

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Plot and Theme • Graphic Organizers

- The **plot** of a story includes the important events at the beginning, middle, and end.
- As you read, **think about what happens** in the story and why these things are important.
- Think, “What is the **big idea** of the story? What did a character learn in this story?”
- Use a **graphic organizer** to help you see and understand information.

**Directions** Read the following story. Then complete the diagram and answer the questions.

**B**ertie didn't want to be a puppy. He wanted to be big enough to play with the big dogs. “Be patient. Enjoy your life as a puppy,” Mom said. “Growth just takes time.”

A few months later, Bertie was ten pounds heavier. His body was bigger. His

feet carried him fast. Fast as he was, he still couldn't run after birds like the bigger dogs. Mom said, “Enjoy life as you are.”

One year later, Bertie had grown up. He chased squirrels and birds with his friends. “My boy has grown up!” said Mom.



4. What is the most important message in this story?

**Growing up takes time.**

5. How else could the story have ended?

**Possible response: When grown, Bertie might have missed being a puppy.**



**Home Activity** Your child identified parts of the plot in a story about a puppy in a hurry to grow up. With your child, read a fictional story about another baby animal that wants something badly. Work together to identify the beginning, middle, and end of the story.