

The setting, eh? That “useless” thing in the background that looks pretty cool? Well, imagine if the setting had a major role, other than setting up major obstacles for the characters and effecting the mood/theme of the story. That’s the case for the story of “A Selfish Giant” by Oscar Wilde, the setting is mentioned and plays a part in almost every aspect of the story. The seasons are most prominent as they help the story function by affecting the characters and moving the plot along.

The giant being selfish is a major part of the story, in fact its why the whole story happens. Long story short, a giant kicks kids who find joy in playing in his garden out and builds a wall. Due to this, the winter stays. The setting is now cold and lonely as the winter stays and refuses to leave. The setting is already playing a massive role because it refuses to change because it claims the giant is far too selfish. By now, the giant is beginning to feel like he has done something wrong or just miserable. I mention this because this already shows the setting directly affecting the main character, moving the story along. “He is too selfish. She said.” (ph. 11) This is one of the characters that brings about a happier setting talking, I bring this up because this choice here also happens to affect the main character by letting winter stay. Therefore, since the giant was being selfish the setting changed, which in turn affected the giant, which caused his character develops by helping him realize he’s wrong.

The setting also happens to move the story along, how helpful! In this story, the giant is in his house waiting for the snow to stop, yet it doesn’t. Since the snow is here to stay, the birds cannot sing. So, it leads us to when the giant hears the bird singing and comes out to see what’s happening. The setting happens to be crucial here because the giant wouldn’t have come out to see if not for the setting banning birds from singing. So, if the setting didn’t do it then the giant never would have learned his lesson. So, since the giant learning his lesson is part of the plot, in turn that means the story could’ve move without the setting “One morning the giant was lying awake in bed when heard some lovely music.” (ph.12) This quote comes from when the giant hears the bird, further proving my point.

The setting really can play quite a major role in the story, even functioning as the main theme. Furthermore, the setting is able to work its way into almost every event/plot point of a story. All in all, the setting can play a major role and help the story function.