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Setting and Its Roles

Review: The **setting** is the time and place where the action of a story or play unfolds. Details in the text show whether the setting is real or imaginary and whether the action takes place in the present, past, or future. The setting can affect the story in many ways. For example, the setting can help shape events and cause a conflict. The setting might also reveal details about the characters. Oftentimes, an author uses the setting to help create a certain mood or atmosphere.

Directions: Read each excerpt. Then **answer** the questions below.

1.

All morning, Katya had searched the sandy desert soil for food. Her only reward for the long, hot search was a few tasteless roots. There had been no shipments of food from Earth for more than two months, and like all the colonists on the planet Isota, Katya was badly malnourished. What had interrupted the regular transports from Earth? Some colonists suspected that Earth was locked in a galactic battle with the Stengahs of the Third Galaxy. If so, ESC wouldn't risk shuttle flights to Isota, even if it meant sacrificing the colonists!

What is the setting of this excerpt? _____

What details tell you the story is set in the future? _____

2.

“Uh, oh,” Steve groaned, as his car tires skidded out of control. Seconds later, he was sliding down a rocky incline, crushing bushes and trees. With a heavy thump, his car hit the bridge abutment. With his legs painfully crushed under the dashboard, Steve couldn't move. “Someone will rescue me,” he reassured himself. But the snow was quickly covering his tire tracks, and in the deep snow, his white car wouldn't be easy to spot.

What is the setting of this excerpt? _____

How does the setting in this excerpt help create a mood? _____
