

The Ants and the Grasshopper

The ants had been working from dawn until dusk
Through spring and through bright summer days
Gathering their food and storing it well
Before the snow and the cold winter haze

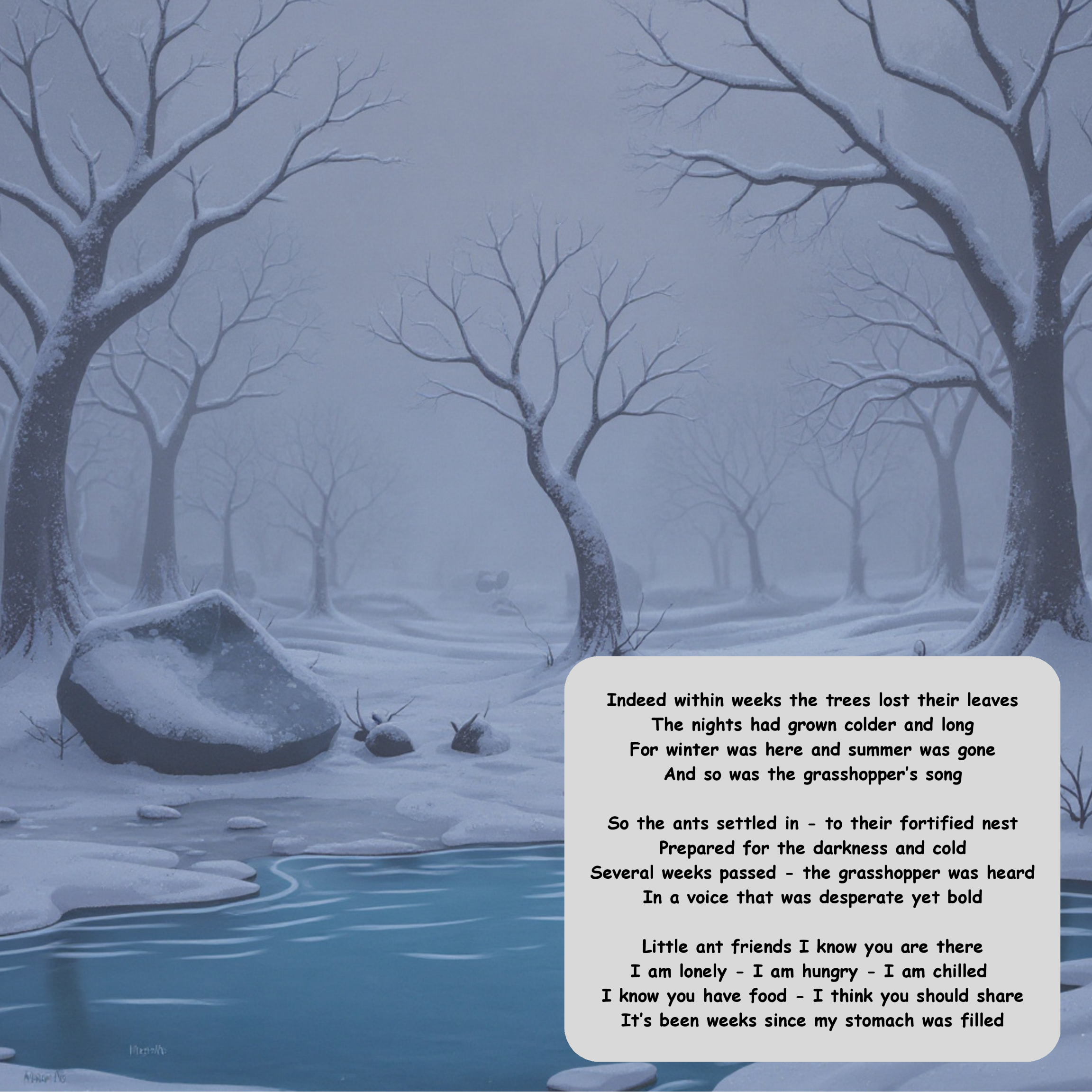
The grasshopper mocked - and he made fun of them
As he played his old mandolin
He sang and he danced round the ants carelessly
As he made a ridiculous din

Winter is coming - will you be prepared
A little ant curiously asked
The arrogant grasshopper pompously scoffed
Summer has not even passed

The fields are all ripe - the tree leaves are green
I have not a care in the world
You should enjoy this time little ant
And he played - and he danced - and he swirled

The little ant was tempted to join in the fun
But something about it seemed wrong
For winter was coming and the weather would change
And he knew that they didn't have long

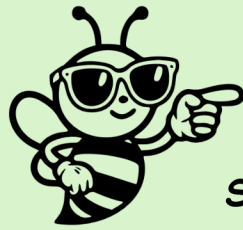


A winter landscape with snow-covered trees and a stream. The scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with a cool color palette of blues and greys. In the foreground, a stream flows through a snowy field, with several large, smooth rocks partially submerged. The trees are bare and their branches are heavily laden with snow. The background is a misty, snow-covered forest.

**Indeed within weeks the trees lost their leaves
The nights had grown colder and long
For winter was here and summer was gone
And so was the grasshopper's song**

**So the ants settled in - to their fortified nest
Prepared for the darkness and cold
Several weeks passed - the grasshopper was heard
In a voice that was desperate yet bold**

**Little ant friends I know you are there
I am lonely - I am hungry - I am chilled
I know you have food - I think you should share
It's been weeks since my stomach was filled**



How do you think that the ants should react
What risk do you think they should take
Since the grasshopper obviously refused to prepare
Should the ants put their own lives at stake

Since a grasshopper consumes up to 100 times
The food in a single "ant meal"
How many meals could they possibly give
Before the risk to themselves becomes real

This story is ancient - in the original text
The ants offered no form of aid
"Dance through the winter as you danced through the spring
Your peril is what you have made"

The point of the story was "Responsibility"
And the reward that hard work can provide
With emphasis on planning and preparation
And the consequence of sloth is implied

In one later version the grasshopper is hired
To play and to dance for his food
He thus learns the good that hard work can bring
And a work ethic is thereby accrued

Another version says the grasshopper is lazy
Another - the ants are just cruel
Take time to work through some thoughts of your own
Then share them at home and at school

NOTE:

The original story of the Ant and the Grasshopper is attributed to the ancient Greek story teller Aesop, who lived around the 6th century BC. It is part of a larger collection referred to as Aesop's Fables

Words and Definitions

Mandolin – a pear-shaped guitar like musical instrument

Din – a loud and confusing noise

arrogant / pompously – an attitude of self-importance

scoffed – mocked, downplayed, dismissed

fortified – built up, secured

peril- danger, trouble

sloth – lazy, a complete lack of action

work ethic – active belief in the importance work

accrued – gathered or accumulated over time, increased

