

Ant and Grasshopper

Language Arts

Genre

Plays are stories that can be acted out.

Literary Elements

Setting refers to the time and place of the play.

Characters refer to the individuals or persons in the play.

based on Aesop's Fable

Characters: Narrator, Ant, Grasshopper

Setting: a meadow with an ant hill in the summer

Scene 1

Narrator: It was summer in the meadow. Most of the insects were working hard to gather food.

Grasshopper: What a beautiful summer day! Ant, why are you working so hard? Come play leaf hop with me!

Ant: I am putting away food for winter so I will not be hungry. I don't have time for playing games.

Grasshopper: Winter is so far away. You have plenty of time!

Ant: Winter lasts as long as summer. You have to be ready! I think you should save some food.

Grasshopper: I'll do it next week. There is no rush.

Narrator: Week after week, Ant worked. Week after week, Grasshopper played leaf hop.

Scene 2

Narrator: Soon winter came. The meadow was covered with snow. There was no food to be found.

Grasshopper: Ant, please help me. I am cold and hungry.

Ant: Oh Grasshopper, you did not plan. I will give you some food, but next summer you must gather food for yourself.

Narrator: Ant gave Grasshopper some food. Ant also taught Grasshopper an important lesson!



Connect and Compare



1. Why is the setting of the play important to the action? **Setting**
2. Think about the play and the story *Splish! Splash!* How do the animals in both selections meet their needs? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find out more about fables at
www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Summary

Writer's Craft

Topic Sentence

A **topic sentence** is at the beginning of a paragraph. It tells the reader the main idea of the paragraph. The other sentences give supporting details.

①

Notes

Chimpanzees, Africa.

②

Notes

rocks
sticks

③

Notes

take leaves off the
sticks, poke sticks
in termite hill, eat
insects off stick

Chimps Use Tools

by Jewel W.

Chimps use simple tools to get food. In Africa, they use rocks to crack open nuts. Chimps can also use sticks to get and eat termites from termite hills.

I wrote a good topic sentence about my main idea.

My summary includes correct capitalization and punctuation.

Your Turn

Write a summary about animal needs or behaviors. Find out facts about the topic. Look at reference books, the Internet, or other resources. Take notes on what you find out. Use your notes to write a summary. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Organization:** Did I write a good **topic sentence**?
- Ideas:** Does my summary tell the important ideas with no extra details?
- Conventions:** Did I capitalize the first word in each sentence and any proper nouns? Is my punctuation correct?
- Organization:** Is my summary just one to three sentences long?