

Question About Setting and Staging:

1. Does all the action occur in one time and place, or in more than one? If the latter what are those times and places? How much time tends to pass between scenes or episodes?
2. How important do the general time and place seem to be, and in what ways are they important? What about the plot and characters would remain the same if a director chose to set the play in a different time and place? What wouldn't?
3. What patterns do you notice regarding where and when things happen? Which characters are associated with each setting? How do different characters relate to the same setting? When, how and why do scenes change from one setting to another? Are there significant deviations?
4. Do the stage directions describe particular settings and props in detail? If so, what seems significant about the details? How might they establish mood, reveal character, and affect individual characters and their interactions with one another? Is there anything in the stage directions that seems to be intended more for readers than for a director staging a production?
5. Does the date of the play tell you anything about the way it was originally intended to be staged? Does the representation of time and place in the play implicitly call for a certain type of stage? If you were staging the play today, what kind of stage, sets, and props might you use and why? How might your choices affect how the play works on audiences and what it means to them?