

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Ants and the Grasshopper

By Aesop
620-560 BCE

Aesop was a storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables," which did not survive in writing but were passed down by people retelling them. They have deeply influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, take notes on the problem the grasshopper faces and how the ants' response contributes to the central theme(s) and moral of the fable.

[1] One bright day in late autumn a family of Ants were bustling¹ about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving Grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly² begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.³

[5] "Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.



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"The Ants and the Grasshopper" by Aesop is in the public domain.

1. **Bustle (verb):** to move in an energetic or noisy way
 2. **Humbly (adverb):** not proudly; lowly
 3. **Disgust (noun):** a strong feeling of dislike

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What does the word “bustling” mean as it is used in paragraph 1?
 - A. to move quietly
 - B. to move with a purpose
 - C. to move slowly
 - D. to move tiredly

2. PART B: Which phrase from paragraph 1 best supports your answer to Part A?
 - A. “family of Ants”
 - B. “in the warm sunshine”
 - C. “drying out the grain”
 - D. “during the summer”

3. What does the information in paragraph 3 reveal about the grasshopper?
 - A. He doesn’t know how to store food for the winter.
 - B. He thinks the ants should have stored food for him while he played his music.
 - C. He is not a careful planner and was easily distracted by his music.
 - D. He is disappointed in himself because he did not store food for the winter.

4. How do the ants respond when the grasshopper asks them for help?
 - A. They ask him to play music for them while they work.
 - B. They decide the grasshopper’s problem is not their problem.
 - C. They decide to give him some food for the winter.
 - D. They continue on with their work and tell the grasshopper to join them.

5. Using complete sentences, explain the central moral, or lesson, of the story. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
