

C. THE ANT AND THE CRICKET

Read
in
Rhythm

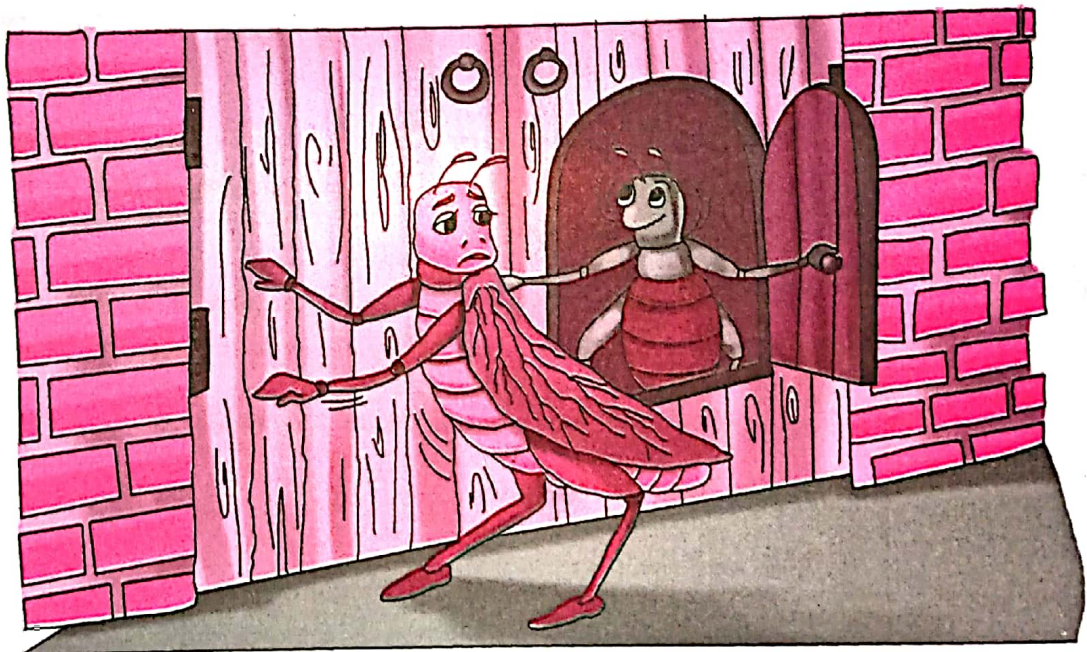
A silly young cricket, accustomed to sing
Through the warm, sunny months of gay summer and spring,
Began to complain when he found that at home
His cupboard was empty and winter was come.

5 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?"

10 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

15 Him shelter from rain;
 A mouthful of grain
 He wished only to borrow,
 He'd repay it tomorrow;

If not, he must die of starvation and sorrow.



Class-notes :

20 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 sir, did you lay nothing by
When the weather was warm?" Said the cricket, "Not I.
My heart was so light,
That I sang day and night,
25 For all nature looked gay."
"You sang, sir, you say?
Go then," said the ant, "and dance winter away."
Thus ending, he hastily lifted the wicket
And out of the door turned the poor little cricket.
30 Though this is a fable the moral is good:
If you live without work, you must live without food.

C.1.

Find from the poem words which have the following meanings:

1. used to something; having the habit of doing something.
2. very small piece of bread, cake or biscuit.
3. suffering or death caused by lack of food.
4. falling in drops.
5. save or keep something for future use.
6. small door or grilled window.
7. short story not based on fact, often with animals or birds as characters.

C.2.

Copy and complete the following statements briefly:

1. The cricket did nothing but sang during _____.
2. When winter came the cricket became worried because _____.
3. The cricket went to the ant so that _____.
4. The ant refused to _____.
5. I think the ant did the right thing because _____.

C.3.

Work in pairs. Retell the story of the Ant and the Cricket in the form of a dialogue:

Cricket : O Ant dear ! I'm feeling so cold and hungry. Please lend me something to eat.

Ant : Why! Haven't you got anything to eat in your own larder?

Cricket :

C.4.

Complete the following summary of the poem by filling ONE word in each blank space :

A foolish cricket sang all _____ and spring. It stored up no _____ for the coming winter. So when winter came, it had _____ to eat. Driven by starvation, it went to an _____ for food. The ant asked the cricket why it had not laid _____ anything during the warm days. The cricket replied that it _____ all the time in singing. "Then you should spend the winter in dancing," said the ant, and _____ the cricket out of the door.

C.5.

Work in pairs.

1. Tell the story of the poem from the Cricket's point of view:

I used to sing all time during the warm days of.....

2. Tell the story of the poem from the Ant's point of view:

One day in winter a cricket came.....

C.6.

The moral of this poem is :

One who lives without work must also live without food.

But some people don't work, and yet are given food to eat. What have you to say about them ?

Arrange a discussion on this topic.

