

THE GRASSHOPPER

(a Fable by Aesop)



There once was a friendly grasshopper that grew up on a farm. He was a happy grasshopper. The field where he was born was full of food and friends.

Every day, during the summer, the grasshopper played in the sun. He loved the warmth of the sun. He jumped and he sang. He always played with the other grasshoppers going from one plant to the next. He was happily playing with his friends.

He loved to eat the green leaves on the plants. When he was not playing, he was eating. He would eat so much he could not jump. Then he would take a nap and wait for the next day.

The grasshopper only worried about today. When he was happy, he would play. When he was hungry, he would eat. When he was tired, he would sleep. It was the same every day.

The grasshopper saw the ants were working very hard. He saw them coming and going all day long. They did not play. They did not eat. They did not sleep. They just worked and worked and worked. He thought they were silly to work all the time.

One day, while he was playing, an ant came by pulling a large leaf.

The grasshopper saw the ant, and said to him, “Why don’t you come and play with me instead of working so hard. We can play music and have fun.”

The ant replied, “I’m saving food for the winter. I suggest that you save food for yourself.”

“Why should I worry about winter?” the grasshopper asked. “There’s plenty of

food to eat now.”

The ant did not listen to the grasshopper, and he continued to pull the leaf to his nest.

It was now autumn, and the weather was becoming colder. The clouds filled the sky. The plants began to turn brown. They were not green anymore. The grasshopper was having trouble finding food. He was not able to play all day. Now he had to work hard to find food to eat.

Soon he saw that the ants were not coming to the field anymore. He wondered what they were doing, so he went to their nest and looked down into the hole.

“Is anybody there?” he asked.

No one answered.

He yelled louder, “Is anyone there!?”

Just then, an ant poked his head out of his nest.

“What do you want?” the ant asked.

The grasshopper asked a question of his own, “I was wondering why you don’t come to the field anymore.”

The ant answered, “We have enough food to last for the whole winter. We don’t need to look for food anymore.”

“Do you have some food you could share with me?” the grasshopper asked the ant.

“No, we only have food for us. Why didn’t you save food for yourself? There was a lot of food for you to store for the winter,” the ant responded.

The grasshopper begged for the ant to give him some food, but the ant disappeared back into his nest without answering him.

The grasshopper went back to the field. He was sad he had not saved food. He was getting very hungry.

When the weather got colder and winter arrived, the grasshopper could not find any food to eat. He went to see the ants again to ask for food.

Once again, they said no.

He saw the ants eating the food they had saved during the summer. They were not hungry at all.

It was not long before the grasshopper died because there was no food to eat.

The ants knew this important lesson. It is always better to be prepared for when the need is great.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. saw (v) _____ | a. more than enough, ample |
| 2. pull _____ | b. fall, comes after summer |
| 3. plenty _____ | c. store, keep for later |
| 4. arrived _____ | d. message, example |
| 5. autumn _____ | e. significant, central |
| 6. wonder _____ | f. pop up |
| 7. poked _____ | g. observed, looked |
| 8. save _____ | h. came to a place |
| 9. important _____ | i. question, think about |
| 10. lesson _____ | j. drag something, tow |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. The grasshopper liked to play. | T / F |
| 2. The ants worked all day. | T / F |
| 3. The grasshopper lived in the city. | T / F |
| 4. The ants ate all their food before winter. | T / F |
| 5. The grasshopper begged for food. | T / F |
| 6. The ants shared everything with the grasshopper. | T / F |
| 7. Winter came and the grasshopper went to sleep. | T / F |
| 8. The ants lived in a tree. | T / F |
| 9. The grasshopper loved to eat. | T / F |
| 10. The plants turned brown during the autumn. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did the grasshopper do all day in the summer? _____

- a) sang and danced
- b) worked
- c) walked
- d) died

2. What is the moral of the story? _____

- a) eat, drink and be happy
- b) life is too short
- c) save for the future
- d) exercise is good for the body

3. What did the grasshopper want when he went to visit the ants? _____

- a) water
- b) food
- c) to play with them
- d) a place to sleep

4. Why could the grasshopper not find any food? _____

- a) there was a flood
- b) the sun was too hot
- c) he had eaten it all
- d) it was now autumn

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. What did the grasshopper do all day?

2. Where did the grasshopper grow up?

3. What color was the food the grasshopper liked to eat?

4. Where did the grasshopper go after he could not find any food to eat?

5. What did the ant say when the grasshopper asked for food?

6. What did the grasshopper do after he ate too much?

7. Why did the ants save food for winter?

8. Why was the grasshopper not able to find food?

9. What happened to the ants?

10. What happened to the grasshopper?
