

MODEL 1: SETTING AND CHARACTERS

In this excerpt, a woman panics when her grandson Dewey disappears. Notice the details that describe the time and place of the action.

from *Trouble River*

Novel by Betsy Byars

She rose and moved to the open doorway where she looked out over the **golden prairie**.

"Dewey!" she called, her voice breaking with anxiety. "Deweeeeeee."

When there was no answer, she went back to her rocking chair.

5 "Dewey Martin," she called from her chair. "Oh, Deweeee."

After a moment she went to stand in the doorway again. For as far as she could see there was only the prairie, the long waving line of grass on the horizon with not one single cabin or chimney in sight.

10 The sun was dropping behind the horizon, and she knew how quickly darkness would cover the land, how quickly the colorful prairie would become desolate and cold.

Close Read

1. What can you tell about the setting in which the woman lives? Find two details that describe her surroundings. One detail has been **boxed**.
2. What do you learn about the woman from the way she reacts to her grandson's absence? Support your answer.

MODEL 2: CONFLICT

A boy named Aaron has just left his village to sell his family's goat. What unexpected conflict will he face on his journey?

from *Zlateh the Goat*

Short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer

The sun was shining when Aaron left the village. Suddenly the weather changed. A large black cloud with a bluish center appeared in the east and spread itself rapidly over the sky. A cold wind blew in with it. The crows flew low, croaking. At first it looked as if it would rain, but instead it began to hail as in summer. It was early in the day, but it became **dark as dusk**. After a while the hail turned to snow.

10 In his twelve years Aaron had seen all kinds of weather, but he had never experienced a snow like this one. It was so dense it shut out the light of the day. In a short time their path was completely covered. The wind became as cold as ice. The road to town was narrow and winding. Aaron no longer knew where he was.

Close Read

1. Find three details that convey the dangers of the weather. One detail has been **boxed**.
2. In your own words, describe the conflict that Aaron is facing. Whom or what is the conflict with?