Read the short story below. Think about how it might be like your life.

When the alarm clock rang at 7 a.m., Bill woke up in his bed at home. He got up, dressed, had breakfast, and set off for school. He just made the 8:30 bell, entered his classroom, and worked hard at math all morning before heading to music and then running three laps around the field during gym class.

Even before half his day is over, Bill has found himself in a variety of places, or settings. In the above passage you might have noticed the following places — bedroom, home, school, classroom, music room, field, and the following times, 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and morning. Most people will find themselves in different places at different times of the day.

Everything that happens in your life or in a story is set in a time and place. That is why time and place are referred to as the setting. In a well-written story, the time, place, characters, and action will all make sense. For example, in this story Bill ate breakfast between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. in the morning at home, just after he woke up and got dressed and before he went to school. This makes sense. If the story said that he ate breakfast at 9 a.m., it would not make sense, since he would already be at school doing math problems!

Now, let’s see how the day turns out. How many clues to time and place can you find? Circle them.

Bill’s stomach started to rumble as he entered the cafeteria at noon. He was pleased to find that they were serving his favorite lunch of pizza because it was Friday. It was hard to concentrate during the afternoon reading class because he knew his Mom was picking him up early for the campout this weekend.

It was a long trip in the van on the Interstate but he was still excited! A stop at a diner for dinner broke up the trip. By bedtime, he was snuggled up tight in his sleeping bag in a tent pitched near the Peace River with all the other Scouts.

Look at the places and times from the story listed below. Can you match them so they make sense? Draw a line from the place to the time that would complete the setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cafeteria</td>
<td>afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classroom</td>
<td>dinner time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diner</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tent</td>
<td>bedtime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bill was in the cafeteria at noon. He was in the classroom for reading class during the afternoon. He was at a diner for dinner and in his tent by bedtime.
Student Name________________________________________________________

Which setting details match the illustration? Circle the ones that match.

1.  
   ![Mars]  
   2975  1975  
   Boston  Sirus City  
   robot  mechanic  
   pick-up truck  mini-shuttle

2.  
   ![Statue of Liberty]  
   1910  1492  
   Ellis Island  Nile River  
   sailors  immigrants  
   cruise ship  steamer

3.  
   ![Old House]  
   noon  midnight  
   city  country  
   ghost  grandmother  
   candles  lamp

4.  
   ![Cape Hatteras]  
   present  family  spring  fishing  
   past  ranger  summer  skydiving  
   future  martian  fall  swimming  
   dawn  lifeguard  dusk  sailing

5. In which setting(s) would you feel fearful?  
   a. Mars  b. Statue of Liberty  c. Old House  d. Cape Hatteras

6. Which setting(s) would be good for a vacation?  
   a. Mars  b. Statue of Liberty  c. Old House  d. Cape Hatteras

7. In which setting(s) would you hear a seagull and smell salt air?  
   a. Mars  b. Statue of Liberty  c. Old House  d. Cape Hatteras

8. In which setting would you feel most out of place?  
   a. Mars  b. Statue of Liberty  c. Old House  d. Cape Hatteras