

## Plot and Theme • Visualize

- The important events in a story make up the **plot** with a beginning, middle, and end.
- The “big idea” of the story is called the **theme**. It can be stated in a single sentence.
- As you read, form a picture in your mind about what is happening in the story.

**Directions** Read the following story. Then fill in the chart below.

**T**he ants felt sorry for the grasshopper. He'd saved no food and was starving. So they shared what they had. The grasshopper swore he'd remember their kindness and repay them someday. When summer came, the ants were playing outside and accidentally hurt themselves.

How would they gather their food? Just then the grasshopper stopped by. When he heard what happened, he told the ants to climb on his back. The ants told the grasshopper where to go and what to gather. Soon the trio had all the food they needed for the winter ahead.

What happened at the beginning of the story?

1. **The ants shared their food with the grasshopper.**



What happened in the middle of the story?

2. **The ants hurt themselves and couldn't gather food.**



What happened at the end of the story?

3. **The grasshopper helped the ants gather food.**

4. What is the “big idea” of this story? **Responses may vary.**

**Help others because one day you might need someone to help you.**

5. On a separate sheet of paper, draw what you picture in your mind as you finish reading this story.

**Possible drawing: The grasshopper with two ants on its back.**

