

The Ant and the Beetle

Adapted from Aesop's "The Fox and the Crow"

Annie Ant was famished. She stole a piece of cheese from an abandoned picnic and scrambled up to sit on a rock. She was about to eat the cheese when she noticed a beetle nearby.

The beetle had been spying on her, and having grown tired of his dull menu of leaves, he wanted the cheese for himself. He made a plan.

"My, my, I have never seen such a beautiful ant. From the tip of your antennae to the end of your abdomen, you are simply gorgeous!" flattered the beetle.

Annie thought, "Finally, someone who appreciates my true beauty."

"It is a shame," said the beetle. "Such a beauty must be delicate. Surely, you are not strong enough to help the other ants."

Now Annie Ant was insulted. How dare he suggest she was weak. "Hmph! I can lift this rock that is twice my size," she said.

Annie Ant set down the cheese and lifted the rock over her head. ●

The beetle grabbed the cheese and began to scurry away. "Yes, you are very strong, but you are also very foolish." ●

Strategy Here is a good place to visualize. What picture do you have in your mind of Annie Ant?

Skill In a fable, the theme is usually a lesson to be learned. It is called the *moral*. What lesson did the ant learn at the end of this story?