The Crowded House

Part 1: Element Sort

Story elements are the story pieces that make up a fiction story. There are 5 important story elements.

1. **Characters**: These tell who or what the story is about. There is usually just one MAIN character, but there can also be more than one character. Characters can be people, animals or things; such as a boy, girl, coach, dog, flower, ghost etc. Knowing the characters and what they are like helps readers understand the story. Good readers use story clues to determine a character's traits (ways to describe a character; kind, thoughtful, dedicated, hard-working, clever etc). Understanding a character's traits helps readers make predictions and inferences.
2. **Setting**: The setting tells when and where a story takes place. There can be more than one setting. A setting (where) could be home, park, sea, underwater etc. A setting (when) could be the past, present or future. Knowing the setting of a story helps a reader understand the story because particular events happen at specific places and times.
3. **Plot** (events): The plot tells the events in a story from the beginning, middle and end. Good readers identify important events in a story to help them remember what happens in a story. It also helps readers give a summary.
4. **Problem**: The problem in a story tells about something that goes wrong. There is usually just one big problem, but there can be more than one problem.
5. **Solution**: The solution tells how the problem is solved/fixed.

Although there are 5 elements, this activity is going to focus on the first three: characters, setting and plot.

Read the story, "The Crowded House" on the next page then complete the activity below.

Use the words and phrases in the box below to determine if they tell about the character, character trait, setting or plot. Then write the word or phrase under the correct heading below the box.

Mama	The family feels crowded	Wise	Reb Solman
House	Obedient	Village	Family asks Reb's advice

Character	**Trait**	**Plot**	**Setting**