

SMART™ Lesson

Identifying Characters and Setting in Early Literature

When we read a story, we learn about the characters and the setting. The characters are the people or animals in the story, and the setting is where and when the story takes place.

Characters

Characters are the people or animals in the story. They can be described by:

- their appearance (what they look like)
- their actions (what they do)
- their words (what they say)
- their thoughts (what they are thinking)

Example:

In the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', the characters are the three pigs and the wolf. The three pigs are descriptive as follows:

- The first little pig is lazy and builds his house out of straw.
- The second little pig is slightly less lazy and builds his house out of sticks.
- The third little pig is a hard worker and builds his house out of bricks.
- The wolf is sly and wants to eat the pigs.

Setting

Setting is where and when the story takes place. It can be details such as:

- The time of day (morning, afternoon, evening or night).
- The weather (sunny, rainy, snowy or stormy).
- The location (city, forest, beach or a magical place).

Example:

In the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', the setting changes as the pigs move from one house to the other. The setting in the beginning is in the country where the pigs live with their mother. As the story progresses, the pigs move into their own houses, where the setting changes with each house.

Worksheet Questions:

1. Who are the characters in the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'?
2. What materials do the three little pigs use to build their houses?
3. What does the wolf want to do to the pigs?
4. In which direction does the setting change as the pigs move from one house to the other?
5. What is your favorite setting in a story?

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