

Read “The Ant and the Grasshopper” and “The Tortoise and the Hare,” and answer the questions that follow.

The Ant and the Grasshopper by Aesop

- 1 On a warm summer day, a Grasshopper was hopping about. He chirped and he sang, as happy as he could be. Just then, an Ant passed by, pulling on an ear of corn. He worked hard to carry the huge cob to his nest.
- 2 “Come and chat with me,” said the Grasshopper. “You do not need to work so hard.”
- 3 “I am laying up food for the winter,” said the Ant. “I think you should do the same.”
- 4 “Why bother about winter?” asked the Grasshopper. “I have plenty of food to eat right now.”
- 5 Not stopping to listen, the Ant continued with his work. When the winter came, the Grasshopper had no food to eat. As he sat suffering from hunger, he saw the ants sharing the corn and grain they had stored during the summer. The Grasshopper had learned a very important lesson, but he had learned it too late.



From *The Aesop for Children*, illustrated by Milo Winter

Use “The Ant and the Grasshopper” to answer questions 1–4.

3.6F (Comprehension—Inferences) M

1. Read paragraphs 2–4. Which sentence best shows that the Grasshopper thinks only about the present and not the future?

Fill in the check box with your selection.

- 2 “Come and chat with me,” said the Grasshopper. “You do not need to work so hard.”
- 3 “I am laying up food for the winter,” said the Ant. “I think you should do the same.”
- 4 “Why bother about winter?” asked the Grasshopper. “I have plenty of food to eat right now.”

3.6F (Comprehension—Inferences) M

2. In sentence 3, the Ant uses the phrase “laying up” to describe how he—
- A thinks the grasshopper is lazy
 - B is preparing for what lies ahead
 - C believes he works harder than the grasshopper
 - D wishes he could stop and talk to the grasshopper

3.6F (Comprehension—Inferences) M

3. The Grasshopper does not store food because he—
- A has already stored food
 - B does not know how to store food
 - C wants the Ant to store food for him
 - D does not believe he needs to store food

3.7B (Response—Write Response)/3.12C (Composition—Argumentative) H

10. Read the stories “The Ant and the Grasshopper” and “The Tortoise and The Hare.” Based on the information in the stories, write a response to the following:

Describe how the stories “The Ant and the Grasshopper” and “The Tortoise and the Hare” teach that laziness gets you nowhere, and convince your classmates to learn from the actions of the characters.

Write a well-organized argumentative essay that uses specific evidence from the stories to support your answer.

Remember to—

- clearly state your claim
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can—

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Write your response in the space provided.

