

“Attack of the Killer Ninjas” – Focusing on Setting

Before reading through the story, discuss with a partner what you know about the following vocabulary:

- Bodyguards
- Hurlled
- Rehearse

As you read, you’ll answer the following questions in your journal in a two column set-up. Write the questions listed below in your journal on the left, and write your answers in the right hand column in your journal:

From the TEXT	From my MIND
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where is Kip hanging out at? Detail why he says it’s a “tasty job.”2. When (what time) did Kip meet at Chang’s trailer? What does he discover while there?3. There isn’t any explicit location (place) where this story takes place. What inference (educated guess) could you make for its location?4. Give a decade or so when you think this story takes place and why you think it makes sense for it to occur during that time.5. Why do you think setting is important to a story?	



“Attack of the Killer Ninjas”

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Kip gets more than he bargained for when he takes a job as a stunt double on a movie set.

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“This is one tasty job,” Kip told himself. He stood off to one side, watching actors rehearse a scene. Dozens of other people ran around, busy fixing lights and setting up a movie camera.

Kip was on the set of a new movie, “Attack of the Killer Ninjas.” The movie starred Mickey Chang, the great Chinese movie star. Chang was playing a secret agent sent to protect a movie star from Ninjas. His co-star was Earl Johnson, who played a laid-back surfer dude who becomes Chang’s sidekick.

Although Kip had long blond hair and deep tan, he wasn’t an actor playing a surfer dude. Kip really was an expert surfer. He had been hired as Earl Johnson’s stunt double. When movie fans saw Earl’s character ride the waves, they’d really be watching Kip.

The thing is, there weren’t many surfing scenes in the movie. That meant Kip spent most of his time hanging out on the set, watching the actors and eating free food. And that’s why he thought it was a tasty job.

“Hey, Kip, better lay off those donuts, or you’ll be too stuffed to surf!”

Kip laughed as Mickey Chang, the movie’s star, jabbed him in the belly.


“You are correct, dude,” Kip said. “If you all gave me something to do, I’d stop munching and get to work.”

“Tell you what,” Chang said, “we need extras for the big fight scene.” Kip knew that “extras” was the word used to describe actors who didn’t have speaking roles. “You can be one of the guys that the Ninjas beat up.”

“Sounds sweet,” Kip said. “What do I have to do?”

A nervous-looking man who had overheard the conversation turned on Kip. “Oh, no you don’t!” he said. It was Myles Finch, the movie’s director. “We need you safe and sound for the surfing scenes,” Finch said. “You’re not going to be in any of the fight scenes.”





Finch turned to Chang. "Have you gotten any more threatening letters?" he asked the movie star.

"Just the one. Don't worry about me," Chang said. "I can take care of myself."

"See that you do," Finch said. With that, Finch moved away to tell his crew how to set up some lights.

"He worries too much," Chang said.

"What letter was he talking about?" Kip asked. Chang took a piece of paper from his pocket and showed it to Kip. It contained a message spelled out with letters cut from newspapers and magazines:

WATCH YOUR BACK, CHANG! WE WILL GET YOU.

It was signed:

THE REAL NINJAS

"Whoa," Kip said. "That's heavy duty."

Chang shrugged his shoulders. "Everyone in show business gets letters from weirdos. So, do you still want to be in the fight scene?"

"Oh, yeah," Kip said.

"Good," Chang said. "I'll teach you what you need to know. Come to my dressing room at four o'clock. That's when I'm going to rehearse the fight with the other extras. I'll show you some karate moves, too."

"Excellent!" Kip said. "I'm there, dude."

The job kept getting sweeter and sweeter. Kip could not believe he was getting paid to surf, eat donuts...and learn karate from Mickey Chang!

It was about a quarter to four as Kip walked up to Chang's trailer. Like most movie stars, Mickey Chang had a large mobile-home trailer all to himself to use as a dressing room.

"This dude is living large," Kip told himself as he knocked on the trailer's door.

There was no answer. So Kip knocked even louder.

"Yo! Mr. Chang!" Kip called out. "I'm here to learn!"

Kip heard footsteps. He turned around. Three men, all dressed in black, stepped around the corner of the trailer. They stopped and stared at Kip.

"Hey, dudes," Kip said with a friendly nod. "Are you buddies of Mr. Chang, or what?"

The man in the lead of the group snarled at Kip. He turned to his friends and yelled something in a foreign language. The men spread out.





"What's up?" Kip asked. "Don't you guys speak English?" The men crouched low as they circled around Kip.

Suddenly, Kip had a thought.

"I get it," he said. "You guys are the extras who are going to be in the scene with me. You're here for the lessons, too."

Kip walked away from the trailer. The three men eyed him. Kip gave a howl and crouched into a karate position, just like he'd seen in a hundred movies.

"Okay, dudes, let's get it on!" Kip yelled. He lunged for the first man. The man grabbed Kip's arm, stepped aside, and gave a flip.

Thud!

Kip landed flat on his back.

"Whew. That was swift." Kip rolled over onto his belly and struggled to his feet. "Go slower next time," he told the man. "Let's break it down into parts—"

Thwack!

One of the other men gave a sweeping kick, knocking Kip's feet out from under him. He landed hard on his butt.

"Ouch!" Kip yelped. "Time out! That hurt, dude." The three men stepped up to Kip. One of them pulled Kip to his feet.

"Maybe we should wait for Mr. Chang before we go on with this lesson," Kip said, rubbing his backside. He heard footsteps. Kip turned and saw two men approach the trailer.

"Who are you?" Kip asked the newcomers.

"We're the extras for the fight scene," one of the men said. "Mr. Chang asked us to show up at four to rehearse. Who are you?"

"I'm here to rehearse, too," Kip said. He turned a wary eye on the three men surrounding him. The lead man snarled in Kip's face as he tightened his grip on Kip's collar.

"Hold on," Kip said. "If I'm here to rehearse, and you're here to rehearse, then these dudes are here to—"

The man hurled Kip to the ground.

"Holy cow!" Kip said. "They're the real Ninjas!"

The three men jumped on Kip.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is Kip's job on the movie set? Why does he accept Chang's offer to learn karate?
2. Who does Kip meet outside Chang's trailer?
3. At first, what does Kip think the men are there for? What does he think at the end of page 23?
4. Predict what you think will happen next in this story. Talk about the possible endings for it.

Now continue reading to compare your predictions with the story.

"Stop!"

Mickey Chang's voice echoed through the air. The three "Ninjas" looked up from Kip. Chang stood in the distance. He said something in Chinese to the three men. They immediately let Kip go and stepped back from him.

Kip got to his feet as Chang walked up.

"Kip, I hope you're not hurt," the star said.

"Nothing that won't heal," Kip said, rubbing his sore head. "What's up with these Ninjas? If they're out to get you, why do they follow orders?"

Chang gave a laugh. "These aren't Ninjas!" he said. "This is my cousin, Han, and two of his friends." The three men each gave Kip a respectful bow. "I hired them as my bodyguards," Chang explained. "They must have thought you were here to hurt me."

"Ah," Kip muttered. "Well, I think I'll go now."

"What's wrong?" Chang asked as Kip limped away. "Don't you want your karate lesson?"

"I already had one," Kip said with a pained smile. "I learned enough to know that my place is on a surfboard!"

