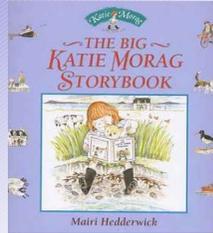


Welcome to Katie Morag's Isle of Struay

MD 2006



Story Setting

Part 3

Ideas

We are going to look at the part of the story that is called **the setting**.

What do we mean when we talk about the setting?



The setting is the part of the story that tells you where a story takes place.

It is a description with lots of detail so the reader can imagine where the story takes place.

The setting of a story can give you clues to what sort of story it might be.

Authors like Mairi Hedderwick use lots of description so that you can imagine the place where Katie Morag lives. Her illustrations also tell us a lot about the setting of her stories.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself when you are thinking about the setting.

Where does the story take place?

What does it feel like for the character to be where they are?

What time of day or night is it?

setting

Is the place going to be funny, exciting or mysterious?

What is the weather like in that place? How does it affect the characters?

What describing words are used to make the place more interesting?

The Isle of Struay



Who lives there?

What do we know about the island?

The setting - The Isle of Struay



Katie Morag's island is called the Isle of Struay. Nobody can walk to Katie Morag's island, or take a bus or a train. The only way to go is by boat.

The boat is a ferry and it is called The Lady of the Isles. It comes three times a week and brings all the things the islanders need: letters and parcels, newspapers and magazines, provisions for the shop and all kinds of other supplies. Visitors arrive on the ferry too.



If it is stormy no boat comes at all. Can you think why this might be?

Is this the same or different to the real Isle of Coll? Can you see now how Mairi Hedderwick used Coll as the island in her stories?

The setting - The Isle of Struay



All the islanders have little boats. Why do you think this is?

Little boats must stay close to the land but big boats can sail to far away places. In the Katie Morag stories the mainland is far away. That is where Granma Mainland lives - some of the time.

There are only about 25 people living on Struay.

How is this different to Coll?

Why do you think Mairi Hedderwick decided to have only about 25 people living on the island?

Can you think of any other ways that Struay is similar to the Isle of Coll?

The setting - The Isle of Struay



In the summer many visitors come on holiday to the island.

Katie Morag's mother and father are forever emptying boxes and stacking shelves and polishing the counter.

Why do you think they are so busy doing these things?

How do you think the visitors affect the people who live on the island all year round?

What do you think the visitors will need to make their stay a happy one?

The setting - The Isle of Struay



Mairi Hedderwick tells us that the Village Shop and Post Office are the only shops on the Isle of Struay.

Where else might the islanders get their food? How do you know?

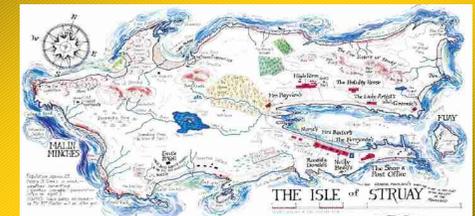
How is this the same or different to Coll and how is it the same or different to where you live?

Struay is a remote community. That means that it is far away from everywhere and because it is so small it hasn't got many of the things that larger villages, towns or cities might have.

Would you like to live in such a remote community.

The setting - The Isle of Struay

Mairi Hedderwick describes the places on the island so that we really get to know the place where Katie Morag lives. She tells us where everyone lives and she tells us about the seashore and the animals that live there like the baby seal that Katie rescued.



The setting - The Isle of Struay

In *Katie Morag and the Riddles*, Mairi Hedderwick tells us about Struay school. How is Katie Morag's school different to your school? Would you like to go to Katie Morag's school? Why or why not?



If you look through the Katie Morag books you will find lots of different animals and birds that live on Struay. How many of these can be found near your school? What are the differences?

In *Katie Morag and the New Pier*, Mairi Hedderwick tells us about the construction of a new pier for Struay and how the islanders feel about it. Not all of them are pleased.



Until the new pier was built only one ferry a week stopped at Struay - if the weather was good. Even with the pier, the ferry only comes three times a week. How might this be a problem do you think?

As you read through the Katie Morag stories try to notice where Mairi Hedderwick has used lots of description so that you can imagine what kind of place it is that Katie Morag



It's a bit like painting a picture, not with a brush but with words!

Learning targets:

- To discuss and describe story settings
- To locate key words and phrases in text
- To extend descriptive vocabulary

See Coloured Word Banks
(Literacy page 2)

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