

A Little Ant Gets a Swimming Pool



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It was a very hot summer afternoon and the animals of the jungle were enjoying a nice swim in the jungle pond. There was the hippo, the giraffe, the turtle, the duck, the zebra and also the monkey. They were splashing around and having lots of fun.

A little ant was watching them from the banks of the pond. He wanted to join them too, but he did not know how to swim and the pond was too big for him. He was afraid that he would drown. He was very unhappy.

The giraffe saw the little ant and asked why he looked so sad. "I can't swim," the ant replied quietly. The giraffe thought for a while and then he had an idea. "Get on to my back," the giraffe said happily, "then you can enjoy the swim too!"



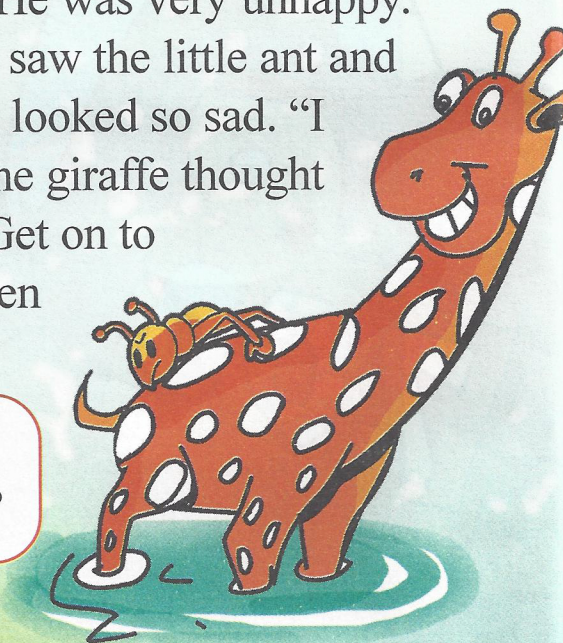
Gopinath Velluri



Dear Parents and Teachers,

Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

—Editor



The ant happily climbed onto the giraffe and clung tightly. The giraffe stepped into the pond but alas! The giraffe was so tall that the water in the pool only reached up to his knee. The ant couldn't even touch the water. He was sad again!

The hippo wanted to help but his skin was so smooth that the ant slipped off. Next the turtle tried to help but he swam so deep that the ant was frightened. And monkey couldn't help because he splashed around too much and poor zebra himself was a bad swimmer.

The ant and the animals also were very sad now!



Just then the duck came along. "What is the matter?" she asked. "The ant wants to play in the pond too, but he cannot swim. The pond is too big for him and he is too small," explained the other animals. The

duck laughed. "I know just what to do," she said excitedly and swam off.

She got a nice strong lotus leaf and put a small drop of water on it. Then she placed it on the bank of the pond. The ant was very happy now! He had his own little "lotus leaf" swimming pool! He sat on the leaf and dipped his tiny feet in the little lotus pool while the other animals splashed happily in the jungle pond! ●

