

Character
Theme
motif
summary, (Spark notes)
J.S.

Prose for the Young Learners

Somerset Maugham : The Ant and the Grasshopper

দাবিদ্র্য ও অনৈতিকতার মধ্যেই কাটবে। আমরা দেখব
। দেখব কাজ করার ফল ভাল হয়, না নিষ্কর্মা থাকলেই

আমার বড় করচা হল। তার পাশে বসে আমি ভাবতে
কুর্কর্ম করে বসেছে। জর্জ স্পষ্টতই একেবারে বিচলিত

৭, "আপনি কি জানেন, এবার কি ঘটছে?" আমি মনে
কোন কিছু ঘটে গেছে। ভাবলাম সে পুলিশের হাতেই
ধায় কথাই বলতে পারছিল না।

স্বীকার করবেন না যে, সারাজীবন আমি কঠোর পরিশ্রম
সম্মান ধরে রেখেছি, অন্যায় পথে যাইনি। পরিশ্রম
। যে, আমি আশা করে আছি, সিকিউরিটিতে নিরাপত্তা
দীর্ঘনে সামান্য আয়ের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারব। বিধাত
রেখেছেন সে অবস্থায় থেকেই আমি সব সময় অসম

করতে পারবেন না যে টম সব সময়ই ছিল অসম
মানবোধ-রহিত এক দুর্বল। যদি ন্যায় বিচার থাকত
। হওয়ারই কথা।"

। "কয়েক সপ্তাহ আগে তার মায়ের বয়সী এক মহিলা
। ঐ মহিলা এখন মারা গেছে, তার যা ছিল সবই
৬ লক্ষ পাউন্ড, একটি প্রমোদতরী, লন্ডনে একটা বাড়ি

৭ মুষ্টিবদ্ধ হাত দিয়ে আঘাত করল।

পনাকে বলছি, এটা ঠিক নয়, দেখ, এটা ঠিক নয়

গাম না, হাসিতে ফেটে পড়লাম যখন জর্জের জেনারেল
মি চেয়ারের মাঝেই ছুরপাক খেললাম। জর্জ আ
গায়ই তার Mayfair-এ অবস্থিত বাড়িতে মজার
জানায়। যদি মাঝে মাঝে সে আমার কাছ থেকে
অভ্যাসের কারণে। কোন সময়ই এটা এক সতর্ক

Word Notes:

fables — A fable is a short tale to teach a moral lesson. In most fables the activities or characteristics of beasts or inanimate objects are used to represent the frailties and faults of human beings. Aesop's fables are one of the most popular tales of all time. The oldest oriental collection of fables is the Panchatantra.

La Fontaine— La Fontaine (full name Jean de La Fontaine) was a French writer and poet of the seventeenth century. He was born in 1621 and died in 1695. He was famous mainly for his fables. He wrote 230 fables in all which were published over a period of 26 years (1668-1694) in 12 volumes with the title "Fables". The fables of Fontaine are often filled with lively humour. They are marked by characterisation rarely found in the traditional fables. Fontaine's fables are in verse.

imperfect world — a world where faults predominate.

giddiness — giddiness is a feeling that everything is revolving, turning round. Here giddiness means the habit of moving here and there without concentrating on a particular work — lack of steadiness; lack of seriousness.

a laborious summer — a summer when one works hard.

grasshopper— A grasshopper is a leaping insect that makes crackling and buzzing sounds usually in the daytime.

singing to the sun— The grasshopper goes on singing, but we do not know for whom it sings. The author humorously says that perhaps the sun is its listener.

larder— a small room or a large cupboard to store food.

classic answer— an answer which anybody will make.

Saving your presence— excepting your presence. When I sang, you were not present; you did not hear my song.

preversity— a desire, attitude or approach that is wrong, unreasonable and unacceptable.

inconsequence of childhood— In childhood a man is unable to understand the cause and effect of events. A child has no power to think logically.

I never saw an ant without putting my foot on it— Whenever I saw an ant I trampled on it.

In this summary fashion— In this way which is not elaborate as a story, in a shortest way.

- prudence**— the mental ability to act wisely, thinking for the future— far-sightedness.
- He was staring into space**— He looked indifferent with attention to nothing.
- in hilarious spirits**— in a fanny or humorous mood.
- chuck**— to give up, sever ties with somebody, stop contacting with somebody, cut off relationship with somebody.
- black sheep**— a person who is strongly disliked for his bad nature.
- a sore trial**— one who causes sufferings.
- expostulations**— words of protest or persuasion aimed at making a person realize his faults.
- washed his hands of him**— refused to be involved in matters relating to him, dissociated him from the activities of his brother.
- qualm**— hesitation, worriensness about something.
- on the box seat**— on the seat of the driver.
- discreditable affair**— a matter that brings dishonour, an affair that causes a loss of reputation.
- Monte Carlo**— a European tourist resort famous for gambling centres, luxurious hotels, beautiful villas and gardens. Annual rally, theatrical and musical seasons attract many visitors to Monte Carlo. It is situated on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea near France and belongs to a small country known as (the Principality of) Monaco.
- stepped out of a band box**— a handbox is a small and light box for keeping caps. The whole expression means looked very smart and graceful.
- in high spirits**— cheerful.
- unfailing gaiety**— fanny and cheerfulness that is easily marked and never ends, a happy mood that is always present.
- I never grudged the contributions he regularly levied on me for the necessities of his existence**— He came to me regularly to ask for a loan. But I did not consider it a loan but as a contribution a man gives contribution without hoping for its repayment. It is either voluntary or compulsory. In the case of Tom it was perhaps a mixture of both. The author's humour is clear.
- scapegrace**—one who creates troubles for his recklessness.

- unfaithful even in thought**— He was so faithful to his wife that he never even thought of such a thing, a faithfulness which was profound and incomparable.
- He made a point of saving**— He considered saving to be vitally important and always tried to ensure that it was done.
- rubbed his hands**— made his hands clean by rubbing.
- end in the gutter**— spend his life in poverty and immorality.
- we shall see if it really pays best to work or be idle**— We shall realize which brings the highest benefit— laziness or industriousness.
- George could hardly bring himself to speak**— George was almost unable to speak.
- straightforward**— one who does not adopt unfair means for success.
- guilt edged securities**— securities which are safe.
- securities**— A security is a document which proves that someone has invested a particular amount of money and he will receive profit at a fixed rate.
- Providence**— God who keeps the universe in order and ensures that the virtuous is rewarded and the evildoer is punished.
- work house**— a house of shelter for the poor where they are given work to do.
- wrathful face**— angry face.
- Mayfare**— a particular locality.
- sovereign**— a British gold coin equivalent to one pound. Such coins are no longer in use.

Explanations

1. I do not ascribe it to perversity on my part, but rather to the inconsequence of childhood which is deficient in moral sense.

These lines have been taken from "The Ant and the Grasshopper" a story by Somerset Maugham. Here the author speaks of his reaction to the moral lesson taught in his childhood.

It is a common practice in every family to teach the children a lesson through stories. In his childhood the author had such experiences. He was asked to commit to memory fables of a famous

French story teller La Fontaine. One such fable in verse was entitled "The Ant and the Grasshopper." Its aim was to teach the importance of labour. The lesson was that in this world faults predominate over virtue or righteousness. Laboriousness is a virtue, but laziness is a fault. A person who works hard is rewarded, but one who does not but spends a lazy life is punished. As it is related in the story, the ant works throughout the whole of summer to store food for winter. But the grasshopper does not think for future at all. He sings night and day. When winter comes the ant finds no want of food but the grasshopper suffers for food. It has to beg for food.

Naturally none will like the grasshopper. But as a child the author had the opposite view. He liked the grasshopper but abhorred the ant. Whenever he found an ant, he would kill it by trampling on it.

The author says that this attitude was not due to his childishness, but due to his inability to think logically. A child does not understand what is cause and what is its effect. Similarly he has no sense of what is right and what is wrong. That is why the opposite of the lesson attracted him.

2. He looked as though the burden of the whole world sat on his shoulders.

This is an extract from Somerset Maugham's short story "The Ant and the Grasshopper." Here the author ironically describes the gloomy appearance of his friend George Ramsay.

After stating what fable the author learnt in his childhood, the author speaks of his friend — George. He finds him in a restaurant having lunch alone. He looked very indifferent and gloomy. It appeared that his mind was afflicted with a matter of grave concern. It seemed so great that the author compares it to carrying the whole burden of the world. In Greek mythology it has been told that a Titan called Atlas was punished by God for his disobedience. The punishment was to carry the whole world over his shoulders. If a man has to do the same, the intensity of his fear will be indescribable.

We do not know at this stage of the story the cause of George's unhappiness. At the end we come to know that George led a virtuous life. He was honest, painstaking, frugal and pious. On the other hand, his brother Tom was profligate, lazy and immoral. So George hoped that his brother would suffer miserably in his old age. But

surprisingly his brother had become owner of a vast property for which he did nothing. He had married a wealthy lady. After her death he had inherited that wealth. That was the cause of George's concern.

Here the author's irony is clear. He appears to be hinting at a serious thing but really he is pointing to a funny incident. It produces an amusing effect and makes the story dramatic and interesting.

3. I have never met anyone to whom it was more difficult to refuse a loan.

This is an extract from "The Ant and the Grasshopper" by Somerset Maugham. Here the author tells us about the charming personality of his friend's brother Tom.

Tom belonged to a distinguished and respectable family. Everyone hoped that he would lead a worthy life. His conduct would bring honour and wealth. But he did the opposite. Though he started business and started conjugal life, he left everything and became a vagabond. He spent two years in the various capitals of Europe. After squandering the money, he began to borrow from his friends and acquaintances. A man cannot meet all his expenses only by borrowing. But Tom could do it. What helped him was the charm of his behaviour. His pleasing personality could easily persuade others to lend him money. None could refuse him.

4. But he always said that the money that was spent on necessities was boring; the money that was amusing to spend was the money you spent on luxuries.

These lines have been taken from "The Ant and the Grasshopper", a short story written by Somerset Maugham. Here the author speaks of the epicurean mentality of Tom.

Tom came of a respectable family. He was expected to keep up the prestige of his family and be a man of some repute. But he did the contrary. Though he started business and conjugal life, he suddenly left both. He became bohemian— a seeker after pleasure. Pleasure was the only guiding principle of his life.

Tom's idea is that when money is spent on necessities it is done out of compulsion. In such cases man has little scope of choice. Moreover, the necessities are shared by all. But if a man spends money to buy luxuries, he can do it freely. None except the purchaser has the freedom to enjoy it. None can share this enjoyment. That is why it is a pleasure to spend money on luxuries.

5. He was glad that he was growing old because Tom was growing old too.

These lines have been quoted from "The Ant and the Grasshopper" by Somerset Maugham. Here the author points out the mental condition of George before he knew that Tom had become very rich.

George and Tom were two brothers. George was very honest, hardworking and respectable. But his brother Tom was immoral and profligate. George saved a part of his income by which he hoped to spend his life after retirement. But Tom had no savings. So George thought that in his old age he would be happy, but his brother Tom would suffer.

George was in this happy mood until he came to know that Tom had married an old wealthy lady. She had died, leaving behind a large amount of money and some property. That was quite the opposite of what George thought. So he was beyond himself with gloominess and astonishment.

This sentence is very ironical. A mild humour is there though we cannot realize it. Moreover, it prepares us to enjoy the climax of the story. The author's skill in plot-construction is very clear.

6. He always looked as if he had just stepped out of a handbox. [NU. 2007]

This line has been quoted from the story "The Ant and the Grasshopper" by Somerset Maugham. Here the author refers to the easy-going life-style of Tom, one of the characters in the story.

Tom and George were two brothers. But they differed in appearance and mentality. George was honest, hardy, sincere, kindhearted and virtuous. But Tom was quite the opposite. To seek pleasure was the only end of his life. He started business and married but abandoned both his wife and business. But to lead a life of indulgence he faced no obstacle because of his impressive appearance. He could impress any body and borrow money to meet his expenses. That is why he maintained his cheerfulness all the time. To give us an idea of how Tom looked like the author compares him to a handbox. A handbox is a small and light box for keeping caps. If a cap is taken out of a handbox it looks very pretty and attractive. Similar was the case with Tom. He always looked smart and graceful. It was because of his charming personality that he could win the heart of a wealthy lady after whose death he inherited vast wealth, though throughout his life he remained idle and averse to hard work.

- "It is not fair, I tell you, its not fair. Damn it, it is not fair."

These lines have been taken from "The Ant and the Grasshopper" by William Somerset Maugham. These were spoken by one of the characters of the story named George. It is a very catchy statement. It is in essence the epitome of the whole story.

George and Tom were two brothers. But they were different in their outlook. George was honest, frugal, hardworking and virtuous; but Tom was a seeker-after pleasure. He was profligate, immoral and dishonest. George saved some amount of money out of his income. He hoped that he would spend his retired life with this money. But Tom had no savings. So it was naturally expected that George would be happy but Tom would suffer. But the opposite happened. Tom married an old but rich woman. She died leaving a large amount of money and two houses for Tom. So Tom would be happier than George. When George came to know it he became very surprised. It was completely against the sense of morality he learnt. He knew that the virtuous becomes happy, but the vicious suffers. He burst into anger with these words. So he could not reconcile himself to this turn of events. Such is the reality of life. What good we expect does not happen in most cases, but the opposite happens. Like the author we do not know whom we shall blame— George, Tom or God who is regarded as the moral governor of the world. Nor do we know whether we should laugh at George or to sympathise with him.

Critical Summary

Life is so vast a thing that none can describe it. A man may have a shape but life as a whole has no shape, it is simply an idea which cannot be given a definite form. Somerset Maugham was a storyteller par excellence. What puts him in the first rank of writers is that he has tried to give a living picture of life which is otherwise indescribable. In the story the "Ant and the Grasshopper" he puts forward a moral that is based on the observation of life and by contrast shows that it does not correspond to life.

In the beginning of the story he speaks of a moral that he learnt in his boyhood. It is that industry brings happiness but lack of labour causes sufferings. One day he comes to know of an incident that reminds him of that moral. Then he goes on describing the incident. He happens to find one of his acquaintances in a very dejected mood. The name of his friend was George. He asks George the cause of his

unhappiness. George relates that his brother is the cause of his unhappiness. His brother Tom was a black sheep in a good family. He was a pleasure-seeker and averse to hardwork. He married and started business but suddenly abandoned both. He spent two years in the capitals of Europe in search of pleasure. After return he developed a habit of borrowing from friends and acquaintances. He falsely promised that he would rectify his manners and took money from George to start business again. But instead of starting business he squandered the money. He persuaded one of his friends to accuse him of cheating. To settle the matter George had to pay five hundred pounds. But surprisingly Tom and his accuser went together to Monte Carlo to spend a month of mirth and merriment.

George on the other hand was a honest, hardy and sincere and frugal. He was dutiful to his job. He was prudent and conscious of the prestige of the family. He saved a portion of his income for his old age. So according to the moral George was to be happier than Tom. But its oppsite happened. Tom married an old lady. She was very rich with a large amount of money and two house — one in London and the other in a village. She died suddenly. As a result Tom inherited all the property of that woman. So it became clear that Tom would be happier than Geogre. When George came to learn that he was overwhelmed with surprise, anger and sadness. He could not think that a depraved man like Tom would deserve it. Such real life incident proved that the moral the author learnt in his boyhood was not true. The author burst into laughter to know the cause of Geogre's sadness. With plenty of humour the author makes the picture of life very vivid to us.

Question and Answers

1. Do you think that the title of the story "The Ant and the Grasshopper" is justified? Give reasons for your answer?

Or,

What role the fable of the ant and the grasshopper play in the story "The Ant and the Grasshopper"?

Or,

Comment on the use of the fable of the ant and the grasshopper in the story?

The Ant and the Grasshopper was the title of a special kind of story called the fable. A fable illustrates a moral lesson. Through such a story, the activities of an animal or inanimate objects are narrated to emphasize a virtue. This fable aims at explaining the moral that a

person who labours hard is rewarded but a man who is easy-going and averse to labour is punished. The ant works hard throughout summer to store food for future (winter), but the grasshopper sings day and night without caring for the future. When winter comes the ant faces no difficulty for food, but the grasshopper suffers for it. He did not store food. He goes to the ant to beg for food. The ant asks him what he did in summer. The grasshopper replies that he sang all the time. The ant now sarcastically advises him to go and dance.

This is the story. In his childhood the author was asked to learn it by heart and realize the importance of prudence and good sense. But the author could not like the story. His sympathy was for the grasshopper and abhorrence for the ant.

The happenings as told by the author in the story is that George and Tom were brothers— George elder and Tom his younger by one year. They belonged to a respectable family but their attitude to life was quite different. George was hardy, frugal, virtuous, conscious of his family prestige and very kind. He was a lawyer. He worked hard all through his life. He saved a portion of his income and at the end of his career, he hoped to save thirty thousand pounds.

Tom was quite the opposite. He was epicurean in outlook. He did not care for the honour of his family. He was profligate, dishonest, liar and ease-loving. He spent his time in seeking pleasure. He had no scruple to borrow money from any person. He even blackmailed his brother.

As per the story of the fable, George resembled the ant and Tom resembled the grasshopper. So George was to be happy and richer and Tom was to be poor and he was to suffer. But the opposite happened. Tom married an old rich woman. She had a lot of money, a yacht and two houses— one in London and another in the country. Suddenly she died. So Tom inherited the property and the money of that woman. It became clear that he would be richer than George and lead a happier and more comfortable life than George. Thus the moral taught by the story proved to be wrong.

Maugham was a skilled storyteller. He very adroitly depicted life as it is. His realism has made his stories popular. In real life we see that the virtuous are not in most cases happy. They lead a life of misery, but our religious and moral education teaches that virtue is rewarded but vice is punished. We notice its opposite to happen and we have nothing to do except take it with equanimity. This is the irony of life.

The fable of the ant and the grasshopper expresses the irony of life more clearly. The contrast between the story of the fable and the

happenings in this story makes the reality more striking. It adds to the total effect of the story. At the very beginning we don't know what was the cause of George's despair when the author met him. At the end we come to know the reason behind it. He expected that Tom would lead a miserable life. But to his utter surprise and contrary to the moral law he learnt he found the quite opposite. In spite of his hard labour and honesty he could not be as rich and happy as Tom.

Our suspense goes and our curiosity is satisfied. The impression which the author wants to create becomes complete. It is the fable which brings about the unity of purpose, the unity of effect and the unity of impression which the author desires. Thus we can safely conclude that the title of the story is fully justified. No other title could make the story as interesting as it is.

2. Draw a comparison between the character of George and Tom.

Or,

In the story "The Ant and the Grasshopper" whom do you like George or Tom? Give reasons for your answer.

George and Tom are two brothers but they differ in their temperament and outlook on life. George is virtuous, frugal, kind and considerate. He is very punctual and dutiful in his office. He has love and care for his children. He is an ideal husband also. He has many qualities of head and heart. But Tom is dissolute, liar, easy-going. He is a black sheep in his family. He is averse to labour. He started business and conjugal life but he left both— his business and wife.

George had genuine affection for his younger brother Tom. When Tom returned after spending two years in different capitals of Europe, George gave him money to start business again. He tried to help Tom to rectify his character. But Tom squandered the money by purchasing a motor car and some ornaments. It became clear that Tom would not mend his manner. So George decided to keep away from Tom and not to care what Tom did. But when he thought that if Tom engaged in meaner kinds of job it would be dishonourable for his family, she went on paying him.

On one occasion a man accused Tom of cheating him. That man was vindictive. He threatened to file a criminal case against Tom. It was very perplexing for George. A brother could not allow his only brother (son of the same mother) to be imprisoned. So George had to face great troubles to save Tom. He had to pay five hundred pounds to settle the matter. But surprisingly, Tom and the person who

accused Tom went together to Monte Carlo. There they spent the money to enjoy themselves. Such a behaviour of Tom could not but make George angry.

Though Tom was not a good-natured man, he had a pleasing personality. He could impress anybody. None could refuse him when he asked for loan. Not only that, none could demand the money back. Tom was very calculating. He might be a rogue, but he was not foolish. He knew how to achieve his ends. He succeeded in blackmailing his brother. He succeeded in making an old but rich woman agree to marry him. George saved money by his hard labour, and his frugality. But he could not be as rich as Tom. He could not ensure a happier and more comfortable life than Tom.

George was angry and depressed to think that a man who had caused so much sufferings to him had been rewarded, instead of being punished. His cause of anger is genuine. He is right in questioning the justice of God who is to punish the wrong-doer.

Of the two characters, we cannot but admire George. He is a worthy man. He has all the admirable qualities. His character is without any spot. He has respect for human values. As a father and a husband he commands respect from everybody. A simple-minded man like George cannot but react angrily and despairingly to the apparent injustice of God. If the vicious is spared punishment, how virtue could be encouraged. This is the reality of life— this is the irony of life.

3. What picture of life does the author draw in his story "The Ant and the Grasshopper."

Or,

'Somerset Maugham was a realist in his attitude to life'.— Discuss.

Or,

The story "The Ant and the Grasshopper" reflects Maugham's close and practical observation of life — Elucidate. [NU, 2007]

Somerset Maugham was a popular writer. His popularity comes from his realistic presentation of life in his stories, novels and dramas. He was a keen observer of life. He studied human nature deeply. His story "The Ant and the Grasshopper" is a clear reflection of his realistic approach to life.

Life is full of complexities and contradictions. Our expectations do not always materialize. What we think to happen naturally does

not happen, but its opposite takes place. Our religion and sense of morality teach us that virtue is rewarded but vice is punished. A good-natured man will live a happy and prosperous life, but an ill-natured man will face various sufferings. But in real life we see that a man who cultivates the good qualities like honesty, fragility, piety, sincerity is not happy. He suffers physically, financially and even socially. But a man who does the opposite lives a life of comfort and happiness. This story exemplifies this truth.

George and Tom are two brothers. George is older than Tom by one year. Though they belong to a respectable family their character differ. George is honest, hardy, sincere, frugal, kind-hearted and virtuous. He is dutiful to his job, he is dutiful to the members of his family. He is conscious of the prestige of his family. He is very prudent. He thinks for the future. He saves a portion of his income for his old age. He does not refrain from helping his brother who has gone astray. In a word, he has almost all the qualities of head and heart.

Tom, on the other hand, is a rogue. To seek pleasure is the only end of his life. He starts business and marries. But suddenly he leaves both, his business and his wife with his children. He spends two years in the capitals of Europe in search of pleasure. After that he develops a habit of borrowing from his friends and acquaintances. He falsely promises that he would rectify his manner and takes money from George. But instead of starting his business again he squanders the money. He blackmails his brother by a stratagem. He persuades one of his friends to accuse him of cheating. His friend threatens to file a criminal case against Tom. George could not allow his brother to be imprisoned. He pays Tom's friend five hundred pounds to settle the affair. But surprisingly Tom and his friend who accused him go together to Monte Carlo to spend a month of mirth and merriment.

George with such an admirable character is supposed to be happier than Tom. He himself is confident that he would be able to spend his old age with the small amount of money he has saved. He is glad to think that his brother will live a miserable life in his old age, because he has all the bad qualities. George is hopeful that vice represented by his brother would not go unpunished. But the opposite happens.

Tom marries an old lady. She was very rich with a big amount of money and two houses— one in London and the other in a village. She dies suddenly. Now Tom becomes heir to the property of that

man. Now it becomes clear that he would be richer than George. He would lead a happier and more comfortable life than that of George. When George comes to learn it he is overwhelmed with surprise, anger and despair. He cannot think that a depraved man like Tom could deserve it. He bursts into saying "It's not fair, I tell you, it's not fair. Damn it, it's not fair."

Such is the reality of life. We hope one thing but its opposite happens. The teachings of religion, our moral education cannot explain many facts of life. A situation like this embarrasses us as it embarrassed George. But we have nothing to do. We are to accept life with its pleasures and pains, truth and falsehoods, expectations and frustrations, its beauties and ugliness. We have no escape from it; only escape is death which a sane person cannot desire. The only thing we can do is to maintain good humour. This seems to be the lesson the author wants to convey.

★ Evaluate Somerset Maugham as a story teller, or
★ Evaluate Somerset Maugham's craftsmanship— or a
writer of short stories.

Somerset Maugham occupies a place of distinction in English literature. He was a story writer, a novelist and a dramatist. His realistic portrayal of life, his refined humour, his irony, his almost unrivalled narrative art and above all, his lucid, precise and simple prose account for his greatness and popularity.

In telling his stories, Maugham adopts the methods of the novel and the drama. In a novel the writer narrates what happens, what a character says, what a character does, etc. But in a drama the author is completely absent. He leaves the character to itself. We know the motive, and the traits of a character's personality from his own words. From the comments of other characters about him we may form an idea of his views. Besides this there are parallelism, contrast and irony.

The writer begins the story by narrating his experience of childhood. He tells us of a fable entitled "The Ant and the Grasshopper." The fable aimed at teaching the maxim that hardihood is rewarded but vagrancy or laziness is punished. The contents of the story is that the ant works hard throughout summer and stores food for winter. But the grasshopper goes on singing all the time. It does not think for the future. As a result it has to suffer for food in winter. Children are supposed to like the ant and detest the grasshopper but