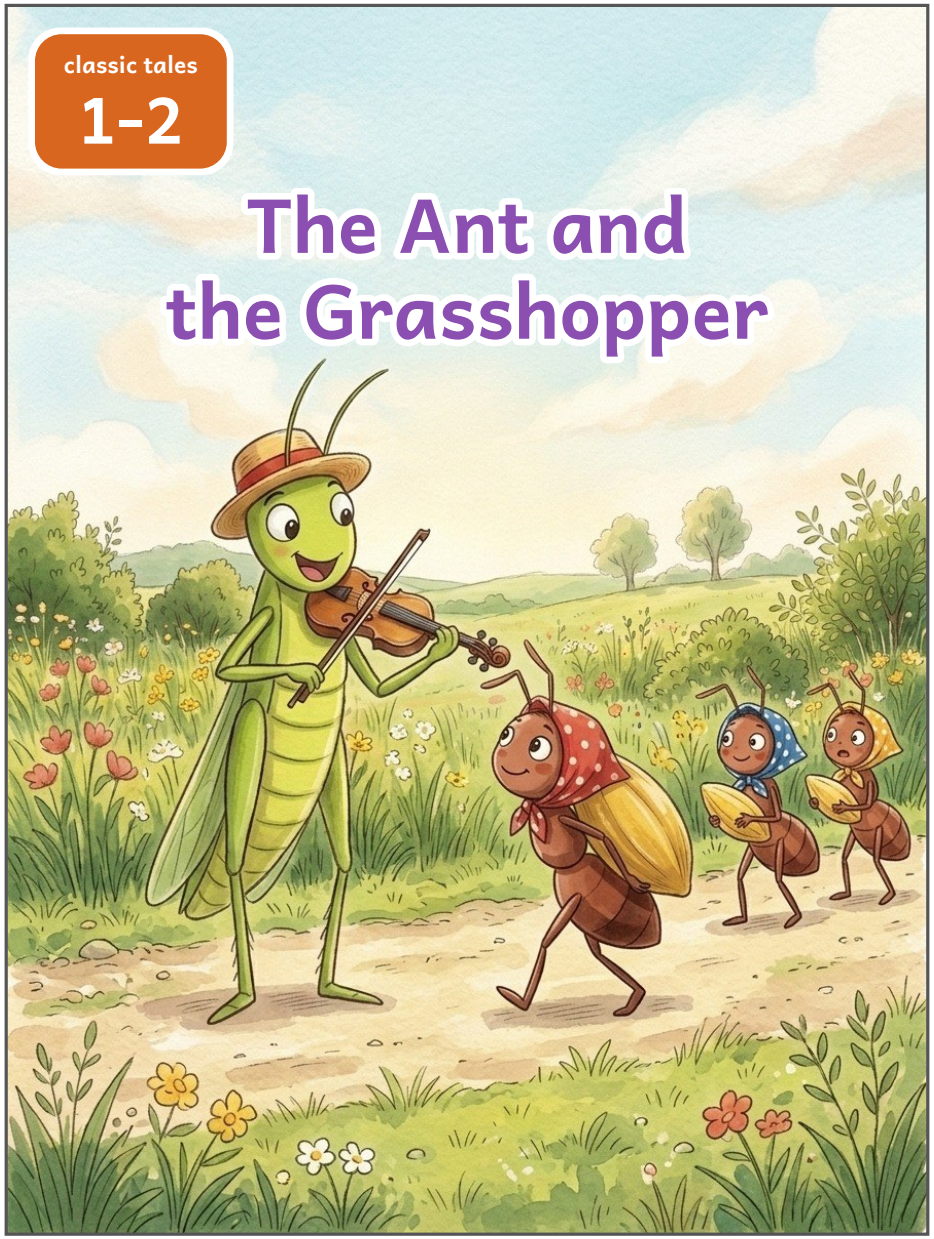
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classic tales
1–2

The Ant and the Grasshopper



A Classic Tales Reader • Grades 1–2

Printable Scholar Readers



One fine summer's day, in a sunny green meadow, a Grasshopper was hopping about, singing to his heart's content. "Oh, what a beautiful day for a song!" he said.



Along came an Ant, carrying a heavy grain of corn back to her nest. “Hello, little Ant! Why are you working so hard? Come and sing with me!” said the Grasshopper.



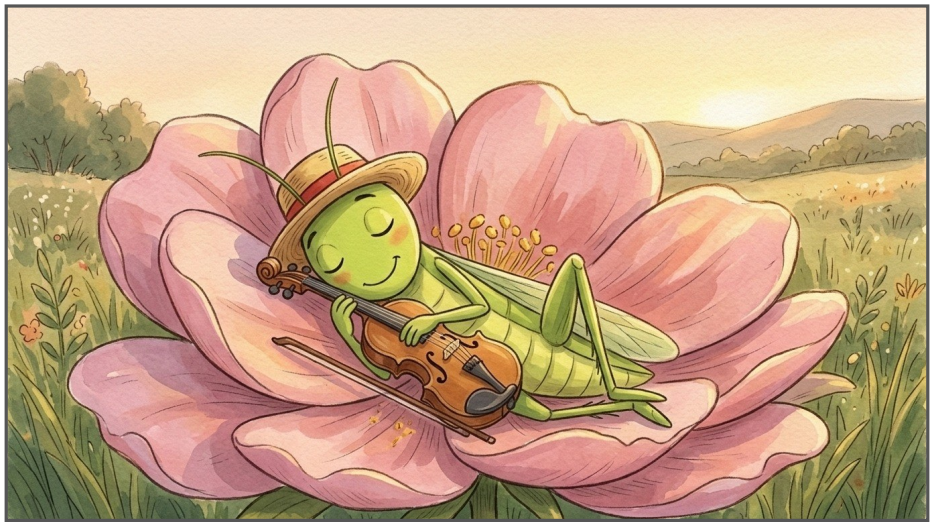
“I can’t,” said the Ant. “I’m gathering food for the winter. You should do the same.”



“Winter? Winter is ages away!” laughed the Grasshopper. “There’s plenty of food right now!” But the Ant picked up her corn and went on her way.



All summer long, the Ants carried grain to their nest, one piece at a time. “Winter is coming, Grasshopper! Better hurry!” called the Ant.



“Not today, little Ant! I have one more song to play!” said the Grasshopper. All summer long he sang and danced and played, and he never gathered a single grain.



Then the leaves turned gold and fell, and winter came. Snow covered the meadow, and there was nothing left to eat. “I’m so hungry,” said the Grasshopper.



He knocked on the Ants' door. "What were you doing all last summer?" asked the Ant. "I was so busy singing, I didn't have time," he said. "If you spent the summer singing, you can't do better than spend the winter dancing... with us! Come in out of the cold."



The Ants shared their food, and the Grasshopper played his fiddle. All winter long, they danced. "Thank you, little Ant," he said. "Next summer, I'll help you gather the corn."



And he did. There is *a* time for work, *and a* time for play.

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Talk About It

1. Why did the Ant work so hard in the summer?

2. Why was the Grasshopper hungry in the winter?

3. How were the Ants kind? What did the Grasshopper learn?

Words to Know

grasshopper • ant • summer
winter • corn • dance

Read me 3 times!

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