

(WHEN ALL READERS ARE IN PLACE, THE READING BEGINS.)

READER 1: Spring had arrived and the weather was beautiful. The animals loved the feel of the warm sun. Gerald Grasshopper loved the spring, and he sang a little song as he danced.

(GRASSHOPPER STANDS AND DANCES AS HE SINGS THE SONG. HE MAY SING SONG TO THE TUNE OF "LONDON BRIDGE," MAKE UP AN ORIGINAL TUNE, OR CHANT SONG TO A RAP BEAT. NOTE: READERS MAY WISH TO REWRITE GERALD'S SONG TO SUIT THEIR OWN TASTES. HE SITS AFTER HIS SONG IS FINISHED.)

2/GRASSHOPPER: I am happy, hear me sing.
Hear me sing, hear me sing.
I am happy, hear me sing.
I like to sing in spring.

READER 3: Grasshopper liked to sing, but he did not like to work. Gerald Grasshopper danced and sang and had a very good time.

READER 4: Now, Gerald Grasshopper was a popular fellow with the animals. He never seemed to worry about anything. He had lots of friends, but his friends were often busy.

(GERALD MOTIONS FOR ANNABELLE TO JOIN HIM.)

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2/GRASSHOPPER: Annabelle Ant, why are you lugging that big bread crumb on your back? Put it down and come dance with me. The flowers are blooming and the birds are singing. Come dance with me.

READER 1: Annabelle Ant smiled at Gerald Grasshopper, but she didn't put down the bread crumb.

5/ANNABELLE: I'm collecting food for winter. The nice weather doesn't last forever. We must be prepared. You should gather some food for yourself.

2/GRASSHOPPER: Nice weather doesn't last forever. That is why we should dance and sing. I'll worry about food for bad weather when we have bad weather.

READER 3: Gerald Grasshopper danced through the fields and sang his song of spring.

(GERALD GRASSHOPPER MAY DANCE AS HE SINGS HIS SONG AND MOTION TO ANTS TO JOIN HIM.)

2/GRASSHOPPER: I am happy, hear me sing.
Hear me sing, hear me sing.
I am happy, hear me sing.
I like to sing in spring.

READER 4: Annabelle Ant and her friends, Arlene and Adrian, watched as Gerald Grasshopper danced.

(THREE ANTS STAND AND LOOK AT GERALD.)

5/ANNABELLE: Arlene, I'm afraid Gerald will be sorry when cold weather comes. He won't have any food.

(6/ARLENE PLACES HANDS ON HIPS.)

6/ARLENE: Oh, Annabelle! Work, work, work. I want to play. I want to go dance and sing with Gerald. Want to join me Adrian?

7/ADRIAN: We can dance tonight, after we have gathered our allotment of food for today.

5/ANNABELLE: We can play games in the winter when we are snug and warm in our home.

6/ARLENE: I'd rather play right now.

(ANNABELLE AND ADRIAN CONSOLE ARLENE. ALL ANTS LOOK AT DANCING GERALD, THEN SIT.)

READER 4: The ants looked at Gerald wistfully, and then continued their work. They walked slowly to their home, each carrying a morsel of food.

(ANTS MOVE SHOULDERS BACKWARD AND FORWARD AS IF WALKING WITH A HEAVY BURDEN. ANTS STOP WHEN READER BEGINS.)

READER 1: Spring passed quickly, and during the spring, the ants had gathered many morsels of food into their home.

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READER 3: Summer arrived, and the longer days gave Gerald Grasshopper even more time for his singing and dancing.

READER 4: Gerald sang and danced, while his ant friends worked.

(GRASSHOPPER STANDS AND DANCES AS HE SINGS HIS SONG. THE SONG MAY BE SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "LONDON BRIDGE," AN ORIGINAL TUNE, OR, CHANTED TO A RAP BEAT. HE RESUMES SEAT AFTER SINGING.)

2/GRASSHOPPER: Watch me as I dance and play.
Dance and play, dance and play.
Watch me as I dance and play,
Dance and play this summer day.

READER 1: Gerald Grasshopper loved the long summer days.

READER 3: Gerald had lots of time to dance, sing, and play with his friends.
He had fun all day and slept soundly at night.

READER 4: Gerald wanted the ants to have as much fun as he was having.

READER 1: He thought of a plan to share his love of summer with Annabelle.

2/GRASSHOPPER: Annabelle, let me carry you on my back and show you a beautiful creek with flowers growing on the bank. Let me take you to a town to look at people. Let me - -

(ANNABELLE ANT HOLDS HANDS IN FRONT OF BODY TO INDICATE THAT GRASSHOPPER SHOULD STOP MAKING SUGGESTIONS.)

5/ANNABELLE: I can't go today. We found a big piece of cake near a trash bin. We are all working to get that cake back to our home. We only have about half of our supply of food for winter.

(GRASSHOPPER WIPES PRETEND PERSPIRATION FROM HIS FOREHEAD.)

2/GRASSHOPPER: Winter! Why worry about winter when the weather is this hot.

5/ANNABELLE: We must be ready. These summer days will pass quickly.

2/GRASSHOPPER: You're right. I need to have lots of fun while the summer lasts.

READER 3: Gerald hopped off to see if he could find other insects or animals who were not as busy as his ant friends. After all, it was summer. He sang as he danced away.

(GRASSHOPPER DANCES AS HE SINGS HIS SONG.)

2/GRASSHOPPER: Watch me as I dance and play.
Dance and play, dance and play.
Watch me as I dance and play,
Dance and play this summer day.