

Name _____

Plot and Theme

- The **plot** of a story is made up of the important things that happen. The plot can be divided into 3 parts—beginning, middle, and end.
- The **theme** of a story is the big idea. It is an idea that the author would like you to learn. The theme can be stated in one sentence.

Directions The theme of *Smart Dog* is that it takes time and effort to train a dog. Circle the events below that relate to the theme. Then decide if each happened in the beginning, middle, or end of the story. Write your answer on the line.

- 1. middle** _____ Toby's ears perked up. He knew that *he* was Toby and that Charlie was calling *him*.
- 2. end** _____ Eileen shrugged. "That's all right. I'm glad he's home, even if he is just a silly dog."
- 3. beginning** _____ "If you can teach him a trick in one week, I'll set the table and wash and dry the dishes every night."
- 4. middle** _____ Toby ran through the opening of the gate and into the front yard.
- 5. beginning** _____ Toby flopped down lazily and rolled over to have his stomach scratched.
- 6. middle** _____ Charlie's friend Nina came to visit the next day. She had an idea about how to train Toby.
- 7. end** _____ Toby heard his name. He turned around and trotted straight over to Charlie.
- 8. middle** _____ The next day, Charlie rode his bike to the library and looked for books about dog training.
- 9. middle** _____ The week was almost over and Toby hadn't learned a trick yet.
- 10. beginning** _____ Charlie pulled Toby from the garden and frantically tried to push the dirt back into place so that Mom wouldn't notice.