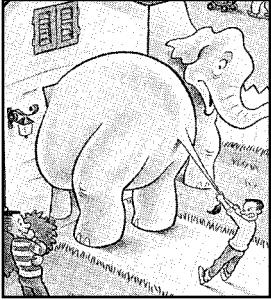


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Planning a Setting



**The setting is where and when the story takes place. For example, the setting of “Elephant Crackers” is a house in today’s suburbs. The setting of “The Glorious Whitewasher” is a front yard in the American Midwest a hundred years ago.**

**Plan a setting for your story characters to move around in and react to. Jot down as many details as you can.**

**1.** Where does the story take place?

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**2.** When does it take place?

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**3.** List any objects, animals, or other things in your setting that will be important in your story.

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**4.** To help you visualize your setting, include the details that will be important as the story moves along below. Then draw a map of it on a separate sheet of paper.

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

# Writing a Draft

**Write a rough draft of your humorous story. As you write, keep these questions in mind:**

- 1.** Does my story tell about an ordinary problem being solved in an unexpected, funny way?
- 2.** Have I concentrated on a special kind of humor, such as poking fun, exaggerating, or dramatic irony?
- 3.** Do my main story characters have very definite personalities?
- 4.** Does my dialogue sound natural?
- 5.** Is the setting clear? Are there enough details to make it come alive for my readers?

**When your draft is finished, write a title for your story.**

- 6.** Check your draft. Is it clear enough for a writing partner to read it easily?
- 7.** Write some questions and concerns about your story that you would like your writing partner to help you with.

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

# A Writing Conference

**Exchange stories with a partner. Read your partner's story carefully. Use the questions on page 42 to evaluate your partner's work. Also read what your partner has written about special questions and concerns.**

1. What parts of your partner's story are funniest?

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2. Are there any parts of the story that you don't understand? If so, write your questions here.

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3. What are your answers to your partner's specific questions?

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4. One way to evaluate a humorous story is to decide if it reminds you of something that's happened in real life. What real-life events are you reminded of as you read your partner's story?

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★ Get together and discuss each other's humorous stories. Remember to make specific suggestions, not vague ones.

**Vague:** Fix the part about the alarm clocks.

**Specific:** Maybe it would be funnier if you had all the alarm clocks going off at slightly different times.