The Ant and the Dove

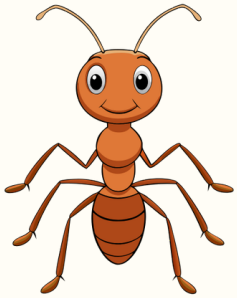
Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

The Ant and the Dove



On a hot summer day, a thirsty ant crawled down to the edge of a stream for a drink. As she leaned over, she slipped and fell into the rushing water.

The current carried her away. She kicked her tiny legs, but she could not reach the bank.

High in a tree above the stream sat a dove. She saw the ant struggling. Quickly, the dove plucked a leaf and dropped it into the water beside the ant.

The ant climbed onto the leaf and floated safely to the shore. "Thank you, friend," she called up to the dove.

Not long after, a hunter crept into the woods with a net. He spotted the dove resting on a low branch and quietly crept closer, ready to throw.

The ant saw what was happening. She raced across the ground, climbed onto the hunter's foot and bit him as hard as she could. "Ouch!" he shouted, jumping in pain. The noise startled the dove, and she flew away to safety.

Moral: *One good turn deserves another.*

The Ant and the Dove

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did the ant go to the stream?

(a) To swim
(b) To get a drink
(c) To find food

2. How did the dove save the ant?

(a) She flew down and grabbed her.
(b) She dropped a leaf into the water.
(c) She called other ants.

3. What did the hunter want to do?

(a) Catch the dove with a net
(b) Pick flowers
(c) Fish in the stream

4. How did the ant save the dove?

(a) She bit the hunter's foot.
(b) She warned the dove with a song.
(c) She hid the net.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How are the two halves of this story alike?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How are the two halves of this story alike?**
   In both halves, one animal is in danger and the other animal quickly finds a way to save it.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   One good turn deserves another.