The Crowded House

Part 3: Setting and Plot

Story elements are the pieces or parts that make up a narrative piece of writing (fiction story). This activity will focus on two of these elements, setting and plot.

- **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 or it could be more specific like school, kitchen or football field. Knowing the setting of a story helps a reader understand the story because particular events happen at specific places and times. The setting important because it could change the plot … the events in the story. Imagine trying to play football in your kitchen; or cooking noodles on the football field!
- **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. The plot has 5 parts:
  - ✓ Exposition: the start of the story, introduces characters and setting
  - ✓ Rising action: the story is getting more exciting and the conflict (problem) is introduced
  - ✓ Climax: This is the post exciting part of the story when the problem is almost solved and the story takes a little turn
  - ✓ Falling action: The excitement starts to wind down and head toward an end
  - ✓ Resolution: The part of the story where the problem has been solved and the story has calmed down.

Reread "The Crowded House" and answer the questions below about the setting and plot.

1. Where is the story taking place?

1. What story clues helped you know the setting?

2. What are the three most important events in the story?

3. What is the problem in the story?

4. What is the solution?