***Setting and Plot:* Short Story Activity Chart for “Young Goodman Brown”**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The **setting** of a literary work is the time and place of the action.

**Directions:** Think about the setting in “Young Goodman Brown” and complete the chart to explore the relationship between setting and story events. In the left column, list the setting details. In the right column, describe how these details influence the characters and/or the plot.

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| --- | --- |
| Setting Details | **Impact on Plot and Characters** |
| YOUNG GOODMAN BROWN came forth at sunset, into the street of Salem village, but put his head back, after crossing the threshold, to exchange a parting kiss with his young wife. | There are three examples of setting in this passage that impact plot and characters. The first is the time of day, for it is the sunset of Young Goodman Brown’s faith in humanity. Next is the general location, Salem Village, where the famous witch trials took place. The last is the specific setting, the threshold, which symbolizes YGB’s crossing over to the dark side. |
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| “He had taken a dreary road, darkened by all the gloomiest trees of the forest, which barely stood aside to let the narrow path creep through, and closed immediately behind. It was all as lonely as could be; and there is this peculiarity in such a solitude, that the traveler knows not who may be concealed by the innumerable trunks and the thick boughs overhead; so that, with lonely footsteps, he may yet be passing through an unseen multitude.” | A supernatural and ominous element is introduced in the story’s opening. The description of the “dreary road” and “gloomiest trees of the forest” emphasizes the Puritan notion of the forest being the devil’s dominion. |
| “It was now deep dusk in the forest, and deepest in that part of it where these two were journeying.” | It’s neither sunset nor darkness. It’s deep dusk, a darkness that cannot be defined or determined. It’s the deepest part of the forest. It’s also the deepest, darkest trial YGB will face on his journey. |
| “Goodman Brown heard the tramp of horses along the road, and deemed it advisable to conceal himself within the verge of the forest, conscious of the guilty purpose that had brought him thither, though now so happily turned from it.” | It’s one thing to be on a path in the forest, but once one veers off the path, it is sure to bring about bad things. Note that it is shame that takes YGB from the path into the trees. |
| “While he still gazed upward, into the deep arch of the firmament, and had lifted his hands to pray, a cloud, though no wind was stirring, hurried across the zenith, and hid the brightening stars. The blue sky was still visible, except directly overhead, where this black mass of cloud was sweeping swiftly northward. Aloft in the air, as if from the depths of the cloud, came a confused and doubtful sound of voices.” | The supernatural elements of the forest continue to block YGB’s attempt to receive strength and heavenly inspiration. It is at this point his faith is destroyed. It is YGB’s choice of venturing into this unseemly setting that leads to his doom. |



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