

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

SETTING: *The Cricket in Times Square*

Find a sentence from the story that helps to describe (or “establish”) the setting. Copy the sentence on the lines below, being careful to put it in quotation marks. Then write a sentence of your own that explains how this quote establishes the story’s setting.

“Tucker mouse looked back at Mario. He was sitting on a three-legged stool behind the counter of the newsstand. In front of him all the magazines and newspapers were displayed as neatly as he knew how to make them. Papa Bellini had made the newsstand himself many years ago. The space inside was big enough for Mario, but Mama and Papa were cramped when they each took their turn. A shelf ran along one side, and on it were a little secondhand radio, a box of Kleenex (for Mama’s hay fever), a box of kitchen matches (for lighting Papa’s pipe), the cash register (for money which there wasn’t much of), and an alarm clock (for no good reason at all). The cash register had one drawer, which was always open. It had gotten stuck once, with all the money the Bellinis had in the world inside it, so Papa decided it would be safer never to shut it again.”

This sentence introduces readers to several of the main characters. It also describes the newsstand, one of the main locations where the story’s action takes place. Finally, it shows the economic plight of the Bellini family, which will occupy much of the story’s action.