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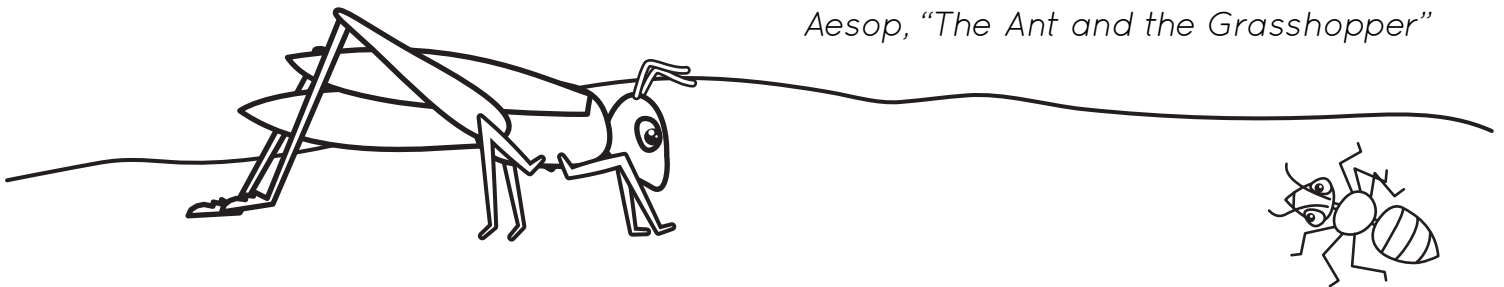
Author's Purpose: The Ant and the Grasshopper

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions below.

Once there was an ant and a grasshopper who lived in a field. Every day, Ant got up early and walked far to gather seeds. She balanced one seed on her head at a time, walked it back to her home, and then went again to the field to gather more. She was very small, so the walk was very long. She worked the whole day, without ever stopping to rest. As Ant worked, Grasshopper spent his days playing music, lazing in the sun. "Why do you work so hard, Ant?" he laughed. "Summer is here! Why waste the sunshine gathering seeds?" Ant replied, "I'm storing food for the winter when there won't be anything to eat!" Grasshopper laughed and said, "Why are you worrying about winter now? There is plenty of food!" He continued to play, while Ant got back to work.

When winter came, Grasshopper could not find any food to eat. He was starving and felt very weak. When he noticed how hardworking Ant had plenty of food to eat, he realized how foolish he had been.

Aesop, "The Ant and the Grasshopper"



1. Is this passage fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

2. What do you think the author's purpose was? Why?
