



The Grasshopper and the Ant

The Grasshopper, having sung
All the summer long,
Found herself lacking food
When the North Wind began its song.
Not a single little piece
Of fly or grub did she have to eat.

She went complaining of hunger
To the Ant's home, her neighbor,
Begging there for a loan
Of some grain to keep herself alive
'Til the next season did arrive,
"I shall pay you," she said,
"Before next August, on my word as an animal.
I'll pay both interest and principal."

The Ant was not so inclined:
This not being one of her faults.
"What did you do all summer?"
Said she to the grasshopper.

"Night and day I sang,
I hope that does not displease you."

"You sang? I will not look askance.
But now my neighbour it's time to dance."

La Cigale et la Fourmi

La Cigale, ayant chanté
Tout l'été,
Se trouva fort dépourvue
Quand la bise fut venue:
Pas un seul petit morceau
De mouche ou de vermisseau.
Elle alla crier famine
Chez la Fourmi sa voisine,
La priant de lui prêter
Quelque grain pour subsister
Jusqu'à la saison nouvelle.
"Je vous paierai," lui dit-elle,
"Avant l'Oùt, foi d'animal,
Intérêt et principal."
La Fourmi n'est pas prêteuse:
C'est là son moindre défaut.
"Que faisiez-vous au temps chaud?"
Dit-elle à cette emprunteuse.
"Nuit et jour à tout venant
Je chantais, ne vous déplaie."
"Vous chantiez? J'en suis fort aise.
Eh bien! Dansez maintenant."