
The Ant and the Grasshopper

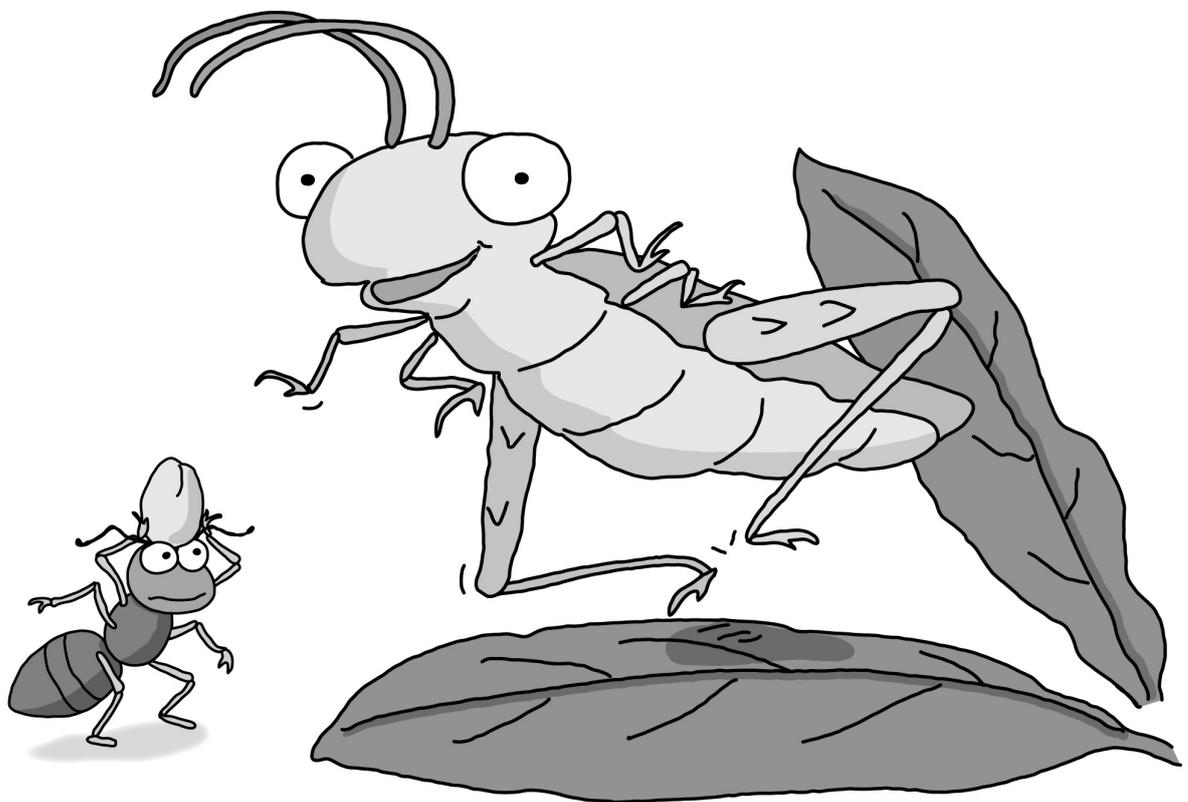
It was a hot summer's day. A grasshopper played around singing, jumping and enjoying itself in the sun. An ant walked past carrying a grain of wheat.

"That looks like hard work," said the grasshopper.

"I'm gathering food for the winter," said the ant. "You should do the same."

The grasshopper took no notice. When winter came, the grasshopper was hungry. He searched for food but could not find any. He went to look for the ant and begged him to share his food.

"No!" shouted the ant. "You should have listened to me."



Teacher's Notes:

The Ant and the Grasshopper

Background Information

One of Aesop's fables from Greece.

Words to Discuss Before Reading

grasshopper	Ask if any of the children know what a grasshopper is. Show them pictures of a grasshopper. Discuss facts about grasshoppers, for example they can leap about twenty times the length of their body and they 'sing' by rubbing their back legs or wings together.
gathering	Explain that in the story this means collecting food.
grain of wheat	Show pictures of a grain of wheat. Explain that wheat is grown in fields by farmers and that it is a form of food. You could elaborate by explaining that we use it to make bread.

Speaking and Listening Activities

After reading, refer back to the part of the story where the grasshopper begs the ant for food. What might the ant have said? Ask the children to pretend they are the grasshopper. What might they say to the ant to try to convince him to give them food?

Follow-up Activities

- ◆ Support the children in finding out more about how ants behave.
- ◆ Help the children to investigate how different animals cope in the winter, eg, squirrels, birds, hedgehogs.

Moral

It is not good to play all of the time.