

Life Principle: Responsibility

The Ant and the Grasshopper –Aesop

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great [toil](#) an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and [moiling](#) in that way?" "I'm helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant," and recommend you to do the same." "Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present." But the ant went on its way and continued to toil. When the winter came the grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the grasshopper knew: *"It is best to prepare for the days of necessity."*

[ESL Printables for The Ant and the Grasshopper](#) - All Ages [Teacher's Guide for The Ants and the Grasshopper](#)

Step 1: Question Focus: "Responsibility"

[Question Focus Technique Resource](#)

Step 2: Produce Questions.

Rules for producing questions:

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Change any statements into questions.
3. Write down every question exactly as stated.
4. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.

Step 3: Improve the Questions.

- 1) Identify open and closed-ended questions.
- 2) Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.

Example: *Closed to open*

What was the Grasshopper's response to the ant's recommendation?

What are some responses that the ant could have made to the Grasshopper's question, "Why bother about winter?"