Below, you’ll find “The story of the little black puppy.”
Before reading this story, however, have a quick read of our instructions.

Instructions:

emplify! provides learning resources for children between the ages of 0-10. These resources are short stories written to encourage children to think both empathetically (i.e. “How would these actions cause others to feel!”) and critically (i.e. “What may be appropriate courses of action, given the challenging circumstances presented?”).

This is achieved through the mode of open-end storytelling by which a parent or guardian is able to support the child in creating what the child feels is an appropriate story ending. The story you’re about to read is an open-ended emplify! pilot story.
How to present the story:

If one child –
Place yourself in a relaxing atmosphere. If the child has a special book/story area – please feel free to use it. Make sure there are no other distractions (tv, music, loud noises) to really allow the child to focus. Consider presenting this as a “special” story that has a surprise ending.

If in a group –
Again, make sure there are no other distractions to allow children to focus. Consider smaller groups (no more than 3-4 children) to really foster engagement and brainstorming.

While reading:

Allow the child time to absorb what is being read. Explore the pictures and discuss them. Feel free to enact, or have the child enact the story with objects. This can be any household objects, blocks, sticks, puppets, clay.

As our stories are open ended and will contain a conflict or struggle, avoid making judgmental remarks or unintentionally leading the child to understand that there is a ‘right’ answer. It is vital to the integrity of the project that the ending is not resolved simply and that no option presents a clear solution. Just like in reality, the alternate endings the child creates may have positive and/or negative outcomes. This is where an adult can foster real discussion.
After reading:

The stories are left open ended on purpose. emplify! wants the child to create an alternative ending for the stories and one that they feel is the best. Have the child weigh the options. Don’t ask leading questions. Instead of “Do you think A should do this?” Try – “What do you think will happen?” And to follow up on this, “What is good about that ending and what is bad?” and, “Why is this your ending?”

You may like to reflect with the child on similar real life situations they may have heard of or may have experienced themselves. Ask, “How was the situation similar?” “What do you think this situation felt like for those involved?”

If you are reading to a group of children, have them discuss the story amongst themselves as well. Encourage all the children to come up with an ending and to share it/discuss it with each other.

If the child is struggling you can ask:

“What should this character do?” vs. “What should the other character do?” And “Who benefits from the story ending this way or perhaps the other way?” “Who is sad about this ending?” “How do you think they can both be happy?” “What would you do if you were A or B?” “What do you think will happen next?”

Have fun!
Klongdinsor believe that children with visual impairment have no less potential for creativity and imagination than other children. They simply need the proper tools and opportunities to express their own unique experiences and imaginations. Therefore, Klongdinsor has partnered with emplify! to bring emplify! stories to life for children with visual impairment.

We aim to create tactile story books that are easy to create and distribute. We do this through the use of 3D printing to create tactile story books for children with visual impairments. With the aid of a 3D printer, users can print characters and paste them on a sheet of paper for children with visual impairment to touch. Users can then use that paper - with the 3D printed characters - as a master sheet for thermoforming, allowing many copies to be made from just one print.

Instructions:

1. Print out all the files using PLA plastic with a 0.25 mm thickness. No support is needed.
2. Paste characters on the right hand pages.
3. Translate the story into braille in the language of your choosing and put this on the left hand page.
4. To make it easier for children, you may also like to place descriptive braille text alongside the 3D images.
This is the story of the little black puppy

One sunny afternoon, Mr. Wallace and his son Simon headed to their favorite park for a play. Simon loved to play on the swings. But this day was different – something most unusual was about to happen.

As Simon ran toward the swing, he saw something moving in the long grass. “Woof!”
“Woah!” said Simon.  
“Dad! I’ve found... a puppy!”

“By gosh!” said Mr Wallace.  
“How on earth did a small black puppy end up here?”

“Hmm”, said Simon, as he looked at the row of houses surrounding the park.  
“Perhaps the puppy’s owner is not far away! Let’s take him for a walk.”
Mr Wallace and Simon carried the little black puppy and knocked on ALL the doors of ALL the houses surrounding the park.

“Hello! We found a little black puppy in the park. Are you missing a dog?”
“No, not us!” they all said.

Then, Mr Wallace and Simon knocked on the door of old Mrs Weatherwinkel.
“Hello. Are you missing a dog?”

“No, not me!” Mrs Weatherwinkel replied. “But I would very much like a little black puppy,” she said. “You see, I’ve lived all alone for a long time. It gets awfully quiet now my husband is no longer with us. The house creeks at night. And I feel the cold wind brush through. It would be very nice to have the company of a little black puppy! In case you do not find the owner, please do keep me that in mind!” she said.

Mr Wallace and his son Simon moved on in search of the owner.
Mr Wallace and Simon knocked on the door of Mr Westerly.

"Hello", they said. "We’ve found a little black puppy in the park. Are you missing a dog?" they asked.

"No, not me!" Mr. Westerly replied. "But I would very much like a little black puppy like this," he said. "You see, I’ve just been thinking of buying a dog! I’m looking for a companion for my fishing and camping trips! My wife prefers to stay at home, but I like to explore. It would be very nice to have the company of a little black puppy!" he said. "In fact, I could happily pay you for the puppy! I could pay as much as $100. "In case you do not find the owner, please do keep me that in mind!" he said.
Mr Wallace and Simon knocked on the door of young Jeremy. “Hello”, they said. “We’ve found a little black puppy in the park. Are you missing a dog?”

“No,” young Jeremy replied. “But I would very much like a little black puppy like this,” he said. “You see, I’ve always wanted a puppy because I have no brothers and sisters. I’m looking for a puppy to play with, to keep me company on school holidays, to greet me whenever I come home from school,” said Jeremy. “In case you do not find the owner, please do keep me in mind!” he said.

Mr Wallace and Simon reached the end of the row of houses. That evening, they made signs and the next morning, they posted them all around the town.
“LITTLE BLACK PUPPY!” It said. “FOUND IN THE PARK. WHO IS MISSING A DOG?”

After several days, still no owner had appeared.

“Well,” said Mr Wallace. “Now that IS a mystery. Where could the owner of this little black puppy be?”

“And,” said Simon, “What should we do now?”