

The ant and the grasshopper

It was autumn. The leaves were frosty and the ground was as hard as an axe blade.

The ants were busy moving grains of wheat from their store into the anthill.

A grasshopper happened to hop by. It was cold and almost starving for it had not had a nibble in weeks. It stopped and asked the ants if they would share a morsel of food.

“What were you doing this summer?” asked the ants who had been busy all summer long storing food for winter.

“Why I was busy singing all day and all night,” replied the grasshopper.

“Well then,” said the ants, “as you kept yourself so busy all summer with singing, you can keep yourself busy all winter by dancing.”

Then they shut their food store and disappeared into their nest.

1. What season is this story set in?
2. What had the ants been doing all summer?
3. What did the grasshopper say it had been doing all summer?
4. What did the ants tell the grasshopper to do when he asked for food?
5. Why did the ants not want to share their food with the grasshopper?