



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	APRIL 2024-25
WORKSHEET 3	Topic: The Ant and the Cricket	Note: to be done in the notebook

SUMMARY

A fable is a story, often with animals as characters, that conveys a moral. This poem about an ant and a cricket contains an idea of far-reaching significance, which is as true of a four-legged cricket as of a 'two-legged one'. Surely, you have seen a cricket that has two legs. The theme of the poem 'The Ant and the Cricket' is that "if we enjoy today then we will surely suffer tomorrow". In the poem, the cricket suffers from hunger in winter because he enjoyed summer and spring and didn't save anything for the cold. But the ants did work day and night in summer for winter. In the end, the poet concludes by saying that he thinks this fable is quite true. Many human beings do not care about the future. They thus repent when the time is gone. The story teaches us that we shall not behave like cricket. We shall always prepare for the future so that in difficult times we do not have to beg others for help. It also teaches us that we shall also be helpful to others, unlike the ant.



WORKING WITH THE POEM (Page 23)

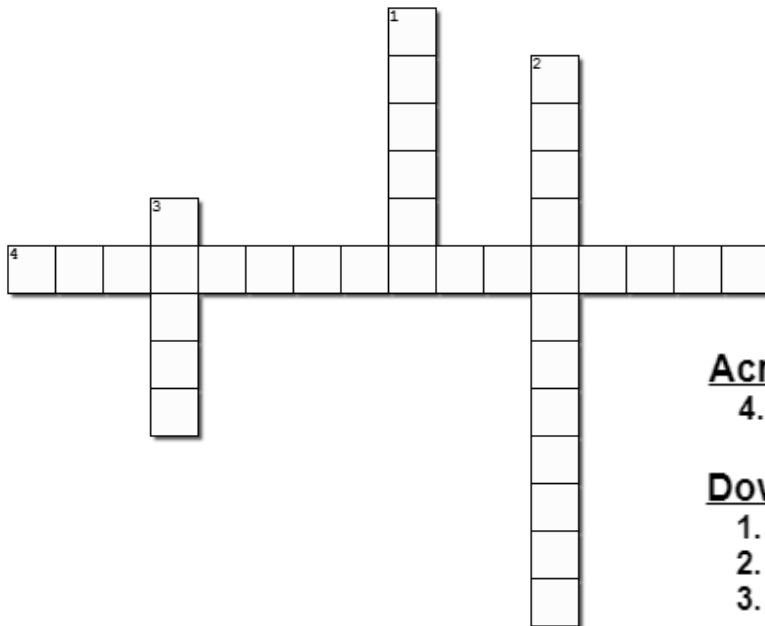
1. The cricket says, "Oh! What will become of me?" When does he say it, and why?
Ans: The cricket speaks these words when he is in his home and he says it because he finds no food to eat in winter.
2. (i) Find in the poem the lines that mean the same as "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" (Shakespeare).
Ans: The line is: But we ants never borrow; we ants never lend.
(ii) What is your opinion of the ant's principles?
Ans: The ant's principle is not bad. It teaches a lesson to everybody to plan for the rainy day.
3. The ant tells the cricket to "dance the winter away." Do you think the word 'dance' is appropriate here? If so, why?
Ans: The word 'dance' here means 'merry-making and wasting time.' It is appropriate here. The irresponsible cricket does not deserve any sympathy.
4. (i) Which lines in the poem express the poet's comment?
Ans: The poet's comment is expressed in the last two lines.
"Folks call this a fable, I'll warrant it true."



(ii) Write the comment in your own words.

Ans: People say that this story of the cricket and the ant is imaginary or a fable with a moral. But I think that the story is true and educative. Some people live only in the present. They spend what they earn, and make merry. But they regret this habit later on.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

4. in the habit of singing

Down

1. scarcity of food
2. save nothing
3. said

ANSWER

