

The Ant and the Grasshopper

(A Retelling)

One hot, summer day a busy, busy ant gathered grains of barley and peanuts for his winter's food stores.

A grasshopper, who was chirping and singing to his heart's content, saw the hard-working ant.

The grasshopper called, "Why not come and sing with me instead of working all the livelong day?"

The ant did not look up. "I'm working really hard to store up food for the winter," he replied. "When the snow comes, you will wish that you had stored up some food too!"

"Why think about the winter now," asked the Grasshopper, "when we have plenty and more to spare?"

The ant ignored the grasshopper and went on his way. He worked hard all summer.

When winter arrived, the poor Grasshopper was almost dying with hunger, for the snow had come and covered up all his food. Sadly, he came to the Ant and begged for something to eat, but the Ant said, "If you had worked in the summer, instead of playing all the livelong day and laughing at me to boot, you wouldn't need food right now."