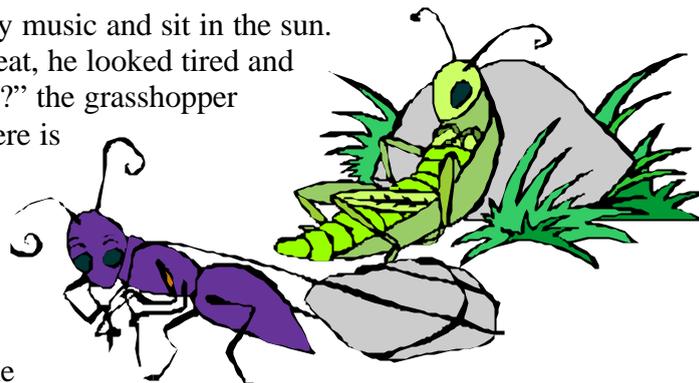




## The Ant and the Grasshopper

In the summer the grasshopper was content to play music and sit in the sun. The ant kept scurrying past carrying grains of wheat, he looked tired and hot. “Why are you bustling about in this weather?” the grasshopper asked the ant. “I’m preparing for winter when there is less food, and so should you!” he replied. The grasshopper ignored the advice of the ant, she was enjoying the sunshine far too much to start collecting food for the winter. So she lay on the warm grass and listened to her music again.



In the winter the grass was cold and frosty, and the wind howled across the fields. The ant was happy in his home because his larder was full of corn and wheat. He knew that he had enough food to last for the entire winter. The grasshopper was starting to get hungry, it was too cold for the grass outside to grow and she had no food. She knew that the ant would have some food, so she went out into the cold wind and walked to the ant’s house. “Please may I have some of your food?” she begged. The ant was angry because he had worked so hard to collect enough food for the long winter months ahead. “If you hadn’t been so lazy and had prepared for the winter like I suggested, you wouldn’t be hungry now. I don’t have any extra food for you.” The ant went back to his warm fire and stocked cupboards, leaving the lazy grasshopper out in the cold.

This is an interpretation of a story from a collection of tales called **Aesop’s Fables**.

This is a **Fable** – fables are stories with a hidden meaning which is called a **moral**.

Most fables are about animals like ‘The ant and the grasshopper’ and ‘The hare and the tortoise’, but some include people like ‘The boy who cried wolf’.

### Class questions and activities.

- 1 Read the first part of the story. Can you predict how it will end?
- 2 What have the ant and the grasshopper learnt, does this link with the message of the story? What do you think the message is?
- 3 Write a similar story based on the message of the ant and the grasshopper. Maybe you could use people instead of animals, like in ‘The boy who cried wolf’. Maybe you could make it into a modern day story.
4. Plan out a cartoon storyboard to illustrate the story.
5. Look for descriptive words in the story, can you think of other descriptive words that you could use to describe the ant or the grasshopper?
6. Look at the words used to replace ‘said’. Talk about why these are better.
7. Look at the apostrophes in the story. They are used differently, can you see how they are used?
8. Find other versions of Aesop’s Fables and work out the message behind the stories?

## Charles Dickens

There are lots of other examples of things written about crickets and grasshoppers.

Charles Dickens wrote a series of Christmas books. One of them was called “The Cricket on the Hearth”. A quote from the book is “*To have a Cricket on the Hearth, is the luckiest thing in all the world!*”.

The cricket that Charles Dickens was writing about was probably a species called *Gryllus campestris*, the black field-cricket.



### Class questions.

What is a “Hearth”?

## The Bible

There are many references to locusts in the Bible.

In St Matthew Chapter 3 Verse 4, John ate locusts and wild honey. In some parts of the world people still eat locusts cooked with honey today!



In Amos Chapter 7 Verse 13, Moses warns the people before entering the Promised Land that if they will not obey the laws of the Lord, they will “carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.”

This means that the farmer will sow some seeds that will grow into a food crop, however locusts will eat the plants before the farmer is able to harvest the crop.

## Locust Poems

This is a poem about a locust called “Locust” by Kristy Overton.

The shell of dry and crumbling skin  
Holds nothing but the air within.  
The body’s gone, the soul’s departed –  
We’re left with less than when we started –  
The faded form alone remains  
To wash away with coming rains.

### Class questions and activities.

What do you think this is referring to? (Try to think about the life-cycle of the locust).

What can you say about the style of the poem, for example, does it rhyme?

Can you write a poem about an insect? Think about what style to use and how many verses it should have. Remember poems do not always have to rhyme.