

The Grasshopper and the Ant

Early on a frosty fall morning, Ant arranged her stores of grain for the long, cold winter ahead. She was tidying neat piles of wheat, oats, and corn when Grasshopper happened to pass by her open door. Grasshopper peered in, amazed at Ant's full pantry.

"Please, Miss," began Grasshopper politely. "Could you spare a few kernels of grain?"

Now Ant looked up from her work and stared hard at Grasshopper.

"And what were you doing during harvest while I worked from dawn to dusk collecting food for the winter?" she finally asked.

"That, my friend, is easy to explain," answered Grasshopper. "I was singing sweet songs of summer, of course. Perhaps you heard my lovely chirping."

"Yes, indeed, I did," answered Ant. "And did you enjoy yourself as you chirped away the seasons?"

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I did," answered Grasshopper, feeling the chill of a fall wind.

"Then surely you will understand what I must say to you now, sir," began Ant.

Grasshopper nervously rubbed his legs together.

"Since you sang all summer while I was planning for the freezing months ahead, it looks as if you will have to dance all winter just to catch up."

With this, Ant slammed tight her pantry door and disappeared into her stores of grain.

All next winter, Grasshopper will wish he'd remembered two important words:

Plan Ahead.