

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Remember how different parts of the earth experience different types of weather? In most of the United States, there are four seasons and each season has distinct characteristics, or clearly different ways to describe them.

Who can identify the proper sequence the four seasons of the year are experienced in the United States and tell some of the characteristics of each?

The Grasshopper & The Ants



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Do you remember any of the fables we read earlier in the year? A fable is a story that teaches the reader a lesson. There was a man named Aesop who lived in Greece a very long time ago who wrote many fables. In Aesop's time, people didn't have storybooks, so they told stories aloud to one another. Stories were passed down from parents to children and from neighbor to neighbor for thousands of years. Today, stories can be told aloud or read in books.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Aesop was a great storyteller. He was known for collecting and retelling many short stories called fables. Fables often have animals as characters in the story, instead of people. When an animal or thing acts like a person in a story, the writing technique the author is using is called personification. Say personification. Personification is when animals in a story talk and act like people do.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Like all fables, Aesop's fables were intended to teach a lesson, called "the moral of the story." Repeat the name Aesop. What is the lesson taught in a fable called? The moral of a story is the lesson the writer wanted you to learn.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Today you are going to hear the story of, "The Grasshopper and the Ants" one of Aesop's many fables. This story takes place throughout the different seasons of the year.

Listen carefully so you can identify the different seasons and learn what happens in the story. I will want you to know the moral or lesson the grasshopper learns at the end of the fable.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

In a field on a fine summer's day, a grasshopper was hopping about, singing and dancing and enjoying himself.

Nearby, a group of ants was hard at work. They had build their house underground, and they were filling it with food to last them through the long, cold winter ahead.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

They were filling the house with lots of food during the summer, so that they would have enough to eat throughout the entire winter.

“Why not come and play with me?” asked the grasshopper. “Why bother about winter? We have plenty of food now. Come, leave your work. Now’s the time to dance and sing.”



The Grasshopper & The Ants

But the ants paid no attention to the grasshopper. They kept working hard, all day and every day.

Why do you think the ants are working so hard?



The Grasshopper & The Ants

But not the grasshopper. All summer long while the ants worked, he jumped about the field and danced and sang. Sometimes he'd sit for hours and listen to the humming of the bees, or watch the butterflies flitting about, or take long, lazy naps in the warm sun. And when he work up, he would sing this song:



The Grasshopper & The Ants

The summertime's the time for me,
For then I'm happy as can be.
I watch the butterflies and bees,
As they fly around as they please.
Oh, summertime's the time for me!
For I'm as happy as can be.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Yes, the grasshopper was a happy fellow-- but he never thought about the future. He never thought about what would happen later in time, in the future; he only thought about what was happening right now, in the present.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

One day the grasshopper woke up and felt a chill in the air. Then he saw the leaves turn red, gold, and brown, and fall from the trees. Then the days kept getting colder, and soon, the grasshopper saw no butterflies or bees, and the fields where he liked to sing and dance turned bare and hard.



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Bare means not covered. The leaves fell off the trees and the grass in the fields dried. What season of the year is it now?



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Soon, the cold days of winter were upon him, and the grasshopper was freezing and hungry. He came to the ants' house and knocked on the door.

Why do you think the grasshopper is knocking at the ants' door?



The Grasshopper & The Ants

"What do you want?" asked the ants.

"May I come in and share your food?" asked the grasshopper.

"What did you do all summer?" asked the ants. "Didn't you put away some food to use now?"



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Didn't you save food during the summer to use now?

"No," said the shivering grasshopper. The word shivering means he was shaking from the cold. Show me what the grasshopper looked like when he was shivering. In what season do people tend to shiver?



The Grasshopper & The Ants

I didn't think of that while I was singing and dancing in the sun."

"So," said the ants meanly, "you sang and danced all summer while we worked. Well, now you can sing and dance while we eat!"



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Was this a nice thing for the ants to say to the grasshopper?
Would you have helped the grasshopper if you were the ants?



The Grasshopper & The Ants

And as the hungry grasshopper
walked away, he sang this song:

Next time I'll work as well as
dance,
Then I'll be ready, like the ants!



The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What is the season at the beginning of the fable? What season comes after summer? What is the season at the end of the fable?

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What changes happen to the weather and the trees in autumn after summer ends?

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

Describe the grasshopper at the beginning of the fable, during the summer.

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

Describe the ants at the beginning of the fable, during the summer.

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

In the fable, who is thinking about what would happen later in time, in the future: the grasshopper or the ants?

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What happened to the grasshopper at the end of the fable? Why?

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What do you think the moral or the lesson of the story is?

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

Were the ants right to turn the grasshopper away? What would you have done?

Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

The Grasshopper & The Ants

In the read aloud you heard, "A group of ants had built their house underground and they were filling it with food to **last** them through the long, cold winter ahead."

Say the word **last** with me.

Whisper last to the ceiling.

Whisper last to your neighbor.

Let's clap it out.

The Grasshopper & The Ants

The word **last** has many meanings. In this case, last means to have enough of something for a certain period of time.

A box of new crayons can last the school year, or a song can last five minutes.

The Grasshopper & The Ants

Tell about something you know that can last for a certain amount of time, like a week or a day. Try to use the word last when you tell about it.

“Something I know that can last a week is...”

“Something I know that can last a day is...”

The Grasshopper & The Ants

*What's the word we have been talking
about?*

Let's clap it out.

The Grasshopper & The Ants

I am going to name some things. If the things I say can last, put your thumbs up. If they cannot last, thumbs down.

The Grasshopper & the Ants



Thumbs Up = Lasts

Thumbs Down = Won't last



*an ice cube on the sidewalk during the
summer*



The Grasshopper & the Ants



Thumbs Up = Lasts

Thumbs Down = Won't last



*one can of cat food for the cat for the
entire week*



The Grasshopper & the Ants



Thumbs Up = Lasts

Thumbs Down = Won't last



a new pair of shoes for a week



The Grasshopper & the Ants



Thumbs Up = Lasts

Thumbs Down = Won't last



two sheets of paper for the school year



The Grasshopper & the Ants



Thumbs Up = Lasts

Thumbs Down = Won't last



*a video or DVD that I can watch many
times*

