

Describing a Setting Extract

With a partner, highlight in one colour where the setting is described and in another colour where atmosphere is created.

The boys moved off and disappeared in the gloom. Before long, they were wading through the tall grass of the ghastly graveyard. It was a graveyard of the old-fashioned western kind; a large crypt surrounded by smaller graves on a hill just beyond the village. It had a crazy board fence around it, which leaned inwards in places, and outwards in others. 'Sacred to the memory of So-and-So' had been painted onto or etched into the tired faces of each of the tombstones once, but it could no longer be read on the most of them, even in the light of day.

A faint wind moaned through the trees, and Tom feared it might be the spirits of the dead complaining at being disturbed. The boys talked little, and only under their breath when they did. It seemed appropriate.

Finally, they found the place they were seeking. Then, they waited in silence for what seemed like an hour. Tom's reflections grew oppressive. He had to speak out to break the tension: "Hucky, do you believe the dead people like it for us to be here?"

