

“To begin at the beginning”

In the prologue to one of his most famous works *Under Milk Wood*, the Welsh writer Dylan Thomas draws you into the scene in a small town at night. It is no ordinary description. Thomas invites you to explore this town with its houses “blind as moles” beside a “fishing boat-bobbing sea” on a “starless and bible-black” night. Because “only your eyes are unclosed to see the black and folded town fast, and slow, asleep”, he commands you to “look” and “listen” as he describes the people: “the preacher, policeman, the webfoot cocklewoman and the tidy wives”; then the animals: “the dogs in the wet nosed yards; the cats nap in the slant corners or lope Sly.” As a lead in to the drama which follows Thomas entices you to “come closer now” and enter the dream world of the people as they sleep: “From where you are, you can hear their dreams.” Through imagery, rhythm and word play Thomas creates a unique sense of being there in the small town at night. You will take a scene you know well and develop your own description where you invite your readers to explore the scene.

Possible Settings:

Geography- Natural and/or Manmade
Sounds

Smells

Beings and Action

Key Focal Points

Weather and Time Context- remember, this must shift in your scene so consider two points.