Student

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LIT 114-01

Due Date

Importance of Setting

Setting can be critical to all films. It can help convey the theme of the film, create the atmosphere, and makes the story credible. The setting in *Wrong Turn* is critical to the film because it creates an isolated feeling that gives credibility to the film.

One aspect of the setting that helps make the film more believable is placing the story in the deep woods. The heavily forested area creates separateness because the forest is large and it is rural. In the opening credits the scene is shot flying above what seems like endless forest. There are no towns or houses in the shot, just a single road meandering through the woods. This scene lets the viewer know this film is taking place in a very large and isolated area. The endless expanse of trees makes it easier to believe what is taking place. The characters are lost and cut off from the outside with little chance of help. Another example of the setting creating credibility and a feeling of isolation is when Chris, Jessie, and Carly make it up to the top of the ranger tower and look out the window to an endless valley of trees. Jessie comments on how there is not any roads or towns. This visual from the window and Jessie's comment emphasizes the disconnection. The forested setting isolates the characters from the world they know and plays on the viewer's own fears of being lost and alone.

Another example of how the setting's isolation builds up the credibility of the film is placing the film in West Virginia. Placing the characters in this area limits their means of

communication because of the lack of development, people, roads, and phones. When the

characters become stranded they lose all of these. This is seen in the beginning of the film

when Chris is traveling through the mountains to find a short cut, he is on his phone and loses

his signal. Chris checks his phone several times throughout the film to see if he has a signal.

Being alone and disconnected makes it believable they cannot get help.

Taking away all means of modern communication and placing the characters in a large

isolated setting plays with the viewer's own fears. It gives the viewer a sense of understanding

and credibility of the film. The setting of the film *Wrong Turn* in the rural West Virginia

mountains helps to make the film believable by isolating the characters from the outside world.

Student's name removed by request.