

The Ant and the Butterfly



One day, an ant was carrying a piece of bread into his house in a tree hole. A butterfly sitting on a leaf looked down at the ant. 'What's that?' The butterfly was very curious about what the ant was doing. So he asked. 'Hello, Ant! What are you doing? Let's play!' 'Hello, Butterfly! I would like to play too, but not now. The rainy season is about to start, so I must store up a lot of food,'



the ant answered, breathing hard.



'Ant, there is so much food around. Why do you need to work so hard? Look over there. Do you see my friend in the grass?' The butterfly pointed to his friend in the grass. 'Who's that?' 'That's Grasshopper. He doesn't worry about anything. He says that we don't have to work because there's food everywhere. He sings well and makes me happy. Because of him, I don't



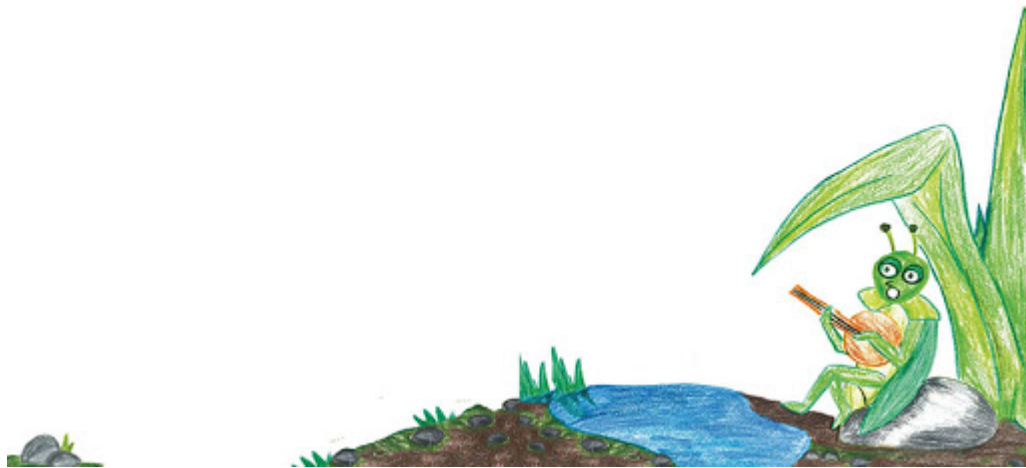
worry about anything.' the butterfly said proudly. 'Oh, I see...' But the ant continued to work. 'Ant, think about it. I just sing, but I have lots to eat, and I don't worry about anything. Poor Ant; you should play more.' The butterfly laughed at the ant. The ant just bowed. 'I have to work hard now to collect food for my family to eat during the rainy season. I want to play too, like you,



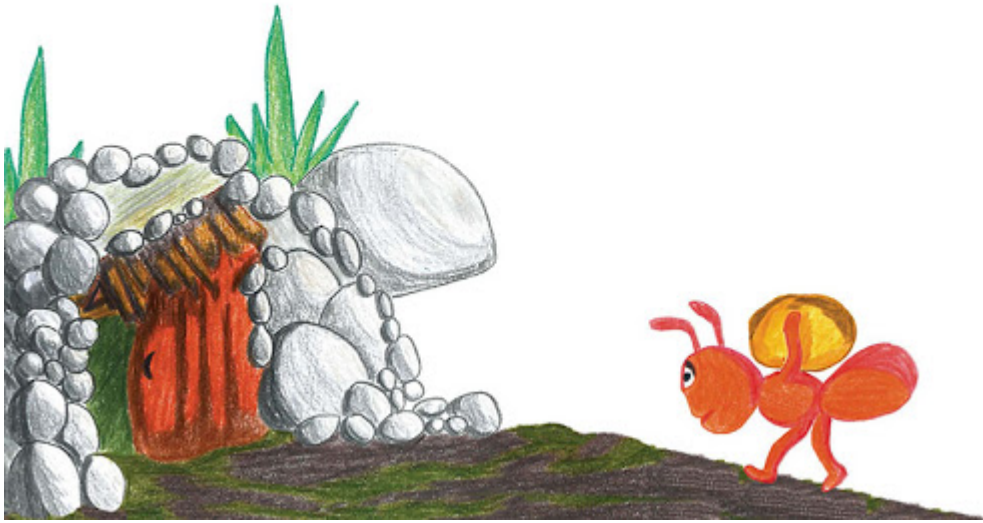
but...' the ant said, sadly So every day, the ant worked hard. One bit of bread, two bits, three bits.... He worked hard putting food into his house in the tree hole. 'One, two, three, four... Now, I only need to collect a few more. I'm so tired. But I can do it! If I work harder, my family can live happily.' The ant cheered himself on.



The next day, the butterfly continued to play and didn't worry about anything. 'La la la, la la la... What a beautiful morning. Na na na, na na na... What a beautiful day.' sang the butterfly happily. 'It's a beautiful day today! I think I'll eat breakfast now!' The butterfly sipped sweet nectar from the flowers. Then the butterfly saw the grasshopper. 'Good morning, Grasshopper!



What should we play today?
And the butterfly and the
grasshopper played all day
long.



The butterfly and the grasshopper were playing here and there and saw the ant passing by with its heavy load 'Grasshopper, look at Ant. He works and works every day without rest. Even when there is so much to eat,' said the butterfly, laughing while watching the ant. 'Really! Oh, poor silly Ant!' answered Grasshopper, also laughing.



A week later, it began to rain. It was a typhoon, and the torrents of rain it brought caused great flooding. None of the animals and insects could go out to find food. But the ant was relaxing, safe at home with his family. The ant family had stored a lot of food, so they did not need to go outside in the rain to find more. Suddenly, the wind blew the ant's window



wide open. When he got up to close it, the ant was surprised at what he saw. Butterfly and Grasshopper were there in the rain, outside the window. 'Butterfly, Grasshopper! Where are you going? The typhoon is too strong and dangerous. You should go home now!' 'We need to find something to eat because we are very hungry, Ant,' answered Butterfly,



shivering. 'No! Butterfly, you need to go home now! It's very dangerous!' shouted Ant. But Butterfly and his friend Grasshopper had no choice but to try to find food outside



The butterfly and the grasshopper searched around for food in the rain and eventually fell into some water. 'Butterfly! Grasshopper!' Ant wanted to help Butterfly and Grasshopper, but he couldn't go outside. The whole village was flooded, and it was too dangerous to go anywhere. Then, two hungry birds saw the butterfly and the



grasshopper helpless in the water and ate them up. 'Oh, poor Butterfly and Grasshopper.' Ant couldn't do anything. He felt sad. Then Ant remembered what Grandfather Ant had told him when he was young. 'If you don't prepare for tomorrow, there will be no tomorrow. So always work hard.' Ant closed his eyes and prayed for Butterfly and Grasshopper. 'Help! Help!'



'If you don't prepare for tomorrow, there will be no tomorrow. So always work hard' is something that children are always reminded of in the Philippines. The Philippine proverb, 'If you put something away now, then you will have something later' is similar to the Korean saying 'There is no winter for those who do not prepare in summer.' If



kids are reminded of these sayings often, more and more will learn to prepare for tomorrow.



Since I was young, I have loved to participate in poetry, speech, essay, storytelling, and fairy tale competitions. Even though my Korean is not good, I have been active in the things I like. I tell Koreans about my culture and customs through multicultural, bilingual lectures and storytelling and translating. Through this Multi-value, Multi-together



Children's Book Contest,
I have had the chance to
do something fun with a
children's book. I chose
a famous story from the
Philippines called, 'The Ant
and the Butterfly'



Scientists are still using their knowledge, wisdom and advanced technology to search for another 'Earth' in the universe where humans can live. There are too many planets in the universe to count. But surprisingly, only the Earth is uninhabitable for humans.

This fact gives us special impressions and enlightenment. I am even more impressed with



those women from other countries who came to Korea to work together to write. We live in one world. We are a 'global family' from many countries.

A family must trust each other, rely on each other, and care for each other. A family should offer a hug first, smile first, and give kindness first. A family must be together in pain, overcome suffering



together, and walk together. I admire all those who wrote great stories in these 'Multi-value, Multi-together' children's books. Because all of them, despite being tired from working, child-rearing, housekeeping, and caring for the elderly, were still able to finish their work. And it must have been even more difficult for them to write in Korean. But then, it is an astonishing power they



have, that writing one time can't compare to speaking hundred times.

The power to express one's thoughts more clearly. The power to communicate more politely with other people. The power to educate their children more fairly. They have this power.

I recommend that this project should be continued in the future, giving pride and hope to many

immigrant women and their families.

Kyung-sil Roh Writer





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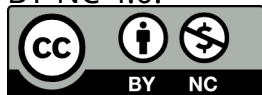
Let's Read! is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia. booksforasia.org

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Original Story

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