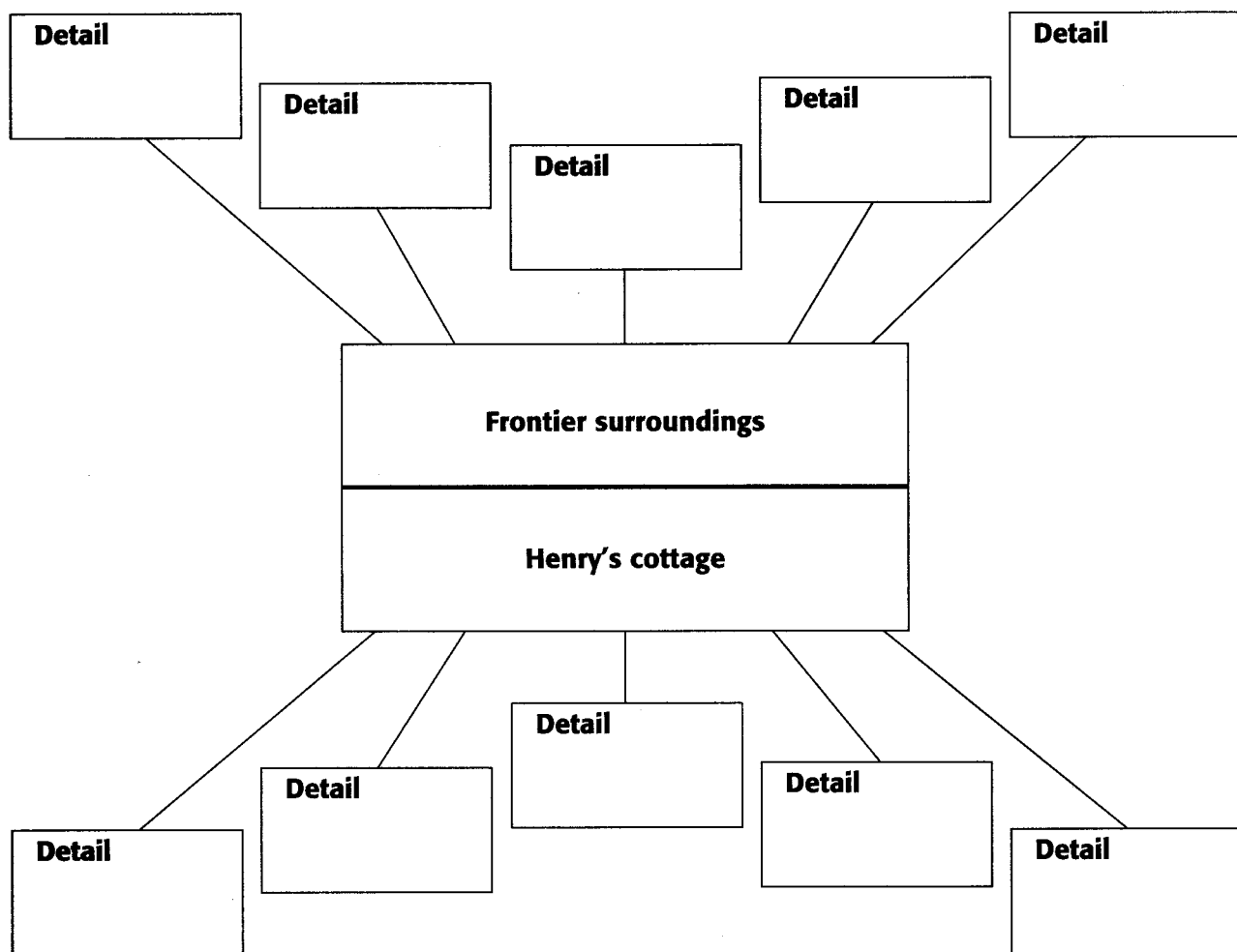


## The Californian's Tale (page 303)

### Active Reading SkillBuilder

#### Interpreting the Relationship Between Setting and Characters

The **setting** of a story may give the reader insights into the characters. To understand the **characters** in Twain's story, you need to understand how the setting has influenced their lives. As you read "The Californian's Tale," note relevant details about both the frontier surroundings and Henry's cottage. Then consider what insight each part of the story's setting gives into the characters and their lives.



Insight from frontier surroundings: \_\_\_\_\_

Insight from Henry's cottage: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Californian's Tale (page 303)****Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Historical Setting**

The term **historical setting** is used to describe the time and place of the action of a story that takes place in a particular historical period. The historical setting can contribute to the development of a story's plot and also establish a **mood**, or atmosphere, that enables the reader to understand the characters. Think about other possible historical settings for this story. Use the story map below to help you determine an alternative setting that still maintains the mood and basic plot structure of Twain's narrative.

**Setting****Time:****Place:****Characters:****Problem:****Events:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Resolution:**

**The Californian's Tale (page 303)****Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

balmy

desolation

grizzled

predecessor

sever

boding

furtive

imploring

sedate

supplicating

**A.** Decide which word from the word list belongs in each numbered blank. Then write the word on the blank line on the right.

With these scissors, you can (1)

Any substance whatsoever.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

King Charles the Greater, son of Charles the Lesser,  
Was quite a bit taller than his (2).

\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

Noises from the children skating  
Have become so very grating

That I say, so (3),

"Won't you stop that grating skating?"

\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

On the plains, the lions' roaring  
Has become so very boring

That my question is (4),

"Can't you quit that boring roaring?"

\_\_\_\_\_ (4)

The (5) milkman crept inside, as quiet as a mouse.

He'd left the dairy products, now he meant to rob the house.

\_\_\_\_\_ (5)

**B.** Fill in each blank with the correct word from the word list.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ breezes of a perfect spring day can blow the memory of winter right out of one's mind.

2. The hoot of an owl can seem a \_\_\_\_\_, especially to a mouse.

3. She is much too proper, serious, and \_\_\_\_\_ to ever make a scene.

4. An abandoned house is a scene of \_\_\_\_\_, even in a bustling city.

5. With his wrinkles and \_\_\_\_\_ hair, he didn't look like he was 39, as he claimed to be.

**C.** Imagine you are the director of a movie version of "The Californian's Tale." Write down the directions you would give the actor playing Henry. Tell him what will be demanded of him in his role. Use at least **four** of the Words to Know.

**The Californian's Tale (page 303)****Selection Quiz**

Read over the questions and think about the events described in the story. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. Where does the story take place?

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2. How is Henry's house different from the neighboring houses?

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3. According to Henry, where is his wife and how long has she been gone?

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4. Why does Henry become agitated on Saturday afternoon?

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5. At the party, why are his friends so eager to make Henry sleep?

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## The Californian's Tale (page 303)

### Selection Test

**A.** Any of the details listed below could be considered examples of foreshadowing in the story. Choose two of the details—the one you think provided the least foreshadowing and the one you think provided the most. In the boxes, write notes explaining why you have chosen those details. (10 points each)

- the ages of the husband and wife
- the miners' tendency to choke up on hearing the letter
- the husband's careful attention to the details of the house
- the husband's worry, well before nine o'clock
- the fact that only this one pretty cottage is still occupied
- the fact that the narrator is told to leave a particular drink for the husband

<p><b>1. Detail ____ seemed the weakest of these clues because</b></p>	<p><b>2. Detail ____ seemed the strongest of these clues because</b></p>
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**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (8 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The narrator is glad to catch sight of someone because he has been
- lost.
  - lonely.
  - hungry.
  - frightened.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The narrator's **main** reaction to being in the occupied cottage is one of
- shock.
  - jealousy.
  - pleasure.
  - discomfort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. At first, the narrator is deeply bothered by
- visits from the neighboring miners.
  - confusion about why the wife went away.
  - the husband's insistence that he stay until Saturday.
  - his own strong desire to meet the woman in the photograph.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The miners' purpose in gathering yearly at the cottage is to
- mourn.
  - have a dance.
  - greet the wife if she shows up.
  - help the husband get through a bad time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The narrator wants the miners to stay at the cottage because he
- suspects the truth.
  - is concerned about upsetting the wife.
  - doesn't want to be left alone with an insane man.
  - doesn't think the party has gone on long enough.

**C. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. An object often used to sever things is a
- pen.
  - chain.
  - scissors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A job that requires furtive behavior is that of a
- spy.
  - judge.
  - firefighter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. To illustrate a supplicating manner, you could
- hold your nose.
  - fold your hands.
  - clench your fists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A predecessor of Abraham Lincoln was
- Lincoln's son.
  - John Kennedy.
  - George Washington.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people who are **most** likely to be grizzled are those who are
- elderly.
  - rich.
  - trusting.

**D. Answer one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)

- What are some reasons that the narrator feels he must leave the cottage for his "peace of mind's sake"?
- Early in the story, the narrator describes the miners in the area as "living dead men." Do you think he would describe them the same way at the end? Why or why not?

**E. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)

Should one's life be ruled by the concept that "Honesty is the best policy"? Explain your answer.