



# The Ant and the Grasshopper



Book, music and lyrics by Brian Hohlfeld  
Directed by Jeffery Matthews

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# The Ant and the Grasshopper



Book, music and lyrics by Brian Hohlfeld  
 Directed by Jeffery Matthews

**Musical Director**  
 Neal Richardson  
**Scenic & Costume Design**  
 Lou Bird  
**Stage Manager**  
 Sarah Allison  
**Director of Education**  
 Marsha Coplon  
**Artistic Supervisor**  
 Jeffery Matthews

## The Company

Mother Ant / **Meghan Brown**  
 Father Ant / **Chauncy Thomas**  
 Little Ant / **Carolina Reiter**  
 Grasshopper / **Jason Contini**

Financial assistance for this theatre has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Missouri Arts Council, a stage agency; the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; and the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.





# Setting the Scene



*The Ant and the Grasshopper* takes place somewhere that we can all recognize—a home. It may be made from rocks and dirt, and it may be underground, but it is a home nonetheless. Some homes are very large and some are quite small. Some people have more than one home, in more than one place. Homes are different for everyone, but the most important part of a home is the family that lives inside. Families can be very different too, as different as the homes in which they live. Some families are very large, with lots of sisters, brothers, grandparents and friends. There are also families who are very small, maybe with only one child, or one parent. Families, however, all have one thing in common, they love each other. Just like the Ants in the play, families love and help each other through thick and thin, even when the times get tough.



# Who's Who?



## LITTLE ANT

is a kid (like you!) who would much rather spend his time playing than doing work and chores.

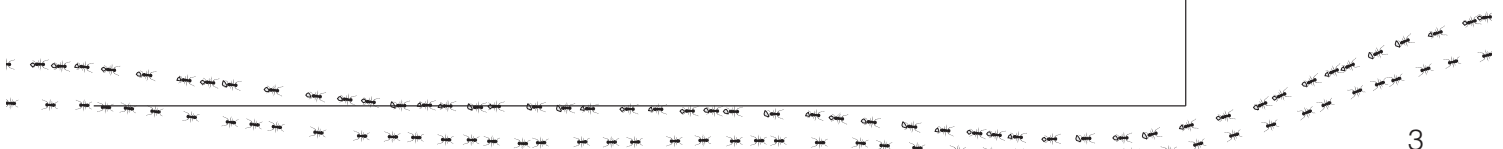
## FATHER ANT

tries to provide for his family and make sure they are safe and have everything they need. Sometimes he forgets to make time for fun instead of always working.

## Sometimes MOTHER ANT

gets caught in the middle when Father and Little Ant aren't seeing eye to eye. She knows it is important to get food for the winter, but she doesn't like to see her family get upset.

The  
**GRASSHOPPER**  
just likes to play his ukulele and have fun. He's not concerned about preparing for the future and as a result, he might have to face some tough consequences.





# Words to the Wise



**Sugar crystals:** These tiny little individual pieces of sugar are one of Father Ant's favorite treats.

**Bus fare:** This is the amount of money you must pay in order to ride a city bus.

**Pesticide:** This chemical spray is used to kill bugs, or pests.

**Responsibility:** If people can count on you and you are good at taking care of your duties, you are a responsible person.

**Ukulele:** The Grasshopper likes to play this small guitar, which was made popular in Hawaii.

**Blood vessel:** These little tubes in the body are what your blood flows through.

**Larvae:** Some insect babies are known as larvae until they grown into their adult form.

**Scrabble:** This is a popular game in which you must use a small number of letters to form different words for points.

**Geography:** This is the study of different physical features and areas on the earth's surface.

**Exoskeleton:** This is the name for the bony outside covering of an insect.

**Hospitality:** If you are kind and generous when welcoming guests into your home, you are showing hospitality.

**Foresight:** Father Ant suggests this to the Grasshopper, which means looking ahead or planning for the future.

## Read More About It

We encourage you to examine these topics in-depth by exploring the following books, videos and Web sites.

Pirotta, Saviour. *Aesop's Fables*. Kingfisher, 2005. The Ant and the Grasshopper is just one of many of Aesop's classic tales.

Greenaway, Theresa. *Big Book of Bugs*, DK Children, 2000. Learn more about ants, grasshoppers and all of their other insect friends.

Fowler, Alan. *It's a Good Thing There Are Insects*, Children's Press Chicago, 1991. Discover the science of insects—how they live, what they eat and what eats them!

*A Bug's Life*, 95 minutes, Walt Disney Video, 2003, DVD. Once again ants have to deal with grasshoppers, only this time the grasshoppers aren't so fun—they're bullies!

*Antz*, 83 minutes, Dreamworks Video, 2004, DVD. Take a look at the crazy happenings of hundreds of ants inside an anthill.

<http://www.ivyhall.district96.k12.il.us/4TH/KKHP/1insects/bugmenu.html>  
This "Amazing Insects" website contains information pages and pictures on over 50 different insects including ants, grasshoppers, butterflies and even cockroaches.

<http://www.insects.org/> This page titled "Bug Bios" gives tons of scientific information about just about every bug you can think of.

<http://www.butterflyhouse.org> This division of the Missouri Botanical Garden has tons of beautiful butterflies for you to enjoy and explore.



# From the Playwright



*The Ant and the Grasshopper* is a story about responsibility. Most people are familiar with Aesop's version, a short, Puritanical tale in which the Grasshopper suffers a horrible winter because of his lack of a work ethic. "If you don't work, you don't eat," is Aesop's moral, which the Grasshopper learns in a drastic way.

Some may be familiar with the Disney cartoon from the early '30s, which made a popular song of "The World Owes Me a Living," the Grasshopper's credo. This version ends happily for all, while examining the role of the artist in society—as the Grasshopper is taken into the ants' home in return for entertaining them—perhaps Walt Disney himself attempting to justify his career as an artist against his conservative Midwestern upbringing.

In the Imaginary Theatre Company version of the story, the Grasshopper is really the secondary character. We tell the story of the Little Ant, who, through his encounter with the charming but irresponsible Grasshopper, learns some hard lessons about life. For although the Grasshopper appears to be a happy-go-lucky guy, he misses out on the satisfaction and happiness that come from a good day's work, the approval of loved ones and taking one's place in society.

In addition to our major themes of work vs. play and responsibility vs. immaturity, *The Ant and the Grasshopper* touches on some other moral questions that every kid encounters on the playground

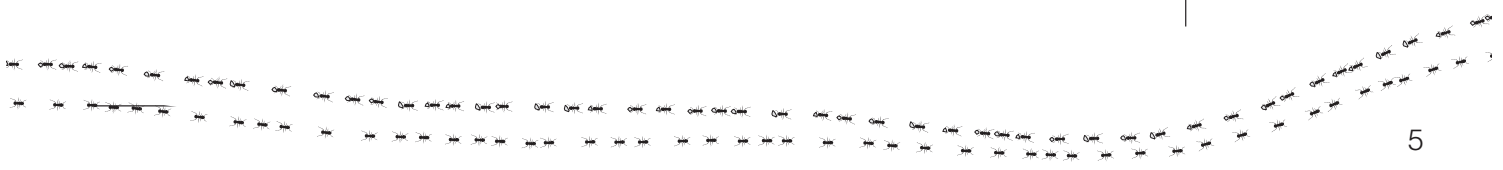
(and after growing up as well): What do you do when a friend encourages you in wrongdoing? How does it feel to find out that your good friend really isn't a friend at all? Whose approval matters more, friends or parents? Why is what's "fair" for one person "not fair" for another? The answers are by no means cut and dried. Some children may side with Little Ant's decision to stay with his parents; others may wonder why he doesn't go with the Grasshopper.

The characters of Mother Ant and Father Ant also learn a few things about raising children—about knowing when to hold them close and when to let them go. And the Grasshopper? Well, as Father Ant says, "You can't expect a tiger to change his stripes."

By the way, our production makes use of an old theatrical tradition of a woman playing a boy's role. Most children are familiar with this from the famous stage and film versions of *Peter Pan* and readily accept it. Others may need a scene or two to get used to it.

While *The Ant and the Grasshopper* can serve as a springboard for classroom discussion, first and foremost, it's a lively piece of entertainment with delightful characters and catchy songs. We hope you agree that it's fun, fun, fun.

**Brian Hohlfeld**  
Playwright





# What's the Story?



It is a lovely summer day and Little Ant would like to be playing outside with his friends, but his parents won't let him. Mother and Father Ant explain to their son that they need him to help collect breadcrumbs so the family will have enough food before the winter comes. Little Ant isn't thrilled about missing out on playtime, but he agrees to help and the three ants are hard at work until the Grasshopper shows up. Humming and strumming his ukulele, the Grasshopper asks the Ants what they are up to. Father Ant explains that they are collecting food and offers to let the Grasshopper help them. Work is not what the Grasshopper had in mind though, and he decides he'd rather just munch on some berries and have fun while the weather is still good.

Time passes as the Ants work and the Grasshopper plays. Before long it is a blustery, cold winter, and the Ants are nice and warm inside their home. They have plenty of food but the Ants soon realize they are short on one thing—fun. The family is beginning to get bored with staying inside all day when suddenly they hear a cry for help from outside. It's the Grasshopper; he's all alone, hungry and frozen in the winter wind.

It takes a while to unfreeze their new houseguest, but the Ant family warms him up and soon the Grasshopper is back to his old self. He asks for food and a place to stay until it is warm, and agrees to earn his food and shelter by keeping the family entertained. He will sing, dance, play his ukulele and teach Father Ant how to juggle. Everyone is happy with the arrangement. At least, everyone is happy for a little while.

As the days pass and the four are stuck indoors, the Grasshopper becomes

lazier and lazier. He skips his juggling lessons with Father Ant and spends more time napping than keeping his end of the bargain. While he lounges, the Grasshopper spins wonderful tales of human cities, candy stores and all sorts of adventures in the world outside. Little Ant is thrilled and hopes that when spring comes again, the Grasshopper will show him some of these fantastic things. Meanwhile, Father Ant is becoming more and more irritated with the Grasshopper's laziness. He makes a schedule—time set aside for dance lessons, finger-painting, ukulele lessons, singing and more. The Grasshopper attempts to do everything that is asked of him; however, it doesn't take long for him to feel like this play is becoming too much like work, the thing he dreads the most.

Late one night, while the ants are asleep, the Grasshopper makes his escape. Stealing Father Ant's coat and the precious brown sugar crystal he's been saving, the Grasshopper heads out into the cold on his own. The next morning, when the Ants discover what has happened, Little Ant is devastated at his friend's betrayal, and Father Ant is heartbroken at the loss of his sugar.

The rest of the winter passes quickly and Little Ant is still sad about what happened and he decides to try and forget his disappointment by throwing himself into his work. He works harder than ever, until one day the Grasshopper appears again. The sly Grasshopper tries to convince Little Ant to stop working, just like he did before. Little Ant realizes that he's got everything he needs. He knows the Grasshopper is really the one who is missing out.

Will the scoundrel ever change his ways?

# Add It Up

The Ants are having a very lucky day! While he was hiking with his friends, Little Ant discovered a whole picnic basket of food. The Ants need to get as much of the food back to their home before they are caught. Each ant is able to carry a different amount of food. Add the pieces of food together to see how much each ant can carry at once.

## Father Ant

2 apples  
+ 9 raisins  
                    

## Mother Ant

15 sugar crystals  
+ 6 seeds  
                    

10 sugar crystals  
+ 5 seeds  
                    

2 pieces of pizza  
+19 almonds  
                    

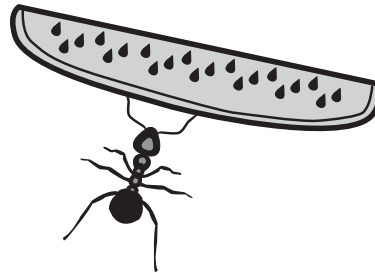
1 piece of pizza  
+15 almonds  
                    

8 sausages  
+12 cherries  
                    

4 sausages  
+13 cherries  
                    

5 pickles  
+14 crackers  
                    

3 pickles  
+12 crackers  
                    



## Little Ant

1 apple  
+ 3 raisins  
                    

7 sugar crystals  
+ 5 seeds  
                    

0 pieces of pizza  
+ 20 almonds  
                    

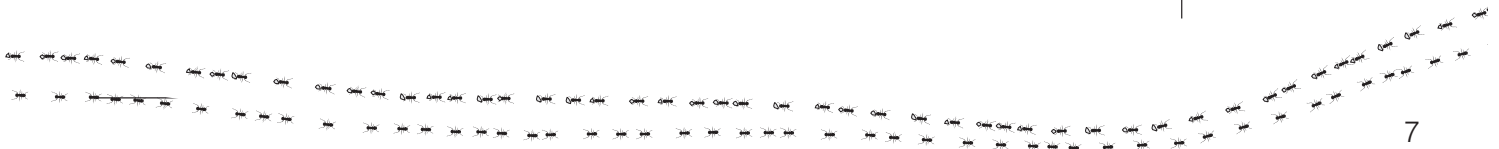
3 sausages  
+10 cherries  
                    

### Bonus:

Based on the problems you solved above, which ant do you think carried home the most food?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 pickles  
+ 7 crackers  
                    



# Are you an Ant or a Grasshopper?

Read each question below and circle A, B or C for your answer.

What's your score?

**Mostly A's:**

I'm an Ant!

If you're an ant, you're definitely a hard worker. People know they can depend on you to get the job done. You might want to remember to take some time out to have a little fun though. No one likes to work all the time!

**Mostly B's:**

I'm a Grasshopper!

If you're a grasshopper, you must be a lot of fun! Everyone likes to hang out with you, and you're the life of the party. Remember though, there is a time for work and a time for play, and you might need to take some time to make sure you've got everything done. You don't want to fail a class because you played all day instead of studying for a test!

**Mostly C's:**

I'm both!

You're both an ant and a grasshopper, which means you've got the best traits of each. You know when it's time to work and you're very reliable, but you know it's important to have fun time too. Good for you!

1. When do you do your homework?

- A. As soon as I get home on Friday. I like to be prepared.
- B. The weekend is for fun! I wait until the last moment on Sunday night.
- C. I space it out over the weekend. I know it's important to get homework done, but I need time to unwind too.

2. How do you feel about chores?

- A. I do my chores immediately, plus extra jobs.
- B. Chores? I don't do chores. They're no fun!
- C. I might not like it, but I do my chores when I'm asked so I can play later.

3. Do you save money?

- A. I save every penny I get. My piggy bank is almost overflowing.
- B. I don't save my money; it's not doing that piggy bank any good. Isn't money for spending?
- C. I save my money, but if I've been good and saved some up, I treat myself and spend a little.

4. What is your dream job?

- A. Something where I get lots of money. I don't care if I have to work all the time.
- B. Something where I can work as little as possible. I hate working; I'd rather party!
- C. Something where I can earn enough money, but I will get plenty of vacation and weekends off.

5. How much time do you spend sleeping each day?

- A. As little as possible. Sleep takes away from the time I could be getting things done.
- B. As much as I want. I take naps all the time and sometimes party all night.
- C. About 8 hours. I need my rest, so I can get going in the morning.

6. What's your favorite of the following animals?

- A. Elephants. They're slow and steady, very hard workers.
- B. Monkeys! They swing and play; they know how to have a good time.
- C. Dogs. They're good companions, like to play but also help people.



# Do It Yourself!

The Ant family often treats themselves to a delicious dessert treat of sugar crystals. You can make your very own dessert treat out of sugar crystals—rock candy! With a teacher or parent, follow the directions here and watch your crystal grow.

## You will need:

Water  
Sugar  
Clean glass or jar  
String  
Bead or paper clip  
Pencil or butter knife

## Directions:

1. Start a pot of water boiling on the stove.
2. Tie one end of a piece of string around the middle of the pencil/butter knife. The string should be long enough so that when the pencil is placed over the top of the glass, the string will come up just short of the bottom.
3. Wet the string with a little water and roll it in the sugar. Put the bead or paper clip on the end of the string to act as a weight and help the string stay straight. Lay the stick over the top of the glass jar so that the string hangs down inside the jar, but does not touch the bottom of the jar.
4. When the water has started boiling, remove it from the heat and let the water settle.
5. Stir in the sugar, one tablespoon at a time. Continue adding sugar until it starts collecting at the bottom of the pot and won't dissolve even when you stir. Then (with help from an adult) pour the hot mixture into the jar.
6. Pour the sugar solution into the glass until it is about one inch from the top.

7. Place the pencil over the jar and allow the string to dangle into the solution. Don't let the string settle on the bottom or sides of the glass.

8. Place the glass somewhere that it can sit for a while undisturbed (but do not refrigerate it). After a day or so, you should be seeing crystal growth on the string.

9. Leave the string in the solution until the crystals are big enough for you or have completely stopped growing.

10. Remove the string from the glass and let dry.

11. Enjoy!

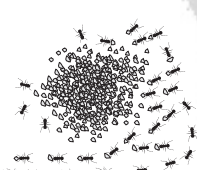
## Tips:

- Make sure an adult is supervising since you will be boiling water.
- If you want colored or flavored crystals, you can add lemon juice or food coloring to the sugar as you boil.
- Do not put your fingers in the jar. This disrupts the forming process of the crystalline structure.
- Instead of a bead or paper clip, try weighting down your string with a small piece of candy. This will attract the sugar to your string and help the crystals form faster.



## How does it work?

The water-sugar mixture is saturated at boiling temperature (this means that it cannot dissolve any more sugar). When the mixture lowers in temperature it becomes super-saturated—meaning that it contains more sugar than it should at that temperature. When the mixture realizes that it has more sugar than it should, the excess sugar crystallizes on the string.



# Work and Play

In *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, Little Ant learns a very important lesson about being responsible. Responsibility means that when there is something important to be done, your friends and family can count on you and know that you will do the right thing. The Grasshopper tries to persuade Little Ant to ignore his duties and just go out and play, but Little Ant learns that sometimes there are jobs that are more important than playtime.

Everyone has different responsibilities. Teachers are responsible for teaching their students. Parents are responsible for taking care of their kids. The President is responsible for taking care of the whole country! Sometimes it might not be the most fun thing to do, but responsibilities are important and make sure that everyone has what they need to be healthy, safe and happy.

## What are your responsibilities?

Maybe you have chores to do at home, a pet to take care of or an instrument to practice. Write down five of your responsibilities.

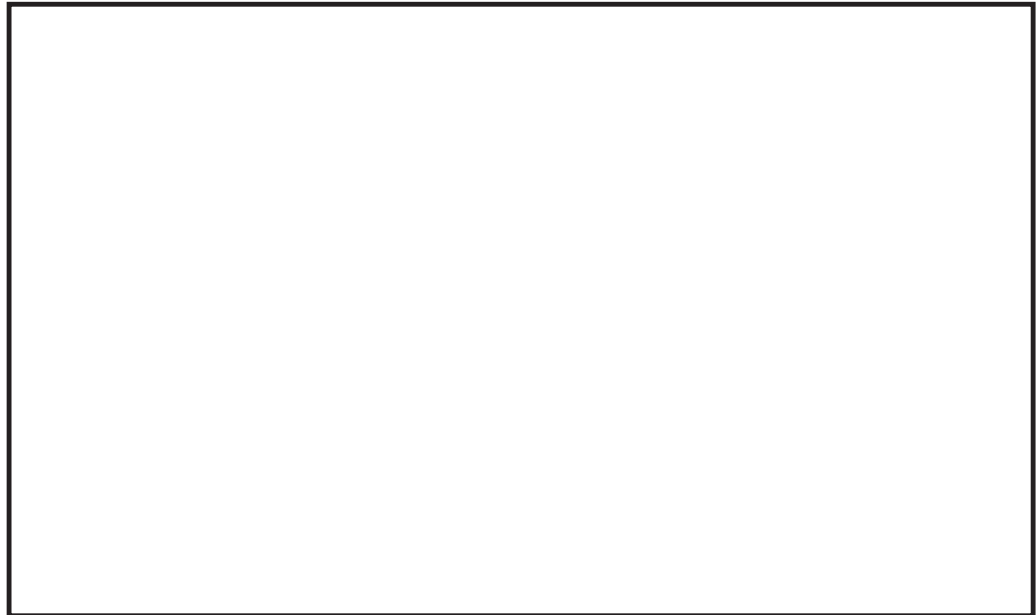
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Why are responsibilities

important? If you don't show up for your soccer game, the whole team may worry about you and wonder where you are. If you are part of a team, you are responsible for practicing hard and doing your best for your team. For the responsibilities you listed above, write down why your responsibilities are important and who else they might affect.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Even though responsibilities can seem like tough jobs sometimes, some of our responsibilities might be fun! If you're responsible for taking care of your dog, one thing you might do is help him get some exercise by playing fetch outside. In the box draw a picture of your favorite or most fun responsibility.





# Bugs, bugs, BUGS!

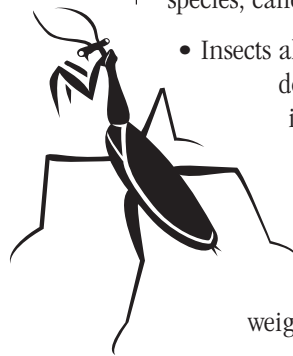


*The Ant and the Grasshopper* show us a little about these two kinds of bugs and how they live. Out in the big wide world, however, there are so many more buggy friends you can get to know. Here are some interesting facts about insects. If you like what you see here, maybe you'd like to do a little more research and find out about your favorite creepy crawl creature!

- Scientists estimate that for every one person on earth, there are at least 200 million insects crawling around! And as we explore deeper into the oceans and rainforests of our planet, we continue to find new and stranger species everywhere we look.

- There are almost 20,000 different kinds of grasshoppers and some estimates show nearly 110,000 different ants.

- Insects come in all different sizes. Adult insects range in size from a 0.139 millimeter Mymarid wasp to a 55.5 centimeter long Stick insect.



- The study of insects is called *entomology* and a person who studies insects is known as an *entomologist*.

- Although we usually think of them as pests, most bugs are very useful to humans and to the earth. Insects help us pollinate flowers and crops, and they also make us things like honey, wax and silk.

- Some characteristics of insects are wings, antennae and a segmented body, but one sure way to tell if a bug is an insect is to look at the number of legs. Insects all have three pairs or six legs. That means spiders aren't really insects at all! Spiders are their own species, called *arachnids*.

- Insects all have special abilities and some do quite exceptional things. Some insects are able to camouflage themselves to look exactly like their surroundings. Our friend the grasshopper can jump 40 times the length of his body, and ants can carry objects that weigh 100 times their own weight.

## Insect Activity

Choose an insect and write it on the line.

\_\_\_\_\_

Write down five unique and interesting facts about your insect. You might want to include things like where it lives, how big it is and what it eats.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of your insect in the box.



- Ant
- Aphid
- Beetle
- Butterfly
- Chigger
- Cricket
- Dragon Fly
- Dust Mite
- Earwig
- Firefly
- Flea
- Glow Worm
- Honey Bee
- Kissing Bug
- Lacewing
- Ladybug
- Locust
- Millipede
- Moth
- Praying Mantis
- Silkworm
- Stinkbug
- Termite
- Wasp
- Yellow Jacket

# Army Ants on the March

Help the ant get the food to his friends.

