

Setting the stage for **YOUR** story

Authors will often “set the stage” for a story, leading up to the conflicts, climax, and the ultimate resolution. While completing the following outline for “YOUR STORY” consider how setting is a very important part of setting the stage for a story. Fill in the following Setting the Stage Outline for “YOUR STORY”.

1. Set the Stage: Story Setting

Where: _____

When: _____

Atmosphere: _____

2. Set the Stage: Introduce the Main Characters

Name: _____

Characteristics: _____

Name: _____

Characteristics: _____

Name: _____

Characteristics: _____

3. What is the Problem or Conflict?

4. Action/Events Leading up to the Climax:

5. Climax:

6. How is the Problem/Conflict Resolved? What is the Resolution?

Name Date

Story Planning

Practicing Characterization

Develop a character for your own story. Follow the steps below.

1. **The Basics.** First, write down some basic information about your character:

Character's Name: _____ Age: _____

Character's Goal: _____

Character's Problem/Conflict in Achieving Goal: _____

2. **Direct Characterization.** Describe what your character is like. What do most people "see" when they first meet the character? Include physical appearance and obvious personality traits. _____

3. **Indirect Characterization.** What is your character like that people *can't* see? What is not obvious to the reader and other characters in the story? These indirect qualities add a bit of mystery to your character and give your character more depth. Write a few sentences about it. _____

4. **Dialogue.** Write a few things your character might say to others that describe his or her personality. _____

