

Story 968 (1961, Dictated)

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The Ant and the Field Cricket¹

Once there were an ant and a field cricket who were acquainted with each other. Even though it was summertime, the ant was hard at work gathering a food supply for the following winter. The weather was very hot, but still the ant worked with all of his strength and all of his courage preparing everything for winter

While the ant was working in this way, the field cricket spent his time wandering about the countryside singing. When he saw the ant, he laughed and said to him, "How foolish you are to be working so hard during this fine weather! Come along with me. Let us sing and dance and spend our time in pleasure!" But the ant refused this invitation and went right on working.

The nice summer days passed into autumn, and then the winter came. It began to grow very cold. Snow began to fall

¹There is an obvious similarity between this fable and the Aesopian fable of "The Ant and the Grasshopper."

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and strong winds began to blow. The ant, however, was very comfortable in his snug house. One night he heard a knock on his door, and when he opened it, he found the field cricket upon his doorstep. The cricket begged the ant for some food.

The ant laughed and said, "While I was working last summer, you were singing and making fun of me. Now I shall not help you!" Having said this, he shut the door and locked it. The field cricket was left alone in the dark, cold night.