

Character, Plot

Apply In:

- ● Leveled Book:
The Little Ant

1 Reteach

Tell children a story about Chan and Lea:

- ▶ Chan says *hello* to Lea. Lea doesn't answer. She just walks by! Chan is mad. He says to Lea, "Why didn't you answer?" Lea is surprised. She didn't hear Chan! She tells him, and they are friends again.

Then ask: **Who is in the story?** Then say: **Yes, Chan and Lea are in the story. They are the characters. A character is who is in a story.**

Ask: **What does Chan do at the beginning of the story?** (says *hello* to Lea) **What happens in the middle of the story?** (Chan gets mad.) **How does the story end?** (Chan and Lea are friends again.) Explain: **The beginning, middle, and end of a story make up the plot.**

Then display and discuss this chart:

Character	Plot
To figure out who the characters are, ask: Who is in the story?	To figure out what the plot is, ask: What happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?

2 Practice with a Partner

Have partners page through the picture book, using the illustrations to identify the characters and the plot.

Materials

- familiar picture book

Character, Plot

3 Apply

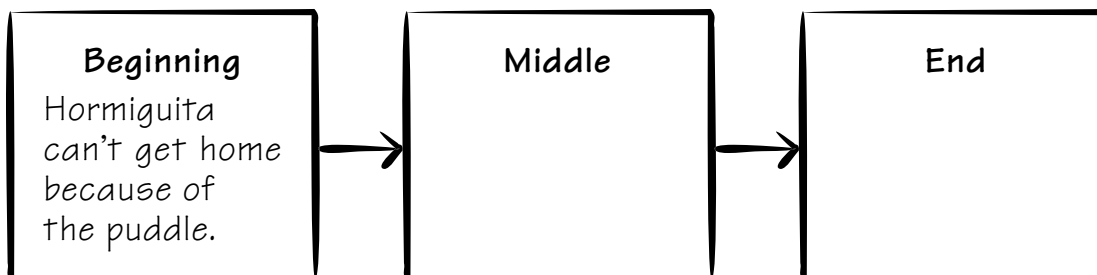
Distribute copies of the **Character and Plot Bookmark**. Explain that children should refer to the Bookmark as they listen or read. Then form groups.

- ▶ **Beginning Readers** listen as you conduct a Picture Walk and read the book aloud.
- ▶ **More Fluent Readers** read silently.

After reading, have children identify the characters and plot of the story. Use the **Multi-Level Strategies** to involve children at all proficiency levels.

BEGINNING	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
Have children point to the characters. Then ask about the plot. For example, turn to page 10 and ask: Does it rain at the beginning of the story or at the end?	Ask children to answer character and plot questions: Who are the characters in the story? What happens at the beginning of the story? At the end?	Have children draw a map that shows the characters and the beginning, middle, and end of the story. They can use the map to retell the story.

Record children's ideas in a story map like this:



Have children use the map to act out the story.

CLOSE AND ASSESS

Have children tell what a character is (who is in a story), and what a plot is (what happens in the beginning, middle, and end).

Character

A **character** is a person or an animal in a story. Look at what the character does and says. This character cries. She says, "I want to go, too!" This tells me she is sad.



↑ Fold

Plot

The **plot** is what happens in a story. A plot has a beginning, middle, and end.

Beginning: Mimi wants to go.



Middle: The bus is full.



End: Sali gives her a seat.

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