

The Tell Tale Heart

The Setting

What is setting?

The setting is both the time and geographic location within a narrative, either nonfiction or fiction. A literary element, the setting helps initiate the main backdrop and mood for a story. ... Elements of setting may include culture, historical period, geography, and hour.

Make a list of all the things you **KNOW** about the setting of *The Tell Tale Heart*.

On this list should be everything you know to be a **fact** about any element of the setting (physical setting, time of day, historical context, social context).

You might feel the need to use Google for this list to learn a little more about the social and historical context of TTTH.

Make a list of everything you can IMPLY about the setting in *The Tell Tale Heart*.

As you read TTTH, there will be impressions that the setting makes on you. You will **imply** details about the place and time that the story takes place in. Write these perceptions down with the quote from the text that makes you form that perception.

The Gothic Setting and Atmosphere

There are key conventions for developing a gothic atmosphere. Architectural features such as towers, trapdoors, mysterious corridors, rusty hinges, tunnels, and lightless niches all serve to entrap their helpless victims. Flickering candles, burial vaults, tolling bells, hidden manuscripts, curses and prophecies, suits of armour, ghosts, clanking chains, animated portraits, lamps, evil potions and spells, fluttering bats, storms, lightening, and howling winds add to the aura of terror and mystery that define the gothic genre. A wide range of elements that create a sense of terror, decay, despair, or death are needed to contribute to a gothic setting.

The following are some pictures I took in Europe where gothic architecture is strongly represented.









What aspects of the setting in *The Tell Tale Heart* conform to the description of the gothic setting and atmosphere from the previous slide?

- Write an answer to the above question using the details you have compiled in your earlier lists.
- You should support your answer with as many quotes from the text as you can.