L.O. Explore how to use the setting to influence emotions.

Pathetic fallacy

fallacy: *n.* a mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound arguments

pathetic: *adj.* arousing pity, especially through vulnerability or sadness

Pathetic fallacy occurs when a writer attributes human emotions to things that aren't human, such as objects, weather, or animals. It is often used to make the **environment** reflect the **inner experience** of a narrator or other characters.

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What do these scenes suggest about what the narrator or main character might be feeling?

What about this one?

This is the same scene taken from J.K. Rowling's book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.*

As night fell, the promised storm blew up around them. Spray from the high waves splattered the walls of the hut and a fierce wind rattled the filthy windows. Aunt Petunia found a few mouldy blankets in the second room and made up a bed for Dudley on the moth-eaten sofa. She and Uncle Vernon went off to the lumpy bed next door and Harry was left to find the softest bit of floor he could and to curl up under the thinnest, most ragged blanket.

The storm raged more and more ferociously as the night went on. Harry couldn't sleep. He shivered and turned over, trying to get comfortable, his stomach rumbling with hunger. Dudley's snores were drowned by the low rolls of thunder that started near midnight. The lighted dial of Dudley's watch, which was dangling over the edge of the sofa on his fat wrist, told Harry he'd be eleven in ten minutes' time. He lay and watched his birthday tick nearer, wondering if the Dursleys would remember at all, wondering where the letter-writer was now.

What language does the author use to create the effect of pathetic fallacy?

Highlight your own copy, share & magpie.

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Now look back at your own opening flashback scene.

Have a go at using pathetic fallacy to really make the reader feel the same emotions as the main character. Edit/re-write/ add to your writing.

Read your revised work to your partner - do your changes make the writing more effective?