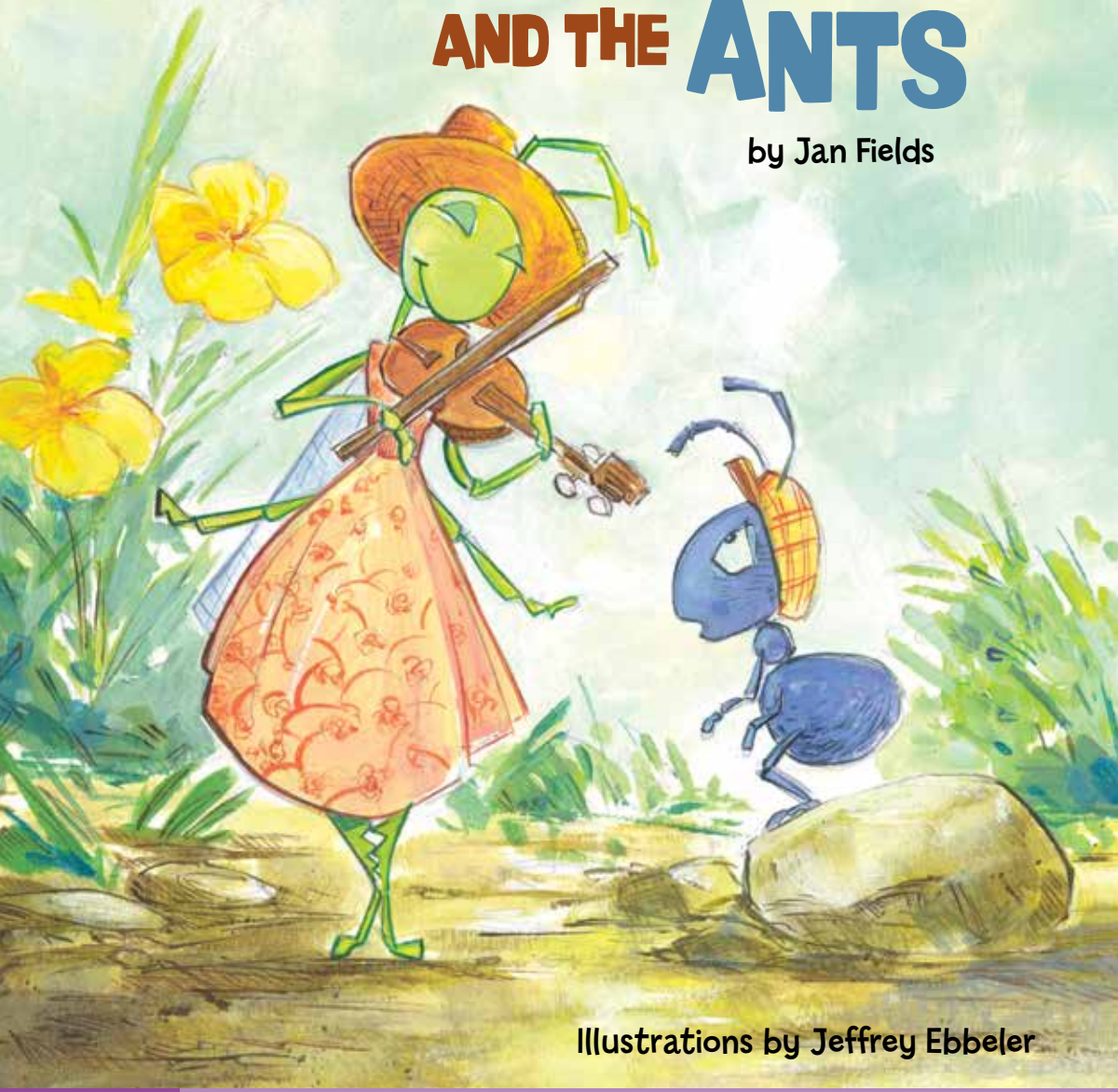


THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE ANTS

by Jan Fields



Illustrations by Jeffrey Ebbeler

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The ants marched under the hot sun. They carried heavy grains of wheat to fill the storerooms of their nest. They needed enough food to last through the icy winter.

In the distance, the ants heard cheerful music. Soon they saw Grasshopper playing her fiddle and stamping her feet. As the ants marched to the lively music, the wheat felt lighter. Even the sun seemed less hot!

Amplify Atlas™

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The Grasshopper and the Ants

Level N

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One ant stopped to talk to Grasshopper. “Your music makes our work easier, but what will you do when the winter comes? I haven’t seen you collecting any food!”

“Thank you, but don’t worry,” Grasshopper said. “I have a plan.”

Many days passed. The ants kept collecting wheat while Grasshopper played her tunes for them. But the kind ant still worried about Grasshopper. Many times, he stopped to warn her, “You should start gathering food.”

“Don’t worry,” Grasshopper always said. “I have a plan.”



Finally, winter came and the first snow fell. The kind ant wondered if Grasshopper was all right. He left the warm, snug nest to look for her, but he couldn’t find her anywhere.

Shivering, he returned to his community, only to find all the ants watching Bug TV and dancing to the music. The kind ant heard a familiar tune and saw a face he knew. Grasshopper was on TV! She was playing her fiddle with a band!



A few weeks later, Grasshopper came to visit the ants. She gave them wheat that she had bought with the money she'd earned as a musician. Her friend said, "You were wonderful on TV!"

Grasshopper smiled. "Now you know my plan! The band leader told me I could play with them this winter if I got a little better. So I worked all summer to make my music great."

The kind ant smiled, too. "Then I guess we all worked hard to get ready for winter!"



Level N

Literary

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