

## SETTING THE STAGE.....

**Y**esterday I had coffee with a 20-year alumnus, a student who had taken several classes from me, and her daughter, who's on a cross-country tour of possible colleges to apply to. I hadn't kept in touch very much with this particular alum over the years aside from the very occasional e-mail. When she got in touch this time to see whether I could meet them, I remembered what she looked like, that she'd married another of my students and taken his last name (I couldn't for the life of me remember her last name when she was my student). I remembered her wonderful laugh and her interest in children. When I showed up at the local coffeehouse, a lot more memories came rushing back—I remembered that we had graduated from the same high school, that she had taken two of my seminars, that she'd gone on to a Ph.D. program in