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Ben's Ford Christian School  
Bogalusa, LA

Picturing America School Collaboration Conference  
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**Course:** English (Suitable for grades 9-12)

**Objective:** Students will determine the effect of setting on an author's writing and will experiment with using setting as a driving force in their own writing.

**Artwork Used:**

- *The Oxbow*
- *Autumn Landscape—The River of Life*
- *Looking Down Yosemite Valley*
- *Cityscape I*
- *The Dove*

**Class Time Required:**

One-two fifty minute class periods

**Guiding Question:**

How does setting inspire writers?

**Background Information:**

Students have already studied key aspects of literature, such as theme, point of view, and conflict. The class has read writings that depend heavily on setting (Jack London's "To Build a Fire," Gary Paulsen's *Dogsong* and *Hatchet*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Beowulf*; and others.)

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Setting**—time, place, and general background of a work

**Integral setting**—setting that is necessary for a work

**Backdrop setting**—setting that is not necessary for a work

**Tasks/Activities:**

- Brainstorm ideas for inspiration/human emotion
- Free write about students' favorite places
- Discuss ideas for writings based on favorite places
- Write own ideas for displayed painting

**Assessment of Student Understanding:**

- Discussion of possible ideas for painting
- One page descriptive writing