

The Ant and the Dove

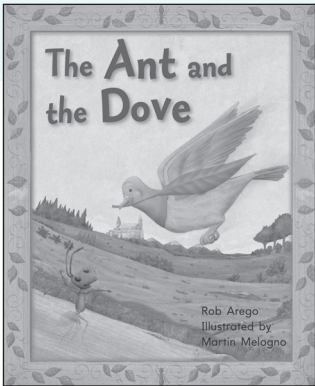
GENRE Fable

WHY THIS TEXT?

This fable tells the story of an ant and a dove that help each other in times of trouble. Illustrations and story structure give children the opportunity to compare similar plot events. The text includes description, character analysis, and a clear theme.

VOCABULARY NETWORK

Words About Water drift (v.), raft (n.), sink (v.)



TEXT COMPLEXITY	
READING LEVEL	OVERALL RATING Slightly Complex

TEXT X-RAY		
KEY IDEAS	LANGUAGE	BACKGROUND & CULTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An ant gets too close to a rushing river and falls in.• A dove sees the ant struggling in the river.• The dove saves the ant.• Later, the ant gets the chance to save the dove.• The ant and the dove form a lasting friendship.	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>rushing (p. 2) beak (p. 6) slick (p. 3) hunter (p. 10) despair (p. 4) scream (p. 14) dove (p. 5) friendship (p. 16)</p> <p>Idiomatic Expression</p> <p>as the years passed (p. 16)</p>	<p>Explain that <i>The Ant and the Dove</i> is a fable originally told by Aesop that has been retold by many authors. Although the details vary from version to version, the theme is the same: If you help someone, you will receive help from someone. Invite children to tell how they have helped someone and then received help in return.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Options for Teacher-Led Sessions

- ☐ Key Ideas & Details 2
- ☐ Story Structure 4
- ☐ Theme 6
- ☐ Respond & Extend 8

Online Printables

- Vocabulary Network Organizer
- Oral Reading Record
- Comprehension Quiz

Tabletop Minilessons: Reading

- Story Structure
- Theme

Key Ideas & Details

GENERATE INTEREST

Prompt children to make predictions and share connections.

- *How can helping someone also help you?*
- *Why is it good to help a friend in need?*

BUILD VOCABULARY

Use the Vocabulary Network Organizer to develop vocabulary and explore language connections.

- drift (v.), raft (n.), sink (v.)

GUIDE INSTRUCTION

Build comprehension of the text, using the prompts below as needed.

2-3

Why does the ant go to the river? (*He wants a cold drink of water.*) **What happens to him?** (*He falls in the river.*)

Reread Have children reread to find why the ant falls into the river. Then ask children to tell what happens when the ant gets near the mud.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *He wanted a cold drink of water.*
- *The ant got too close and fell into the water!*

4-5

Why does the ant twist and turn in despair? (*He calls out for help, but no one hears him.*) **Who sees the ant?** (*a dove*)

Discuss Have children give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down to identify each of these statements about the word *despair* as true or false: 1. Despair is a feeling that someone has lost all hope. (*true*) 2. Despair is a good feeling to have. (*false*) 3. The ant feels despair when he falls into the river. (*true*)

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *No one could hear him over the roar of the water. He twisted and turned in despair.*
- *Just then a pretty dove looked down. She saw the ant in the river. She knew she had to help the ant.*
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

Have children show what it means to twist and turn like the ant.

6-7

How does the dove help the ant? (*She gives the ant a leaf to use as a raft.*) **Why do the ant and the dove become friends?** (*The dove saves the ant's life.*)

Create a Visual Have children retell how the dove saves the ant. Draw and explain how the ant uses the leaf as a raft. Then have children discuss why the leaf floats like a boat.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *She used her beak to cut a leaf.*
- *She dropped the leaf into the water. The ant swam hard and got on top of the leaf.*
- *"That's what friends do," the dove said.*

English Learner Support

Add labels to the sketch to reinforce words and concepts.

8–10

Who rides on a donkey near the river? (*a hunter*)
When does the hunter spot the dove? (*the next week*)
What does he try to do? (*catch her*)

Guide Challenge children to look closely at the picture on page 8. Ask them why the text does not mention that the hunter is coming down the hill. Point out that sometimes a picture shows details that the text does not mention.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The next week, a hunter spotted the pretty dove. He moved close to catch her.*
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

Have children act out how the hunter might use a net to catch the dove.

13–14

What does the hunter do when the ant bites him? (*He screams.*) **How does this save the dove?** (*She gets the chance to fly away.*)

Guide Ask children to think about what the ant causes to happen. Then guide them to observe that the ant injures the hunter (cause) and gives the dove a chance to fly away (effect).

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The ant bit the hunter with his sharp teeth. The hunter screamed!*
- *She flew up into the air and got away.*

English Learner Support

- Point to the ant. Point to the hunter's leg.
- What is the ant biting?
- Tell what the ant is doing.

8, 15–16

How do the ant and the dove feel about each other? (*They are good friends.*) **What makes them good friends?** (*They help each other.*)

Discuss Have children discuss the phrase *as the years passed*. Encourage them to tell about a friendship of their own that has grown as the years have passed. Mention that friendships grow and change over time.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *"That's what friends do," the dove said.*
- *"That's what friends do," the ant said.*
- *Their friendship grew as the years passed. The ant and the dove were always together.*

English Learner Support

Ask children to say the phrases *thank you* and *you're welcome* in their home language.

Story Structure

INTRODUCE THE DRIVING QUESTION

- How can retelling a story help you understand its structure?

GUIDE INSTRUCTION

Use the prompts below to focus on the concept of Story Structure. For additional support on the concept, refer to the relevant Tabletop Minilesson.

Cover

What problem do you see on the cover of the book? *(an ant in the water, calling for help)* **What clues about the solution to the ant's problem does the cover contain?** *(It shows a picture of a dove and a leaf.)*

Discuss Explain that this story contains a problem-solution structure. Mention that the ant's problem is that he falls into the water and that the dove helps the ant solve the problem.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- PICTURE CLUES

2-4

What problem does the ant have when he gets a drink? *(No one can hear his cries for help when he falls into the river and cannot get out by himself.)* **Why?** *(The slick ground causes him to fall in; no one can hear him over the sound of the water.)*

Guide Tell children that the ant calls for help because he becomes afraid when he cannot get out of the water by himself. Suggest that he may be afraid he will sink or drown in the rushing water.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The ground was muddy and slick. The ant got too close and fell into the water.*
- *"Help me, someone!" called the ant. No one could hear him over the roar of the water.*

English Learner Support

Point out the word *roar* in the text. Mention the difference between a lion's roar and the roar of rushing water.

5-8

Who helps the ant? *(a dove)* **How does she solve the ant's problem?** *(She drops a leaf into the water for the ant to drift on.)*

Reread Mention that even though the ant and the dove solve one problem, they are about to have another one. Ask children to reread pages 5-8 to find out who is coming down the hill. Then ask them to explain how the picture clues on page 8 indicate what might happen next.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The dove flew to a tree. She used her beak to cut a leaf.*
- *She dropped the leaf into the water. The ant swam hard and got on top of the leaf.*
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

Have children use their arms and hands to show the meaning of *swim*. Then help them act out related words, such as *drift*, *dive*, and *splash*.

10–13

Why does the dove have a problem? (*The dove cannot hear the hunter approaching.*) **How does the ant solve the dove's problem?** (*He bites the hunter on the leg.*)

Create a Visual Reinforce the problem-solution structure of the story by creating a two-column chart with the headings “Problem” and “Solution.” Have children review pages 2–13 and suggest the two problems and two solutions in the book. Have volunteers use the chart to tell about problems and solutions.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The dove couldn't hear him over the sound of the water.*
- *The ant was walking along when he saw the hunter.*
- *The ant bit the hunter with his sharp teeth.*
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

Add sketches to the problem/solution chart to help children connect words to concepts.

16

At the end of the story, what is the ant doing? (*riding on the dove's wings*) **Why are the ant and the dove always together?** (*They are friends.*)

Discuss Mention that the theme of most fables is a lesson. Ask children to think about how the picture shows the story is ending, and what lesson the characters learn from their experiences.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *Their friendship grew as the years passed. The ant and the dove were always together.*
- PICTURE CLUES

SAMPLE

Theme

INTRODUCE THE DRIVING QUESTION

- *What kind of theme does a fable teach?*

GUIDE INSTRUCTION

Use the prompts below to focus on the concept of Theme. For additional support on the concept, refer to the relevant Tabletop Minilessons.

Cover

Who are the main characters in this story? (*the ant and the dove*) **How do you know?** (*They are on the cover of the book; their names are in the title.*)

Guide Remind children that the theme of a story is the message its author has for readers. Explain that the theme of a fable is usually a lesson for readers to learn and apply to their life. Mention themes about friendship, such as, “Treat others the way you would want to be treated,” and “If you give help, you will receive help in return.”

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *The Ant and the Dove* (title)
- PICTURE CLUES

4–7

Why does the dove drop a leaf for the ant in the water? (*The ant is being swept away by the rushing water.*)
What does this tell you about the dove? (*She wants to help.*)

Create a Visual Have children draw a picture with details that tell about the theme. Ask them to include how the dove helps the ant. Then have them write a sentence to explain how the dove is being a good friend to the ant.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- *She knew she had to help the ant.*
- *She dropped the leaf into the water.*
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

- Point to the ant. Point to the leaf.
- What does the dove drop in the water?
- How does the dove help the ant?

8

How do the ant and the dove become friends? (*The dove saves the ant.*)

Reread Have children reread page 8 to find words about the theme. Mention that the ant and the dove are learning a lesson about friendship.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- “Thanks for your help,” he told the dove. “That’s what friends do,” the dove said.

11–14

The ant gets the chance to save the dove from a hunter. What does he do? (*He bites the hunter on the leg so that the dove can fly away.*) **What does this tell you about the ant?** (*He wants to help the dove.*)

Create a Visual Have children brainstorm ways to help others. Circle their eight favorite ideas and use them as the basis for a classroom poster about friendship. Hang the poster in the classroom as a reminder.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- The ant bit the hunter with his sharp teeth.
- The dove heard the hunter scream. She flew up into the air and got away.

English Learner Support

Have children show how the dove gets away.

8, 15

What do the ant and the dove learn about friendship? (*Friends help each other in times of need.*)

How do they learn this lesson? (*Both need help and give help.*)

Reread Go back through the book to reread page 8 and page 15. Ask children to find what the ant and dove say to each other that mean “Thank you” and “You’re welcome.” Explain that *That’s what friends do* is another way to say “You’re welcome.”

TEXT EVIDENCE

- “Thanks for your help,” he told the dove. “That’s what friends do,” the dove said.
- “Thanks for your help,” the dove told the ant. “That’s what friends do,” the ant said.
- PICTURE CLUES

English Learner Support

Have children repeat the phrase *That’s what friends do*.

16

What is this story all about? (*how helping one another can build friendship*) **What happens to the ant and the dove as the years pass?** (*They become even better friends; they are always together.*)

Discuss Have children think about the story’s theme and then answer this question: Why is helping someone a good way to make a friend? Have children work with a partner to brainstorm answers and then share with the group.

TEXT EVIDENCE

- Their friendship grew as the years passed. The ant and the dove were always together.

English Learner Support

Point out words about the passage of time, such as *years* and *always*.

Respond & Extend

GENERATE INTEREST

- What problem does the ant have?
- Why does the ant and dove's friendship grow?

GUIDE INSTRUCTION

Explain that children will be using what they have read and their own opinions to respond to the text. Then assign and support one or more of the activities below.

Project

Make Thumbprint Ants

- Make three thumbprints in a line. Add a face, antennae, and six long legs.
- Draw details around your ant that show what the ant in the story does.
- Write to describe your scene.
- Share with the group.

Vocabulary & Language

Use Words about Helping

- Reread pages 2–16 to find the word *help*. Use it in sentences of your own.
- Repeat with synonyms for *help*, such as *aid* and *assist*.
- Discuss other synonyms with the group.

Research Connection

Compare Fables

- Read or listen to another version of *The Ant and the Dove* by Aesop.
- Make a chart to compare these elements: the characters, the setting, the river, the hunter, and the friendship.
- Fill in the chart by comparing the two versions.
- Share your chart with the group.

Response Writing

Write a Story

- Think of a time when you helped someone. Write about what happened and how it made you feel.
- Now think about a time when someone helped you. Write about it.
- Share with the group.

Hands-On Activity

Perform a Puppet Show

- Use classroom materials to make puppets of the ant and dove.
- Use your puppets to act out the story.
- Use the words that the ant and dove say in the story or make up different lines.
- Act out parts of the story with the group.

