

# The Growing Story

by Ruth Krauss and Helen Oxenbury

AGE LEVEL 4–6 YEARS

## About the Story

A young boy watches the world around him change as the seasons go by. As he sees a puppy grow into a dog and a seed turn into a flower, the boy worries that he is not growing taller. But when winter comes along and his last year's pants are too tight and his sleeves too short, he realizes that he must have grown, too!



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## Words to Learn

### MATH WORDS

longer, shorter, short, too short, too tight, faster, slower, high, higher, as high as, big, little, taller, warm, warmer, colder

### OTHER WORDS

buds, growing, seeds, blossoms, orchard trees, lilacs, bloom, chicks

## About the Math

*The Growing Story* is about observing change over time. In this story, your child can learn:

- Ways to describe growth, decline, and size using words such as *longer*, *higher*, *shorter*, and *faster*.
- To notice how nature shows both growth, as when the chicks grow *taller* and the corn grows *higher*, and also decline, as when the pears *fall off* the tree and the days grow *shorter*.
- Ways to notice and measure growth. For example, the boy finally realizes he's *growing* because his winter clothes provided a way to measure growth—they no longer fit because they're too *small*.
- About the passage of time and the change in seasons. For example, the days become *longer* and the nights become *shorter* with the approach of summer.

The days grew longer. The nights grew shorter.

The grass grew faster. The flowers grew higher. Leaves grew big on the trees.

The little boy said to the puppy and the chicks, "We're growing too."

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## Math Talk During Reading

### CONSIDER WAYS TO MEASURE GROWTH:

How did the boy know that the puppy and the chicks had grown? At the end, how did the boy know that he had grown?

### CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR CHILD'S LIFE:

Are you taller now than you were last year? Do you think you'll be taller next year? How can we find out how much taller you'll be next year?

### TALK ABOUT THE CHANGING SEASONS:

What happens in the winter that is different from the summer? How do you know when the summer is over? How do you know when winter starts?

*Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!*

## Activity After Reading

### THINK ABOUT A SCENE FROM NATURE TO DRAW WITH YOUR CHILD

Draw four different pictures that show the same scene in the summer, fall, winter, and spring. Show how nature, like the trees and the flowers, grow or change throughout the seasons. Talk about how the pictures look different as the seasons change.