

# The Ant and the Cricket

Topic –poem

Class – viii

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# WHAT IS A FABLE ?

- A Fable is a story that usually uses animals to teach a valuable life lesson, a moral. This story is typically short and states its moral at the end. Can you guess the names of these popular fables?



# Why is Aesop's fables famous?

- Some of the most popular fables were told by a man known as Aesop who was born a slave in Greece thousand of years ago.
- *The Tortoise and the Hare, The lion and the rat, The crow and the pitcher* etc are just a few of Aesop's notable fables



# Something about Ants and Crickets

- CRICKETS

- **Crickets** (also known as "**true crickets**"), of the family **Gryllidae**, are **insects** related to **bush crickets**, and, more distantly, to **grasshoppers**.
- Crickets are mainly **nocturnal**, and are best known for the loud, persistent, chirping song of males trying to attract females, although some species are mute.



## ANTS

Ants are common insects, but they have some unique capabilities.

Ants are remarkable for their self organizational skill and great team culture



Now let us go through the poem.  
And then I will give you the  
summary.



## The Poem

A silly young cricket, accustomed to sing  
Through the warm, sunny months of gay summer and spring,  
Began to complain when he found that, at home,  
His cupboard was empty, and winter was come.





Not a crumb to be found  
On the snow-covered ground;  
Not a flower could he see,  
Not a leaf on a tree.

“Oh! what will become,” says the cricket, “of me?”



At last by starvation and famine made bold,  
All dripping with wet, and all trembling with cold,  
Away he set off to a miserly ant,  
To see if, to keep him alive, he would grant



Him shelter from rain,  
And a mouthful of grain.  
He wished only to borrow;  
He'd repay it tomorrow;  
If not, he must die of starvation and sorrow.

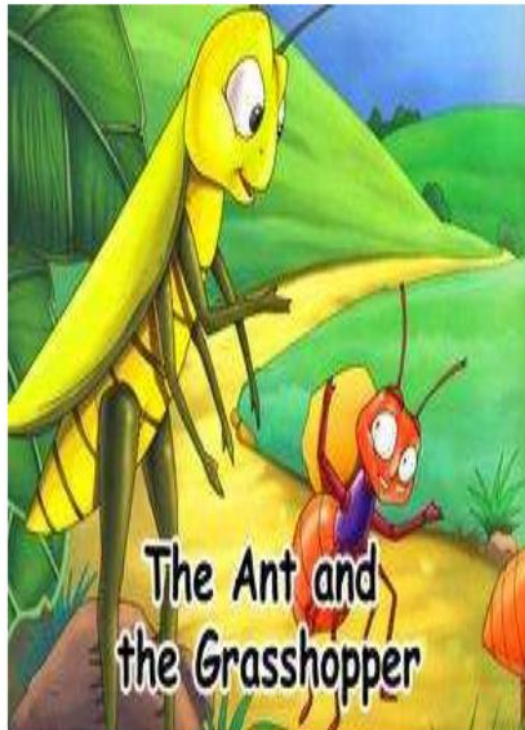


Says the ant to the  
cricket, "I'm your servant  
and friend,  
But we ants never  
borrow; we ants never  
lend.



But tell me, dear cricket,  
did you lay nothing by  
When the weather was  
warm?" Quoth the cricket,  
"Not I!"





My heart was so light  
That I sang day and night,  
For all nature looked gay.”  
“You sang, Sir, you say?

Go then,” says the ant, “and dance the winter away.”

Thus ending, he hastily lifted the wicket,  
And out of the door turned the poor little cricket.  
Folks call this a fable. I'll warrant it true:  
Some crickets have four legs, and some have two.



# Word meanings

- Silly – foolish
- Accustomed – used to
- Cupboard – a piece of furniture with a door and typically shelves, used for storage
- Crumb – a small amount of something
- Starvation – suffering caused by lack of food
- Famine – extreme scarcity of food
- Trembling – shaking
- Miserly – hating to spend money
- Gay – happy
- Hastily – hurriedly
- Quoth – said
- Folks - people in general



# Main idea

- **The poem tells us the story of a careless cricket who was busy in singing only and never thought and did anything for his future and an ant who was very sincere to his work and thought and did for the future .The ant lived with self-respect even in harsh time while the cricket had to beg and could not survive harsh hour of winter.**

# Summary of the poem

- There was a foolish young cricket who used to sing through the sunnya and mirthful seasons of summer and spring. He was so busy in his singing that he hardly found time to gather food for winter. As a result in winter he faced scarcity of food and started lamenting over it. At last in the chilly weather almost without any food he went to a miserly ant for help. He thought he could borrow some food and shelter . The ant, uttterly self organised, mocked him for wasting his times in singing instead of gathering food for winter. The lazy cricket left with a lesson.

# Let us focus on the inner meaning and the moral

In this narrative poem, the poet brings out the idea of hard work and pre-planning that is essential for every creature. 'Some crickets have four legs and some have two' is the last line of the poem that serves the moral to the readers. According to the poet, the four-legged cricket enjoyed the good times but never planned for the tough times of life. Like the merry cricket, some of the human beings enjoy their good times. They never plan and save anything for their future. The poet indicates that there are some two-legged crickets which are human beings. He wants such people to work hard and plan for their future. According to the poet, we all must accomplish what we are assigned to in our life. Further, he says we are born not only to enjoy the present happy moments but also to work hard for the happy future. Finally the poet indicates that there are some two-legged crickets in this world which are human beings. He wants such people to work hard and plan for future.

**Moral:** *'Make hay while the sun shines'*

# Home work

- Read the following questions and answer them carefully
- 1. What was the routine of the cricket in summer and spring ?
- 2. Why did the cricket drip and tremble?
- 3. Why do you think ants neither borrow nor lend?
- 4. What was the nature of the cricket? How do you know?
- 5. The ant refused to help the cricket. Why?
- 6. Pick out the rhyming words in the poem.
- 7. 'Some crickets have four legs and some have two'. Elucidate this statement from the poet's point of view.
- 8. Compare and contrast the attitude of the ant and the cricket.
- 9. If given a chance, who would you want to be- the ant or the cricket? Justify your answer.
- 10. If you know a fable in your own language ,write it down in a short paragraph.