrator feel about his mother's refusal to identify as Canadian?
 - He is angry and annoyed
 - He is frustrated and doesn't understand
 - He is sympathetic and understanding
 - He is indifferent
- Why do the narrator and his mother get stuck between the two border crossings?
 - His mother refuses to conform to the authorities' ideas of nationality and citizenship.
 - His mother is technically breaking the law and so they won't allow them to cross.
 - The guards are incompetent and uneducated.
 - It is not clear why.
- When the reporters arrive, how does the narrator respond?
 - He feels a sense of pride and celebrity.
 - Fairly indifferent; he doesn't entirely appreciate the significance of the situation.
 - He is angry and annoyed; he just wants to go home.
 - He finds it all very amusing.
- Why does Laetitia desire to go to America?
 - She wants to go and be with her American boyfriend.
 - She wants to get away from her mother.
 - She is bored of her hometown, and attracted by the possibilities of the US.
 - She is ashamed of her heritage and wants to run away.
- Why do the guards eventually let them through?
 - Because of the media attention and pressure.
 - Mel called people who have power and connections.
 - They are just tired of the situation.
 - They realize they were being wrong and unjust.
- The central conflict in the story is best described as:
 - Person versus self
 - Person versus person
 - Person versus society
 - Person versus nature
- Throughout the story the narrator tells events of things which have happened in the past. What is this technique known as?
 - Foreshadowing
 - Flashbacks
 - Suspense
 - Exposition
- Which of the following best describes the atmosphere/mood of the story?
 - Mysterious
 - Optimistic
 - Tense
 - Gloomy
- Which of the following is being used figuratively?
 - "Most of the roof had been blown away."
 - "We sat on a wood bench for about an hour before anyone came over to talk to us."
 - "It didn't take them long to lose their sense of humour, I can tell you that."
 - "She hadn't...gone to Vancouver or Edmonton or Toronto to chase rainbows down alleys."

For each of the following statements, decide whether they are TRUE or FALSE, and then provide direct evidence for your choice.

	STATEMENT	T	F	Quotation as EVIDENCE
1	The narrator's mother is ashamed of her daughter Laetitia.			
2	The narrator's mother is proud of where she lives.			
3	The narrator doesn't fully understand the significance of the situation.			
4	Laetitia turns out to be somewhat disillusioned by Salt Lake City.			

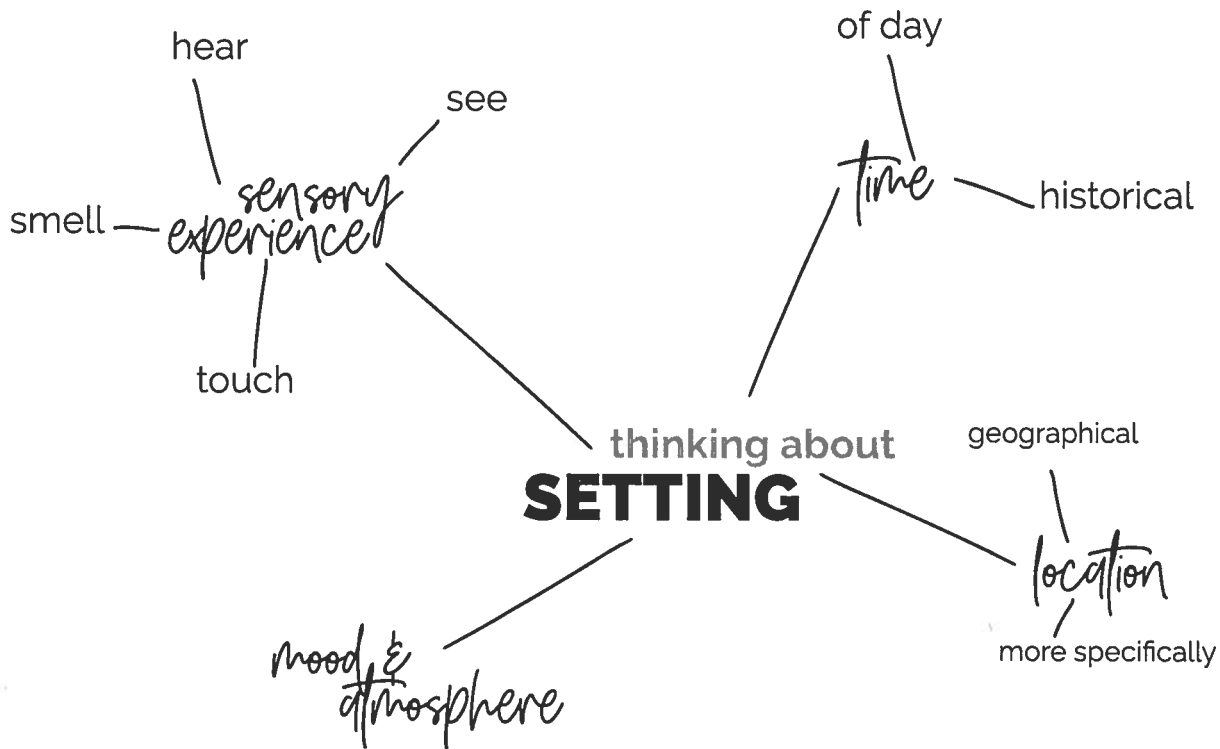
setting *noun*

the setting is the time and place in which a story takes place

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KEY FOCUS: Setting

Complete the following mind-map.

**Literary Analysis WRITING**

In what way is the setting highly symbolic in this story?

practice

You should:

- ☐ Make a distinct **claim** answering the question.
- ☐ Explain your claim with **embedded** direct **evidence** from the text.
- ☐ Provide **analysis** as to why this aspect of the setting is important in terms of the deeper themes of the story.

