

THE *Grasshopper* AND THE *Ant*

A retelling of an Aesop fable

On a warm summer day, Grasshopper sat in the shade and chirped. Ant walked up carrying some corn.

“Ant,” said Grasshopper. “What are you doing working in the hot summer sun? Come relax in the shade with me.” ●

“I can’t,” said Ant. “There is work to be done! I am storing food for the winter, and I suggest you do the same.”

“Winter?” said Grasshopper. “That’s a long time away. I can’t be bothered about winter in the middle of summer! Are you sure you won’t sit in this lovely shade with me?” ●

Ant just picked up the corn and went back to work.

Winter came, and the ground was cold and bare. Grasshopper had no food and lay under a bush. *I’m dying of hunger!* he thought. Nearby, the ants were eating the corn they had stored last summer. When they saw Grasshopper, they dragged some food over to him.

Grasshopper learned an important lesson. Next summer would be different.

Strategy Here is a good place to visualize. Picture how Grasshopper looks sitting in the shade. Hear how he talks to Ant.

Skill In this paragraph, notice the words that Grasshopper is using. They tell that Grasshopper is not a hard worker.