

Answer Key

Literary Analysis SkillBuilder: Setting and Mood, page 7

Responses will vary. Possible responses are provided.

Details of Time: "Lillian retreated from the window and glanced in distaste at the television. (Schoendienst was at bat.)" The reference to a 1950s ball player places the story in that decade.

Mood Established: Placing the story in the 1950s establishes a feeling of safe, ordinary.

Details of Place: "He's usually out on a nice day like this, standing in that tremendous yard of theirs and throwing the ball against the house." "Since they're from Arizona . . ."

The neighbor playing in a large yard and the reference to Arizona suggests they are in a residential neighborhood in suburban America.

Mood Established: The details suggests a place that is safe, ordinary.

Details of Season: "Sunbathing. Always sunbathing." The season seems to be summer.

Mood Established: The pleasant weather establishes a warm, peaceful mood.

Details of Culture or Customs: "It was the secret of their happy marriage that Lillian paid no attention to George. She went into color-scheme details, was most meticulous about the bedspreads, and gave him an inch-by-inch description of closet size." Neatness is very important in the house. The dress, activities, and behavior seem typical of 1950s America.

Mood Established: The descriptions of customs establish a cheerful mood.