

Name _____ |

Read the passages below. Where is each passage taking place? How does the setting affect what you think about the characters?

A.

The wind outside whistled and moaned, and the branches of the great bush outside of the front window of the tavern scraped against the glass like a desperate man clawing to be let in. Eliza made the rounds of the tables, where dirty men were clustered in groups of twos and threes, tearing the meat off of chicken legs and sucking down hard cider by candlelight. There was another gust of wind; this time the tavern door blew open with a bang. There, framed in the doorway, against the faint light of the mood, stood another traveler. He had wild, grey hair, and a face that bristled like a wild animal that had been disturbed. His eyes flashed, and as he stepped into the tavern, pulling the door shut behind him, he called attention to himself with the tap, tap, tap of his tread each time he set his peg leg down upon the old wooden floor.

B.

The wind outside whistled and moaned, and papers that had escaped someone earlier in the day were carried up by the wind and smacked against the glass of the restaurant window. Eliza moved from table to table, refilling coffee cups for men clustered in groups of twos and threes, who picked at plates of Salisbury steak and cheesecake and who nodded towards their empty cocktail glasses as she passed. There was another gust of wind, this time as the restaurant door opened, sending a wave of damp air across everyone inside. There, standing just inside the door as the hostess pulled it closed, stood another customer. He had wild, grey hair, and a face that bristled like a wild animal that had been disturbed. His eyes flashed, and he followed the hostess to a table, he called attention to himself with the tap, tap, tap of his tread each time he set his peg leg down upon the gleaming laminate floor.

Name _____

1. WHAT IS THE SETTING FOR PASSAGE A? _____

2. WHAT IS THE SETTING FOR PASSAGE B? _____

3. DOES THE SETTING OF EACH PASSAGE CHANGE WHAT YOU THINK OF ELIZA? IF SO, HOW? WHY OR WHY NOT?

4. DOES THE SETTING OF EACH PASSAGE CHANGE WHAT YOU THINK OF THE MAN WITH THE PEG LEG? HOW? WHY OR WHY NOT?

ANSWERS

1. A tavern, probably somewhere rural; in an earlier time.
2. A restaurant, probably in the city, in modern times.
3. Answers may vary, but the character of Eliza doesn't seem too changed by the setting. A young woman waiting tables can be placed in many different settings.
4. Yes; the man seems to fit in with what is going on in passage A, but he sticks out like a sore thumb in passage B; In passage A his appearance feels ominous; in passage B it feels comic.