

"The Grasshopper and the Ants"

- ① Grasshopper lived in a field of wheat. He loved to dance with the swaying stalks on summer days. He sang with breezes that fluttered the leaves.
- ② Ants lived in the field, too. Every day, they searched for grains of wheat to carry back to their nest. As they worked, they marched past the dancing, singing grasshopper.
- ③ One day, Grasshopper paused in his leaping and twirling when he saw the busy ants. "What are you doing?" he asked.
- ④ "We are gathering food for the winter," replied one of the industrious ants.
- ⑤ "You should, too," added another ant.
- ⑥ Grasshopper laughed. "I am too busy singing and dancing," he said. "Anyway, I'm surrounded by wheat to eat."
- ⑦ For the rest of the summer, Grasshopper sang and danced. He danced as the wheat turned gold and the air grew chilly.
- ⑧ When winter came, Grasshopper's stomach growled with hunger. He searched for food without any luck.

The **beginning** introduces the characters and setting and sets up the story.

The characters, here the Grasshopper and ants, should have the same traits as in the original story.

MINI LESSON

Subjects and verbs should agree.

The **middle** contains events that move the plot forward. Major events should be the same as in the original story.

Use signal words and phrases to help show the order of events.



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- ⑨ Then Grasshopper remembered where he might find food. He stumbled and staggered to the ants' home.
- ⑩ "Please, won't you share your food with me?" begged Grasshopper.
- ⑪ "You should have gathered food instead of singing and dancing all summer," said the ants.
- ⑫ Grasshopper bowed his head. "You're right," he said. "I was having so much fun. I made a poor choice. But I can do better in the future."
- ⑬ The ants chatted. Then they smiled at Grasshopper.
- ⑭ "We will keep you warm and well fed," said one ant. "Next year, however, you must plan ahead and gather food for winter."
- ⑮ "I will. I promise!" cried the grateful grasshopper.
- ⑯ All winter, Grasshopper entertained the kind ants by singing and dancing for them on long, cold nights. The next summer, he kept his promise and gathered his own food. And in between his chores, he found time to sing and dance, too.

MINI LESSON

Nouns and pronouns should agree. A singular noun takes a singular pronoun.

A **fable** teaches a lesson.

The **end** shows how events are resolved and provides a sense of closure.



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