

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Setting

Directions: Setting is the time period and place in which a story happens. By describing the setting of a story, an author can help you imagine living in that world. Answer the questions below to help you understand the setting in *The Girl and the Chenoo*.

1. Where does the play take place? (Hint: Read the text underneath the Scene 1 header and go online to research where the Passamaquoddy tribe is from.) Based on the play and illustrations, what is this place like?

2. Does the play seem to take place in the past, present, or future? Is this true for the entire play? Explain your answer.

3. Is the play's setting realistic or magical? Is this true for the entire play? Explain your answer.

4. Is it easy for Tala and her brothers to find food in this setting? Why or why not? Why is this important to the plot?

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Tala's Theme

Directions: The theme of a story is the big, important idea you take away from reading the story. Answer each of the questions in the chart below about *The Girl and the Chenoo*. Then respond to the question that follows.

	At the beginning of the story	By the end of the story
1. How do Tala and her brothers feel when the Chenoo is nearby?		
2. How does the Chenoo treat others? How does he expect others will see him?		
3. How do Tala and her brothers treat the Chenoo? Why?		
4. What does the Chenoo look like?		

5. Write one sentence that states the theme, or big idea, of the play.

Your turn! Use your responses above to help you answer the writing prompt on page 20: Imagine a Chenoo has been spotted near your school. Using ideas and details from the play, write a letter to your classmates advising them how to react.

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Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading *The Girl and the Chenoo*, go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. Reread Scene 1. What is a spirit animal?

2. In Scene 2, how does Tala first react when she realizes that the Chenoo is nearby? How does Spirit Wolf affect her?

3. At the end of Scene 2, Tala “suddenly knows what to do.” Based on what you learn in Scenes 2 and 3, what is it?

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4. In Scene 3, why does Tala call the Chenoo "Grandfather" even though he is not her grandfather?

5. In Scenes 3 and 4, how do Tala and her brothers treat the Chenoo? What is the result?

6. What does the Chenoo mean when he says in Scene 5 that he "had forgotten how others will see" him?

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- 7.** Why does the Chenoo ask Tala and her brothers to build a sweat lodge? Why does he stay in it even though he seems to be suffering?

- 8.** In Scene 5, the Chenoo coughs out a piece of ice shaped like a man. What is it and what happens to it? What does this part of the story show about the Chenoo and about Tala?

Critical-Thinking Question: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of the whole play. (*Continue on the back if you need more space.*)

- 9.** What do the three children learn about kindness and acceptance from listening to the story of Tala and the Chenoo?

