

You Should Have Seen the Mess – Setting

References to time

“Five years ago” the I-narrator does not pass into Grammar School. (242)

The Secondary Modern School “was only constructed a year before”. (242)

Two years before the narrator leaves school. (242)

“I was to start on Monday.” (243)

“After three days [...]” (243)

“Next day, Saturday, [...]” (243)

“One day ...” (245)

“One Saturday afternoon, [...]” (246)

“One night [...]” (247)

References to place

(For detailed description see also *Characters*)

The story is set in London: “You look pale, Lorna. It’s the London atmosphere.” (244)

There is a “Grammar School¹” (242) and a “Secondary Modern School”. (242)

The solicitor’s office is described as a very untidy place. (243)

Lorna’s own home is described as neat and clean at any time. (243) “[Their kitchen] is done in primrose and white. [...] the living-room [is done] in a patterned paper, deep rose and white, and the other walls pale rose, with white woodwork. The suite is new, and Mum keeps everything beautiful.” (247)

The publisher’s office also is very unclean. (243)

Low’s Chemical Co. is located in a “modern block” (244) and therefore is a success in Lorna’s opinion.

The Darby’s place is described as untidy. (244-245)

The Darby’s grandmother’s cottage is very old. (246)

Willy’s place is extremely “unhygienic”. (247)

Spark, Muriel. *The Complete Short Stories*. London: Penguin Books, 2001, pp. 242-248.

¹ A grammar school is one of several different types of school in the history of education in the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries. In recent times these schools have provided secondary education (= *Gymnasium*, *Mittelschule*).