

The Ant and the Grasshopper

The story opens on a warm, sunny day in the middle of summer. A grasshopper is lying in a field, enjoying the sunshine, singing and playing his fiddle. Suddenly, he notices an ant scurrying through the field, carrying an ear of corn. The grasshopper, wanting to chat for a while, calls out to the ant.

‘What are you doing? Come and talk to me for a while.’

The ant shakes his head.

‘I’m sorry, I can’t stop, I’m too busy. I have to gather food for the winter.’

The grasshopper laughs at the ant.

‘The winter is ages away! It’s the middle of summer, and there’s plenty of food,’ he says. ‘Come and talk to me.’

But the ant refuses to stop working. He spends all day scurrying backwards and forwards across the field, carrying his supplies. The grasshopper watches on, thinking the ant is missing a great opportunity to enjoy himself. The ant is obviously not having a good time, while the grasshopper is completely content.

All too soon, the winter comes. The weather is cold and there is no food to be found anywhere. The grasshopper is hungry and has nothing to eat. He knocks at the ant’s door, hoping the ant will take pity on him. The ant opens the door, and the grasshopper can see plentiful supplies of food inside the house.

‘I’m so hungry,’ says the grasshopper. ‘You have plenty of food. Is there any chance you might share some with me?’

‘No,’ says the ant. ‘You laughed at me for gathering food in summer. You’ll have to see yourself through the winter.’

So the grasshopper has to survive the winter on whatever meagre rations he can find elsewhere.