

The Ant and the Grasshopper

ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

This story is thought to be the work of the Greek slave Aesop, who lived between 620 and 560 B.C.E. His tales are often referred to as *fables*, which are designed to deliver a lesson, or *moral*, to the audience. From the 18th century onwards, these stories were translated into English and deliberately adapted to teach simple wisdom to children. As you read the story, ask yourself: which of the two creatures shows greater wisdom? What lesson is Aesop trying to teach?

The Ant and the Grasshopper

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil.

When the winter came the Grasshopper found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing, every day, corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

QUESTION 1 DOK 2 STANDARD RL.3

How would you summarize the attitudes of the Ant and the Grasshopper?

- ☐ The Grasshopper is more selfish than the Ant.
- ☐ The Ant refuses to help others, however, the Grasshopper is more compassionate.
- ☐ The Grasshopper is more focused on enjoying the present, while the Ant prepares for the future.
- ☐ Both creatures want to be able to enjoy their lives.

QUESTION 2 DOK 3 STANDARD RL.2 RL.1

What message do you think Aesop is trying to tell his audience? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

Notes

