

## Literary Elements • Plot and Theme

- 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.

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

A crow was thirsty, but she couldn't find a drop of water. She spotted a broken pitcher on the side of the road. She looked inside. Some water lay at its bottom. The crow's beak was too short to reach down into the pitcher. She turned her head from

side to side. She walked in a circle around the pitcher. Finally, she pushed the pitcher with her beak until it fell over. At last, she could reach the water. With the pitcher on its side, she could drink all the water.

What happened at the beginning of the story?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What happened in the middle of the story?

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What happened at the end of the story?

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the “big idea” of this story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_