

Table of Contents

The Lion and the Mouse—An In and Out Story	5
The Tortoise and the Hare—A Stop and Go Story	8
The Wind and the Sun—A Happy and Sad Story	12
The Country Mouse and the City Mouse (reproducible page)	14
The Fox and the Grapes—An Up and Down Story	15
The Milkmaid and Her Pail—An On and Off Story	17
The Dog and His Reflection (reproducible page).....	19
The Wolf and the Crane—A Push and Pull Story.....	20
The Man and the Satyr—A Hot and Cold Story	23
Aesop’s Opposite Crossword (reproducible page)	25
The Frog and the Ox—A Big and Little Story	26
The Fox and the Crow—A Left and Right Story.....	28
The Man Traveling with a Lion (reproducible page).....	31
The Grasshopper and the Ant—An Early and Late Story	32
The Boy Who Cried Wolf—An Over and Under Story	36
The Travelers and the Bear—A Near and Far Story	39
The Belly and the Body Parts—A Together and Separate Story ..	43
The Fox and the Stork—A Tall and Short Story	45
Linking Tall and Short (reproducible page)	48
The Raven and the Swan—A Black and White Story	49
The Two Pots (reproducible page)	53
Opposite Word Search (reproducible page)	54
The Fox and the Goat—A Top and Bottom Story	55
The House Dog and the Wolf—A Fat and Lean Story	58
Answer Key.....	61



Dear Teacher or Parent,

No one knows the true identity of Aesop, a man who lived somewhere around 620 to 560 B. C., but it's certain that he was not only a learned man, but a traveler as well. It's speculated that his fables were gathered and modified from stories he'd collected on his journeys. His wonderful tales of human-like animals have survived centuries, and has long been a part of the educational system worldwide.

So is it any wonder that I chose Aesop's Fables as a way to introduce children to opposites? Not only are the stories entertaining, but with the added concept of opposites, along with some interactive fun, they teach in an amazing number of amusing ways.

As a storyteller, I can assure you no stories will have the kids giggling as much the collection I've written for you here.

The moral of the story? Enjoyment and pleasure enhance learning . . . and teaching!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dotti". The signature is stylized with a large, rounded initial "D" and a cursive "otti".

Dotti Enderle

The Lion and the Mouse

An In and Out Story

This is an in and out story.

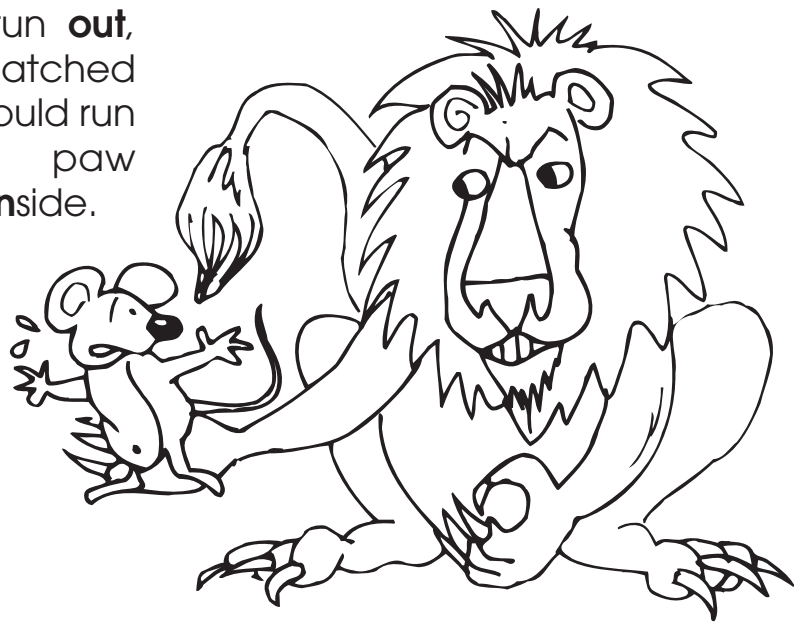
*When you hear the word **out**, stick out your tongue.
When you hear the word **in**, pull it back in. Have fun!*

A little mouse was **out** scampering about when he came upon a sleeping lion. He noticed a crumb dangling from the lion's whiskers, and since the mouse hadn't eaten **in** a while, he thought he'd take a risk.

Hoping his luck wouldn't run **out**, the mouse crept up and snatched the crumb. But before he could run away—WHAM!—a huge paw came down, trapping him **inside**.

"Help! Let me **out**!" the little mouse squeaked **in** his tiny mouse voice.

The lion picked the mouse up and let **out** a roar. "Why should I let you go?" he asked. "I'd much rather have you **in** my belly."



The Lion and the Mouse

"Please let me go," the mouse begged. "And someday I'll help you **out** if you're ever **in** a jam."

The lion laughed so hard that tears rolled **out** of his eyes.

"You help *me*?" the lion said between chuckles. "Wait until the other animals **in** the jungle hear about this!"

The lion opened his paw and dropped the mouse **out** onto the ground. The mouse ran **in** the opposite direction as quick as he could, **out** of the lion's sight. He was glad he had put the lion **in** a good mood.

A few days later the mouse was again **out** looking for food. He heard a desperate roar for help **in** the distance. As he got closer, the mouse could see the lion trying to squirm his way **out** of a trap buried **in** a pile of leaves.



The Lion and the Mouse

"I'll get you out," the mouse said.

"Can't you see I'm stuck **in** this huge net?" the lion asked. "You're too small to get me **out**."

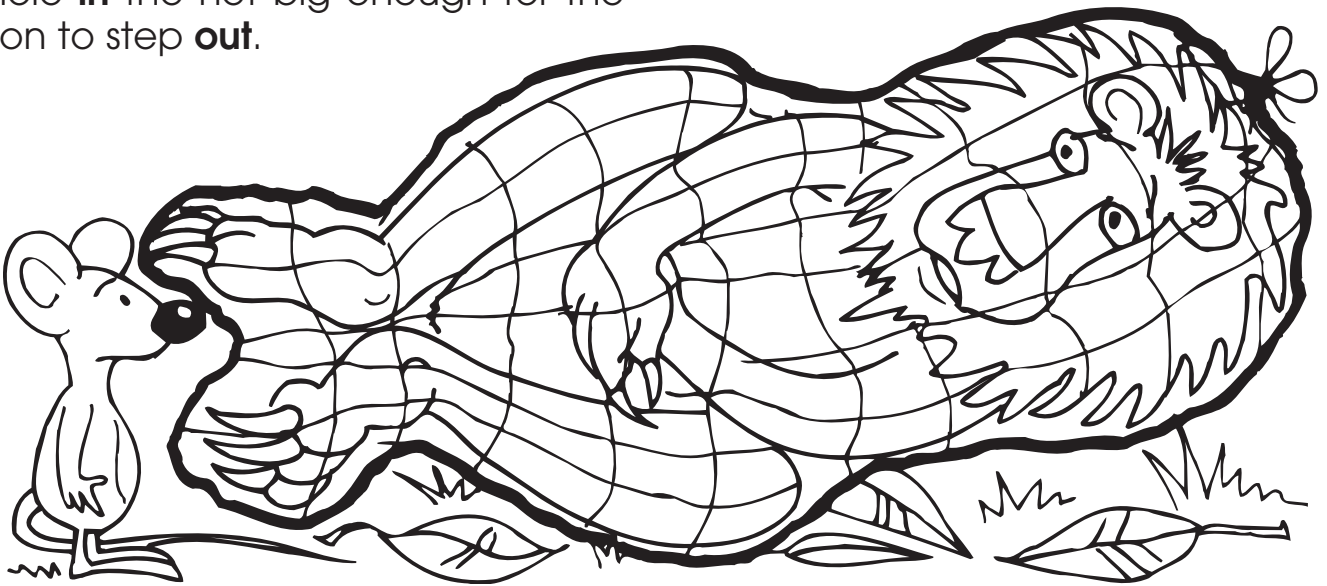
But the mouse didn't say a word. He began to gnaw on the rope, sinking his teeth **in** deep, biting and chewing.

The little mouse was tired and **out** of breath by the time he finished. But once he was done, there was a hole **in** the net big enough for the lion to step **out**.

"I'll always be **in** your debt," the lion said gratefully to the mouse.

"Oh, no!" the mouse said. "Remember, I promised to help you **out** if you were ever **in** trouble."

And the two parted as friends.



The Grasshopper and the Ant

An Early and Late Story

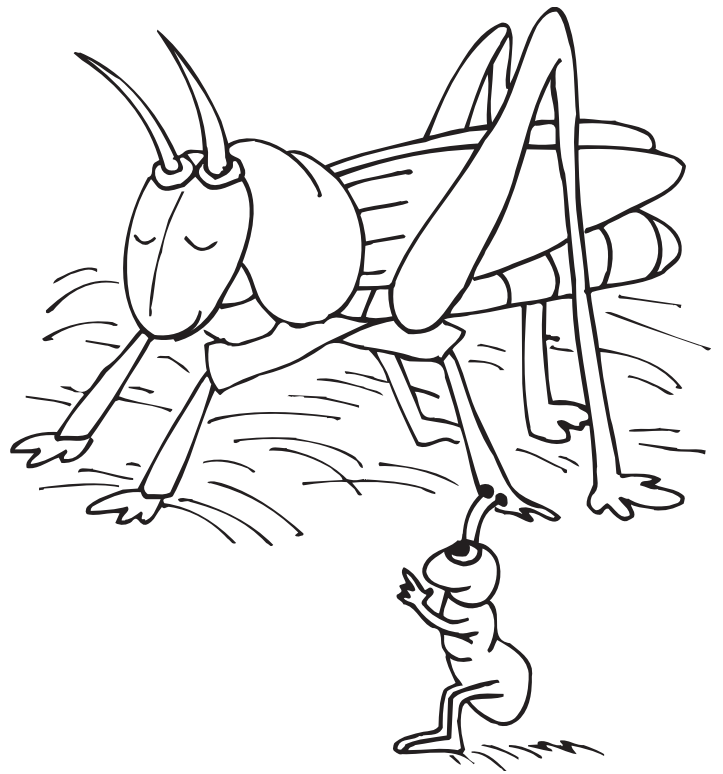
*This is an early and late story.
When you hear the word **early**, lean forward.
When you hear the word **late**, lean back.
Have a rocking good time!*

Early on a late summer's morning, a group of ants marched in a straight row, carrying tiny bits of crumbs, seeds and tasty grains. They got an **early** start this year. The **latest** forecast predicted an **early** winter, and the ants wanted to make sure their food supply was intact before it was too **late**.

One ant worked particularly hard. He strayed from his place in line to get a drink of water from a drop of **early** morning dew. As he crawled toward the water, he saw a grasshopper sleeping under some bits of straw.

"Do you always sleep this **late** in the morning?" the ant asked the grasshopper.

The grasshopper stirred, peeked out through one eye and snorted. "What do you mean? I never get up **early**. Now go away and leave me alone."



The Grasshopper and the Ant

The ant saw some bits of bread lying on the ground nearby. He knew it would make him **late** joining the other ants in their procession, but he just couldn't pass it up. And of course it would take several trips to haul it back. But if he kept going, **early** or **late**, he should have it all stored in the ant bed by afternoon. He ignored the drowsy grasshopper.

On his second trip back for more bread, the grasshopper hopped in front of him. "Want to play a game with me?" he asked.

"Oh no!" said the ant. It's much too **early** for me to stop and play.

Later on, the grasshopper asked again. "Want to play a game with me?"

"Still too **early**," the ant said.

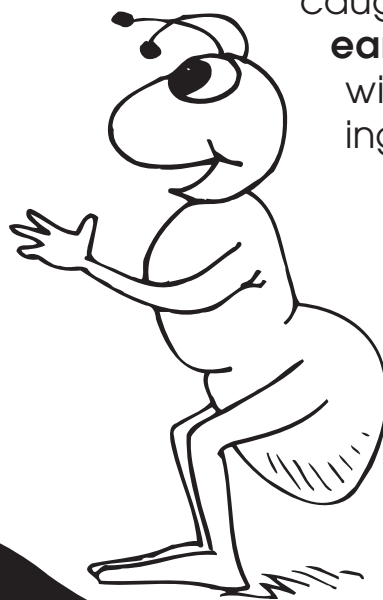
The grasshopper blocked the way. "Fine! If you won't stop and play with me now, I'll play on my own. Then when you do want to play with me, it'll be too **late**."

The ant shrugged and scurried around the grasshopper. He kept on the path he'd cut **early** on, and didn't stop until he was back at the ant bed.

Each time the ant went back for more bread crumbs, he'd see the grasshopper dancing and singing and having a merry time. He continued to trudge, back and forth, back and forth, until it was **late** in the day.

"You know," the ant said to the grasshopper as he gathered the last crumb. "You should be storing food for yourself. You wouldn't want to get caught in an

early snow with nothing to eat."



The Grasshopper and the Ant

"I'll be fine," the grasshopper said. "As my **late** grandpappy used to say, 'Live life to the fullest.' Grandpappy was a smart man."

The ant laughed. "I'd rather store food **early** and keep my belly to the fullest!"

The grasshopper scoffed and hopped away into the twilight of **late** evening.

The weather forecast had been right. Not only did winter come **early**, but so did a heavy snow. The ants stayed below in their warm bed, sleeping **late**, playing away the day and enjoying their cupboards of stored food. As they sat down for an **early** supper, they heard someone calling down to them.

"Help me, please! Help me before it's too **late**."

The ants looked at each other, wondering who in the world could be shouting for help. But one ant

recognized the voice. He crawled up to the entrance.

"What do you want?" he asked the grasshopper.

The grasshopper looked much thinner and weaker than when the ant had first seen him that **early** morning in summer. "I want food and shelter. I'm hungry and cold."

The ant scoffed. "You should have stored your food as I did. Now it's too **late**. I guess you'll have to starve."



The Grasshopper and the Ant

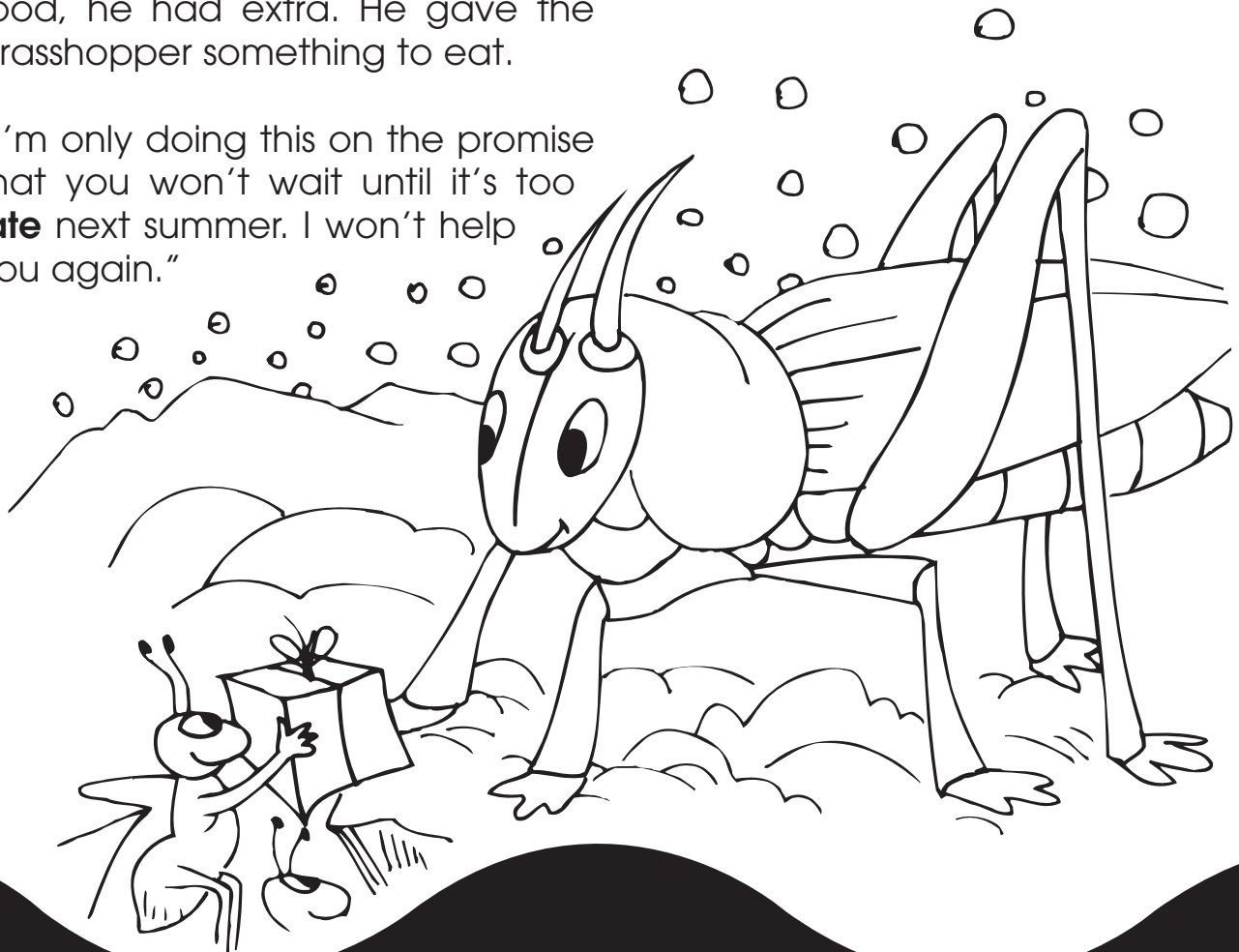
"No, please!" the grasshopper said. "I've learned my lesson. The **early** bird catches the worm and all that. Please. If you'll give me something to eat, I promise that next summer I won't sleep **late** and fiddle about all day. I'll start storing food **early**."

The ant was angry, but not heartless. Because he had worked hard and stored more than his share of food, he had extra. He gave the grasshopper something to eat.

"I'm only doing this on the promise that you won't wait until it's too **late** next summer. I won't help you again."

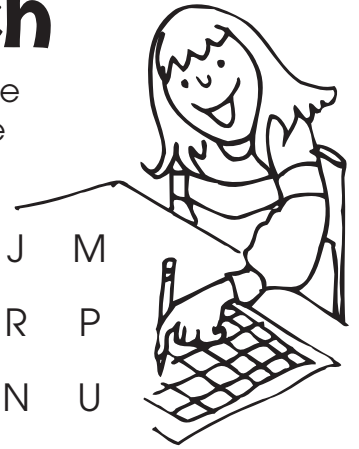
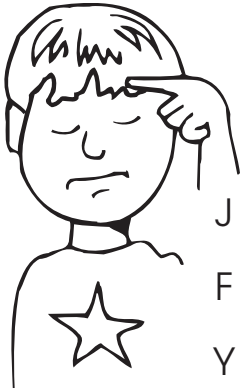
The grasshopper nodded. "I promise! **Early** next spring I'll start gathering my food, and I won't stop until it's **late** summer."

He made good on his promise to the ant. He learned to start **early** and work hard for his food because he didn't want to end up like his **late** grandpappy, buried under the **early** winter snow.



Opposite Word Search

Look for the words up, down and across. There are no words on the diagonal. Some words might be backwards (the opposite of *forwards*).



J E A R L Y U N D E R G J M
 F L E F T U T V S N E A R P
 Y G V P U S H D F N A R N U
 Z R D W C U J F A Q L I B L
 F F O N R Q L R R M W C P L
 X Y L D U I I O R K A C B J
 L B U P Z B T N P L G U T B
 L I Z B K L T T X H O N R X
 A G Y P L A L J D O W N O B
 T K L M A C E E G T E C H E
 B Z O U T K L R E P O T S T
 X R W D E F U O D A S B B I
 R I G H T A D L O C S I T H
 J O V E R E H A P P Y N Z W



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|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| RIGHT | FRONT | PUSH | COLD | BIG | GO |
| LEFT | IN | PULL | HAPPY | LITTLE | OFF |
| DOWN | OUT | NEAR | SAD | TALL | ON |
| UP | OVER | FAR | EARLY | SHORT | BLACK |
| BACK | UNDER | HOT | LATE | STOP | WHITE |