

Grade 7: Reading Benchmark

Literary Elements

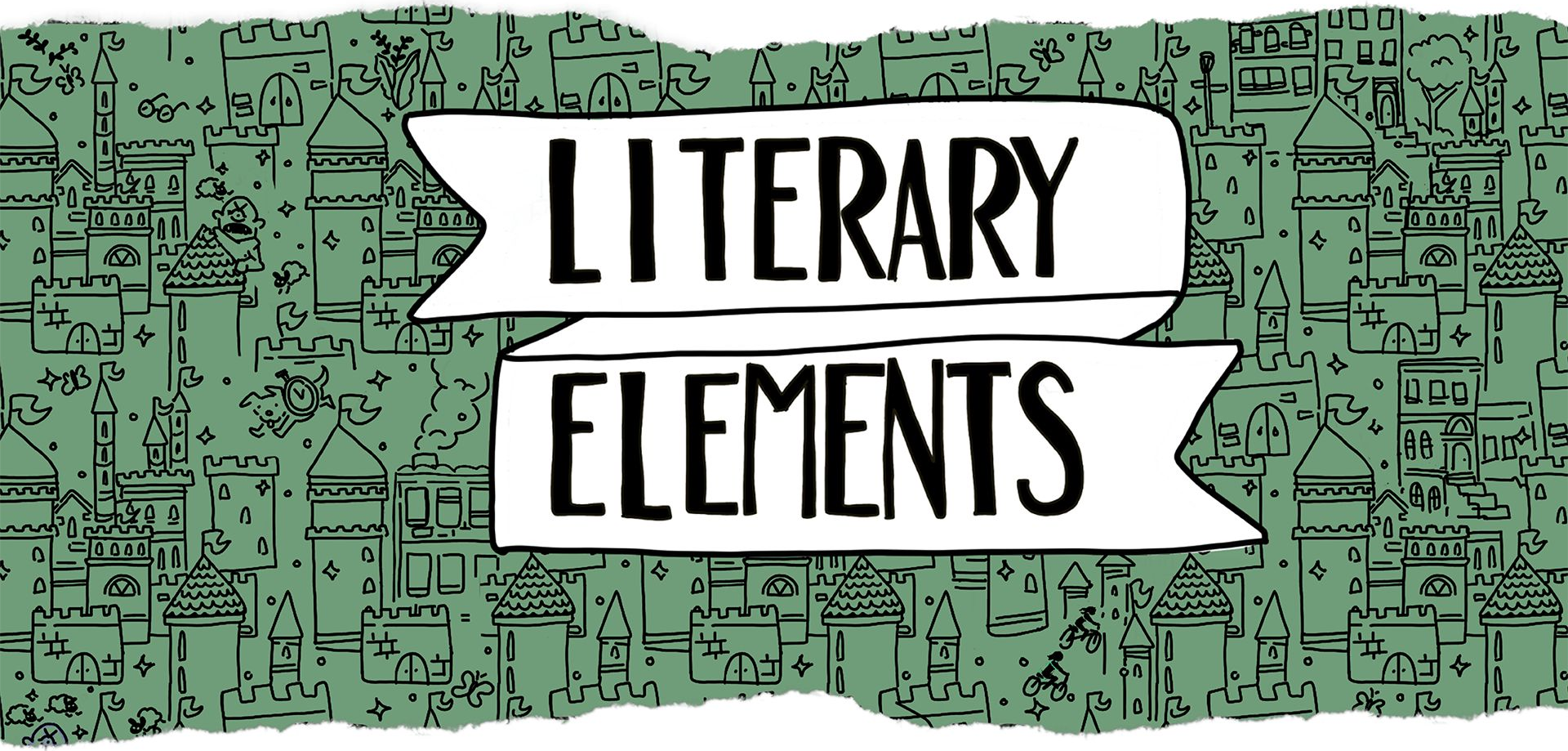
7.R.1.1: Analyze the impact of setting on character development and plot in a literary text.



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Benchmark Introduction



Benchmark:

Analyze how setting affects character development and plot in literature.

Definition of Literary Elements

Literary elements are the parts of a literary or dramatic text. Key literary elements are:

- Plot: the plan or main story
- Setting: the time, place, or circumstances of the action
- Character: an individual in a work of fiction

How setting affects character development and plot

The setting can influence what characters do or say.

How setting affects character development and plot

The setting can affect characters' feelings or emotions.

How setting affects character development and plot

The setting can make events possible or impossible.

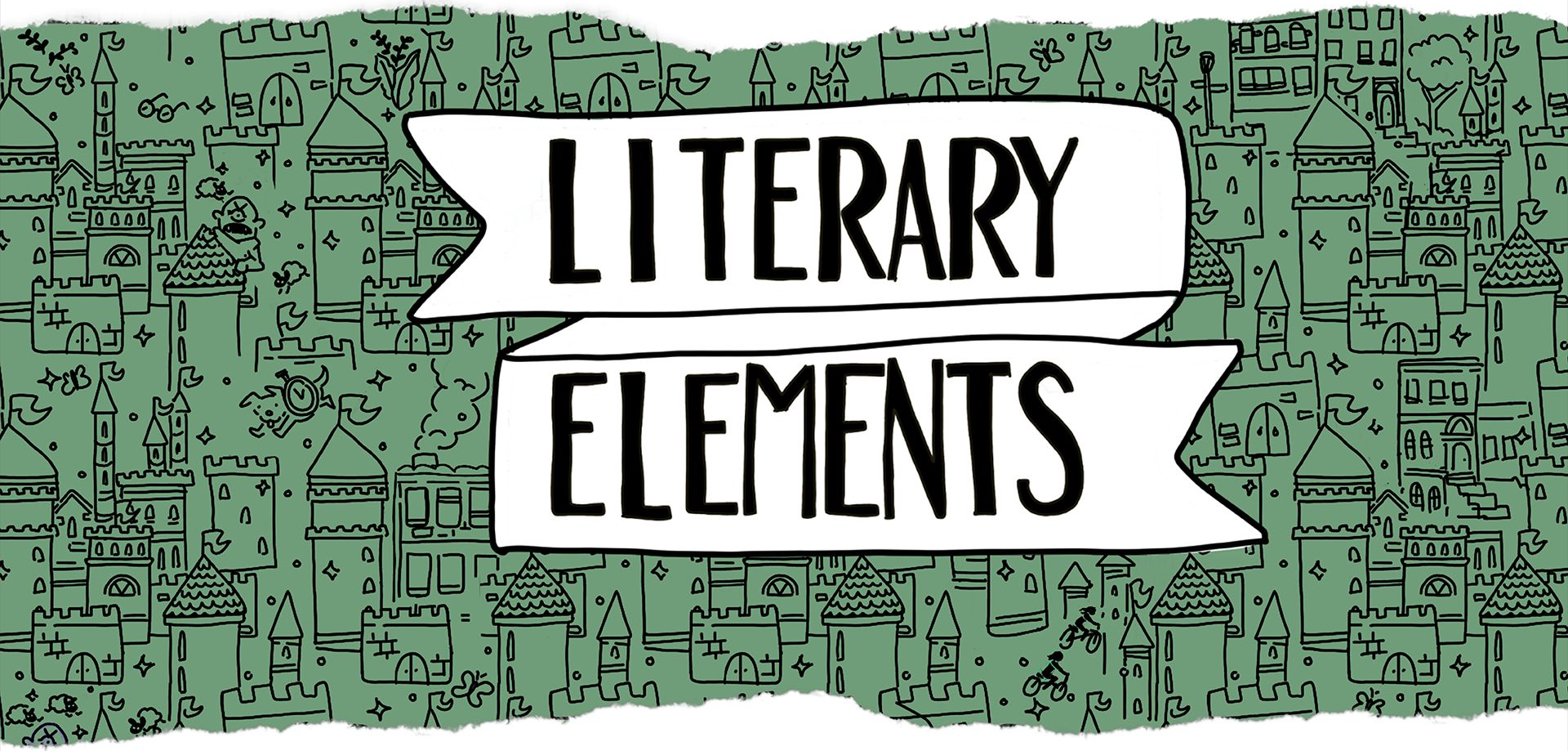
How setting affects character development and plot

The setting can shape a conflict and how it resolves.

Example of how setting affects character development and plot

In *The Hunger Games*, the main character, Katniss, grows up in the setting of District 12, an impoverished area oppressed by the governing capital. The oppression makes her distrust the government. Her poverty pushes her to become a skilled hunter with a bow and arrow.

Benchmark Skill Routine



Part 2

How to analyze the effect of setting on character development and plot

Read closely for setting.

Highlight and annotate details about time, place, and circumstances.

How to analyze the effect of setting on character development and plot

Connect setting to details of character:

How does the setting influence the characters’ actions, emotions, or decisions?

How to analyze the effect of setting on character development and plot

Connect setting to details of plot:

How does the setting shape what happens?

How to analyze the effect of setting on character development and plot

Continue to read for setting and its effect:

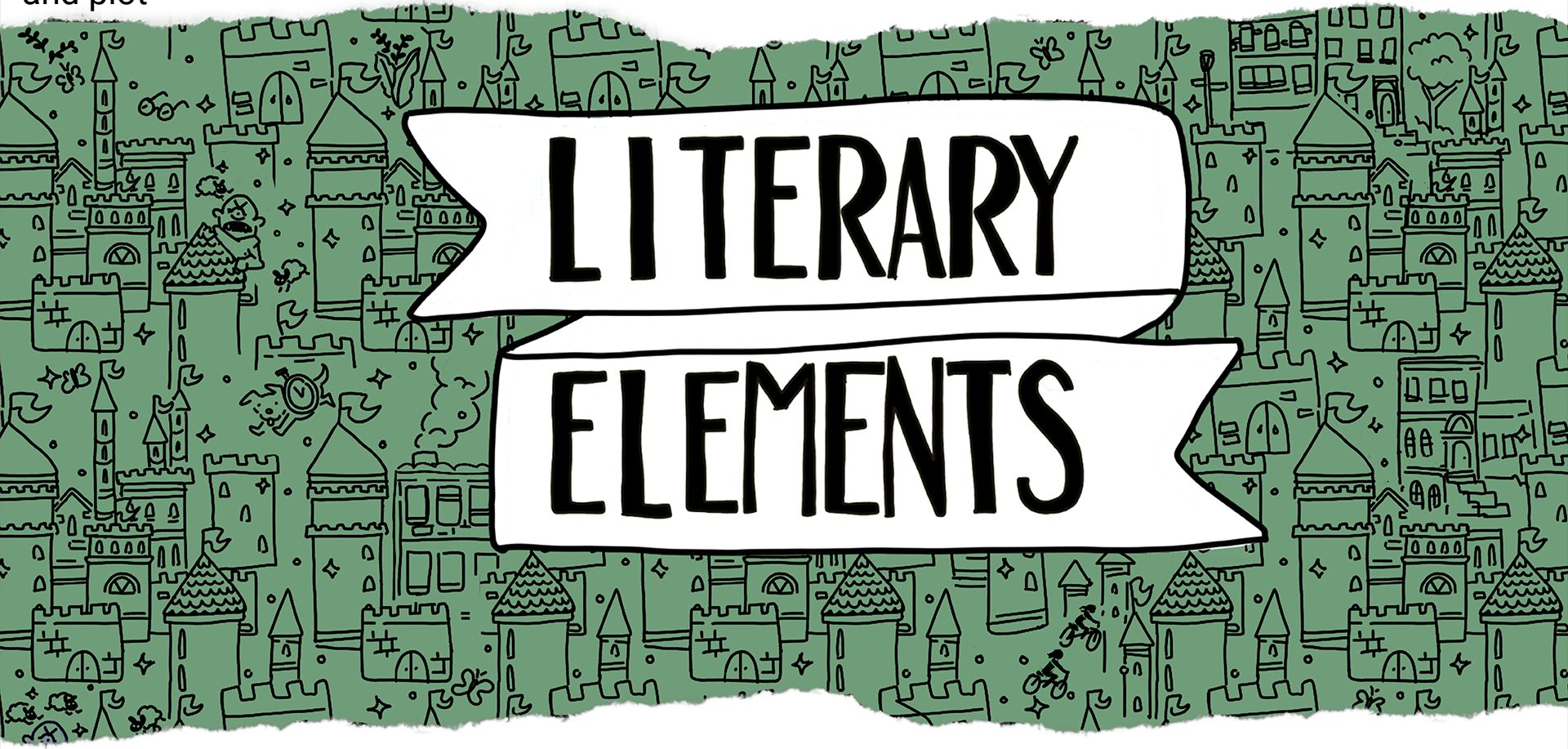
How do changes in setting shape the way the characters and plot develop?

Remember

1. Read closely for setting. Highlight and annotate details about time, place, and circumstances.

2. Connect setting to character development and plot. How does the setting influence the characters or shape events?

Benchmark in Action: Example of how to analyze the effect of setting on character development and plot



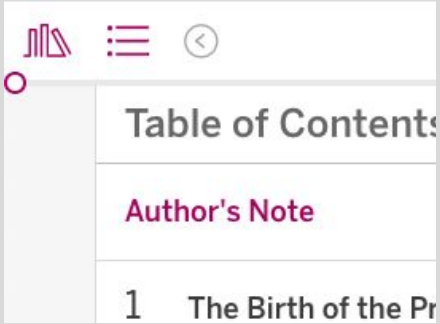
Get ready to read two passages in *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain.



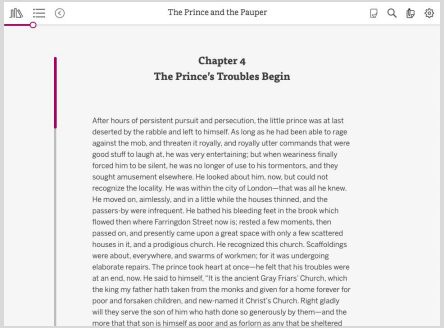
1. Open the Library app.



2. Type “The Prince and the Pauper” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents.



4. Find and go to Chapter 4 “The Prince’s Troubles Begin.” Read paragraphs 18 and 19.

The Prince and the Pauper

Context for Passage 1

In *The Prince and the Pauper*, the teenage prince has left the palace to live as a civilian and he is pretending to be a pauper. When he tries to return to the castle, no one believes that he is the prince.

Read paragraphs 18 and 19 in chapter 4 in *The Prince and the Pauper*.

As you read...

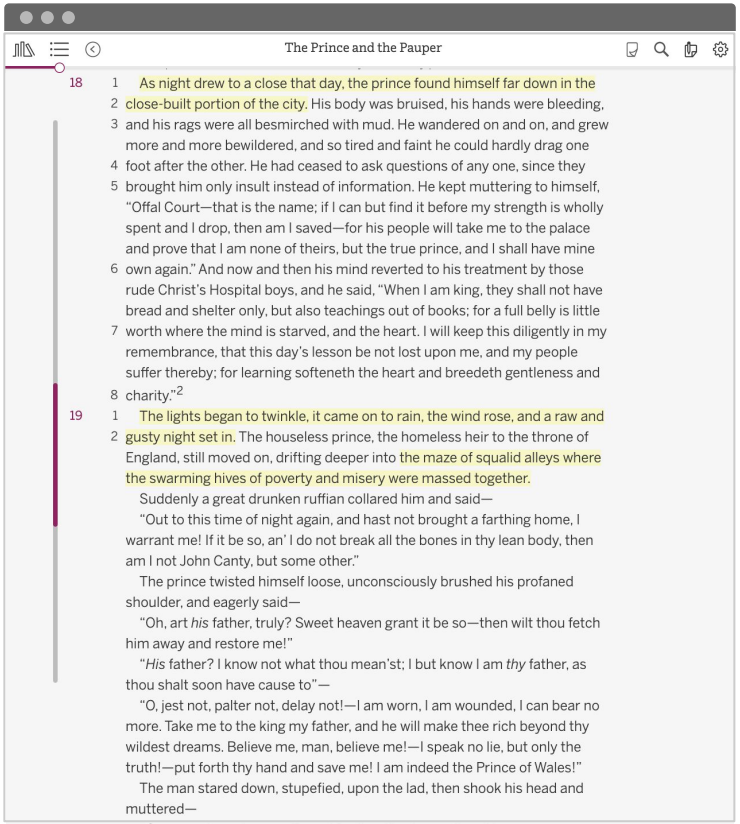
- look for details about time, place, and circumstances.
- think about how the setting influences the characters or shapes events.

Practice Step 1

Read closely for setting.

Highlight and annotate details about time, place, and circumstances.

Practice Step 1


The Prince and the Pauper

18 1 As night drew to a close that day, the prince found himself far down in the
2 close-built portion of the city. His body was bruised, his hands were bleeding,
3 and his rags were all besmirched with mud. He wandered on and on, and grew
more and more bewildered, and so tired and faint he could hardly drag one
4 foot after the other. He had ceased to ask questions of any one, since they
5 brought him only insult instead of information. He kept muttering to himself,
"Offal Court—that is the name; if I can but find it before my strength is wholly
spent and I drop, then am I saved—for his people will take me to the palace
and prove that I am none of theirs, but the true prince, and I shall have mine
6 own again." And now and then his mind reverted to his treatment by those
rude Christ's Hospital boys, and he said, "When I am king, they shall not have
bread and shelter only, but also teachings out of books; for a full belly is little
7 worth where the mind is starved, and the heart. I will keep this diligently in my
remembrance, that this day's lesson be not lost upon me, and my people
suffer thereby; for learning softeneth the heart and breedeth gentleness and
8 charity."[2]

19 1 The lights began to twinkle, it came on to rain, the wind rose, and a raw and
2 gusty night set in. The houseless prince, the homeless heir to the throne of
England, still moved on, drifting deeper into the maze of squalid alleys where
the swarming hives of poverty and misery were massed together.

Suddenly a great drunken ruffian collared him and said—

"Out to this time of night again, and hast not brought a farthing home, I warrant me! If it be so, an' I do not break all the bones in thy lean body, then am I not John Canty, but some other."

The prince twisted himself loose, unconsciously brushed his profaned shoulder, and eagerly said—

"Oh, art *his* father, truly? Sweet heaven grant it be so—then wilt thou fetch him away and restore me!"

"*His* father? I know not what thou mean'st; I but know I am *thy* father, as thou shalt soon have cause to"—

"O, jest not, palter not, delay not!—I am worn, I am wounded, I can bear no more. Take me to the king my father, and he will make thee rich beyond thy wildest dreams. Believe me, man, believe me!—I speak no lie, but only the truth!—put forth thy hand and save me! I am indeed the Prince of Wales!"

The man stared down, stupefied, upon the lad, then shook his head and muttered—

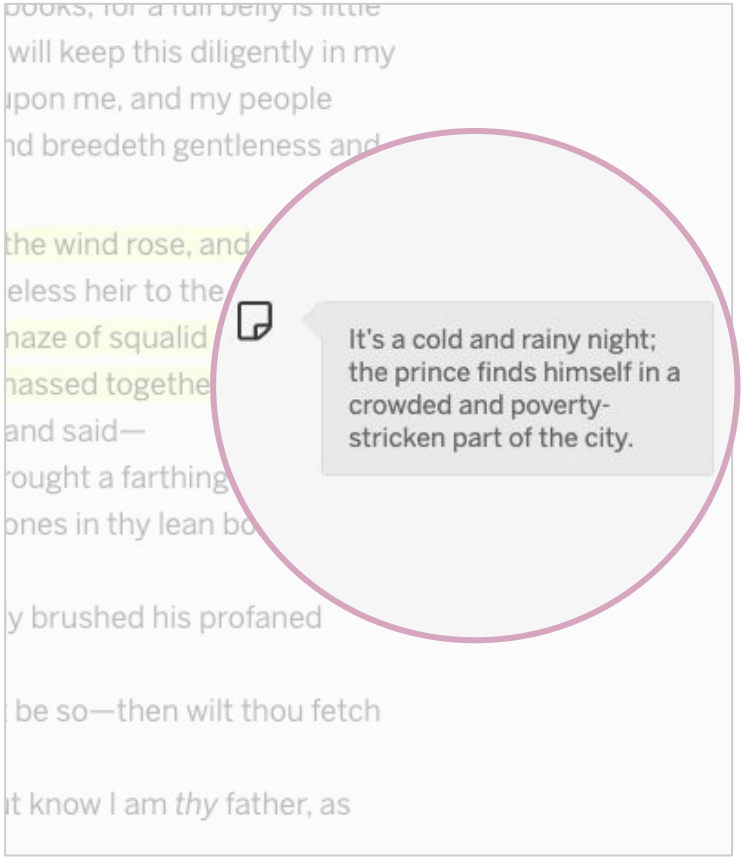
Highlight details about time, place, and circumstances.

"As night drew to a close that day, the prince found himself far down in the close-built portion of the city."

"The lights began to twinkle, it came on to rain, the wind rose, and a raw and gusty night set in."

"...the maze of squalid alleys where the swarming hives of poverty and misery were massed together."

Practice Step 1



Annotate your highlights to explain what stands out about the setting.

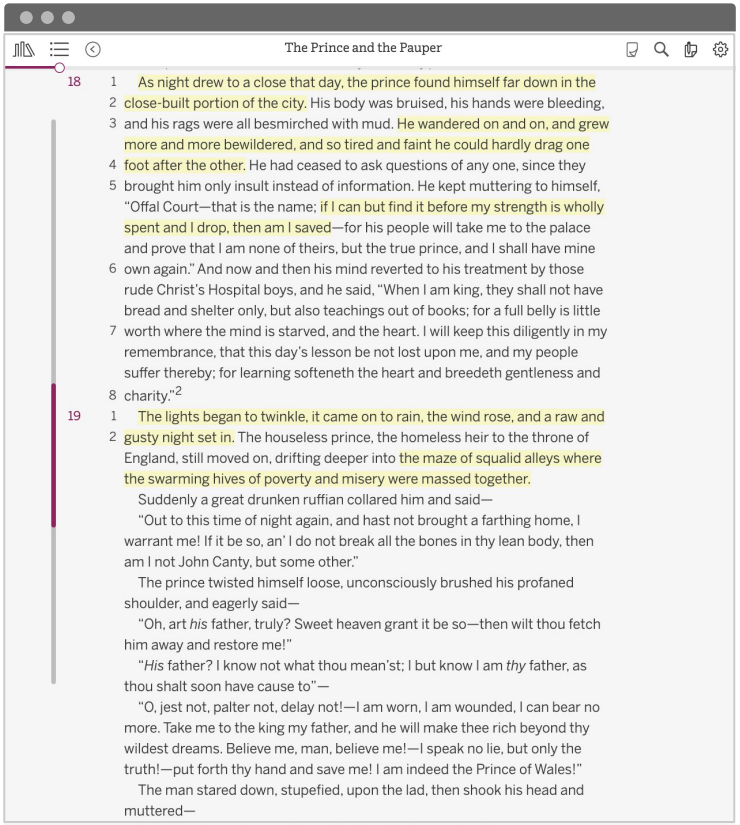
It's a cold and rainy night; the prince finds himself in a crowded and poverty-stricken part of the city.

Practice Step 2

Connect setting to character development and plot:

How does the setting influence the characters or shape events?

Practice Step 2


The Prince and the Pauper

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2 close-built portion of the city. His body was bruised, his hands were bleeding,
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4 foot after the other. He had ceased to ask questions of any one, since they
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The man stared down, stupefied, upon the lad, then shook his head and muttered—

Connect setting to character development and plot.

Character and plot: “He wandered on and on, and grew more and more bewildered, and so tired and faint he could hardly drag one foot after the other.”

Character: “...if I can but find it before my strength is wholly spent and I drop, then am I saved...”

Practice Step 2 Examples:

1. The prince, already on the verge of exhaustion, continued to try to find his way through the confusing city streets. But he only became more disoriented with each step he took.

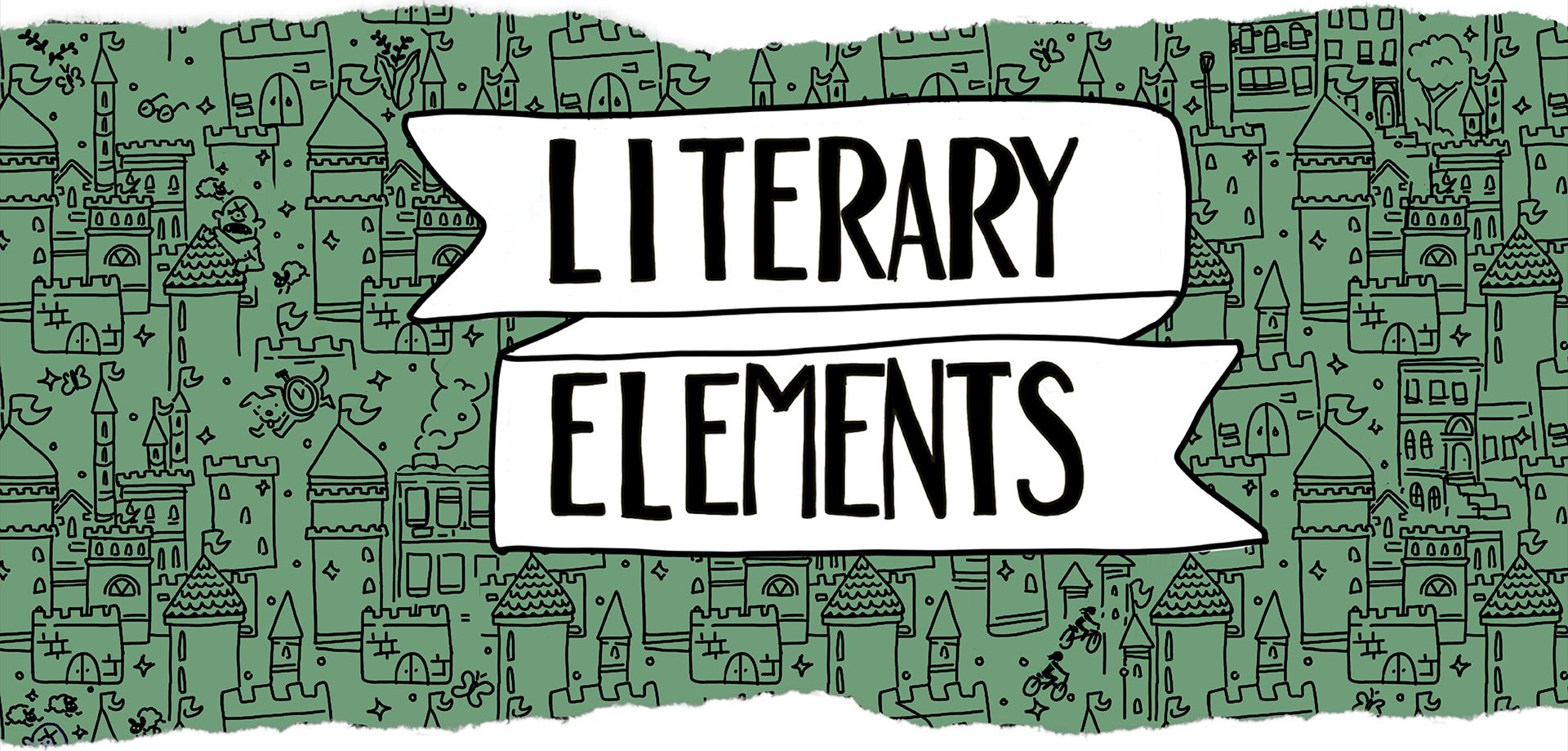
2. Desperate to return to his royal home, the prince felt that his only hope was to find the pauper's family before he ran out of strength.

Remember

1. Read closely for setting. Highlight and annotate details about time, place, and circumstances.

2. Connect setting to character development and plot. How does the setting influence the characters or shape events?

Independent Practice



Benchmark:

Analyze how setting affects character development and plot in literature.

Navigate to Chapter 10 “The Prince in the Toils,” in *The Prince and the Pauper*. Read paragraphs 57–65.



The Prince and the Pauper

Context for Passage 2

The prince has been held and treated poorly by the pauper’s father, John Canty. Canty believes the prince to be his son.

Practice analyzing the effect of setting on character development and plot

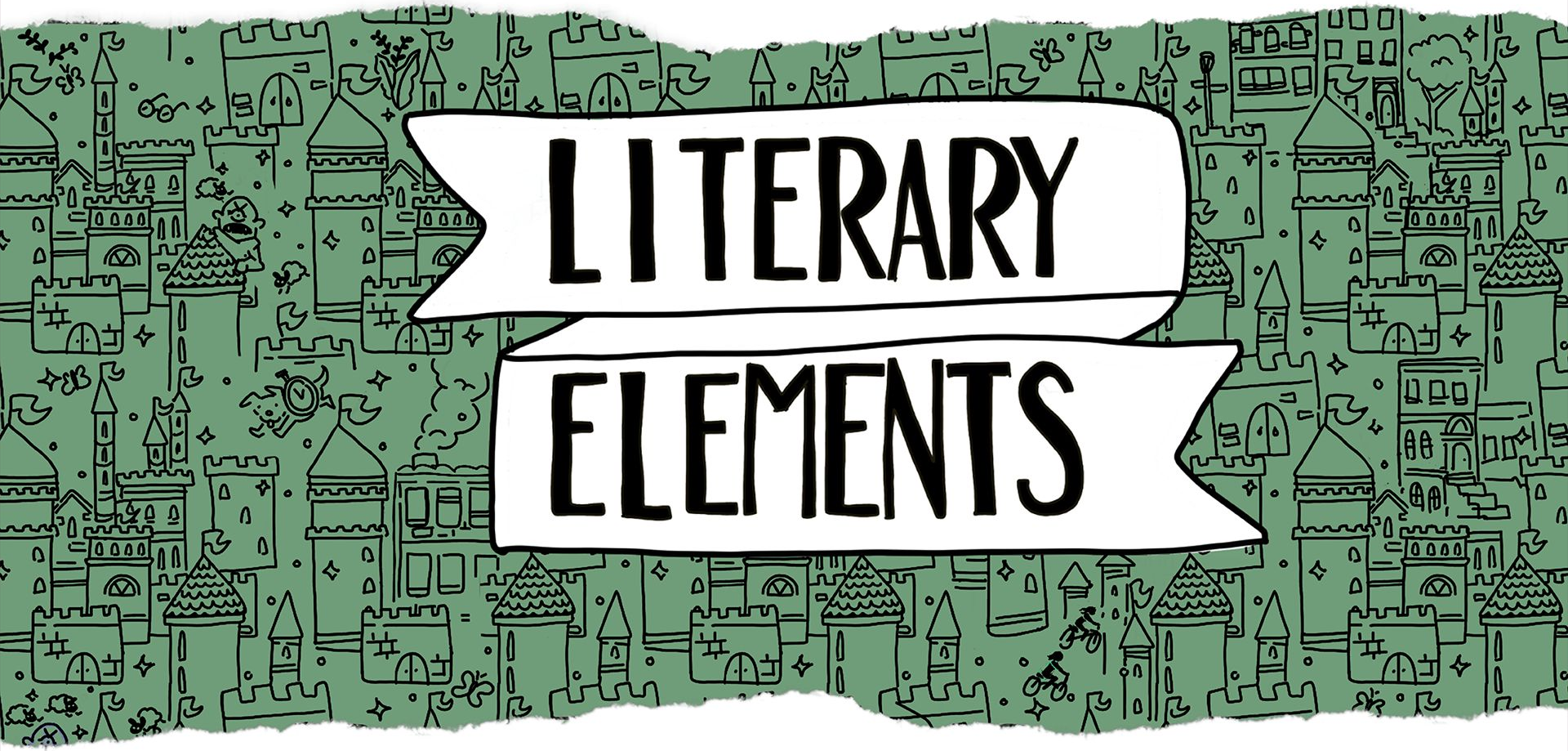
Step 1

Highlight and annotate details about time, place, and circumstances in the passage.

Step 2

- Connect setting to details of character: How does the setting influence the characters' actions, emotions, or decisions?
- Connect setting to details of plot: How does the setting shape what happens?

Check for Understanding



Share and Discuss

1. What details about time, place, and circumstances did you notice?

Share and Discuss

2. How does the setting affect the characters' emotions? How does it affect the plot?

Share and Discuss

3. How is the effect of the setting in this passage the same or different from the previous passage?