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Chapter 1

The Ass and the Grasshopper

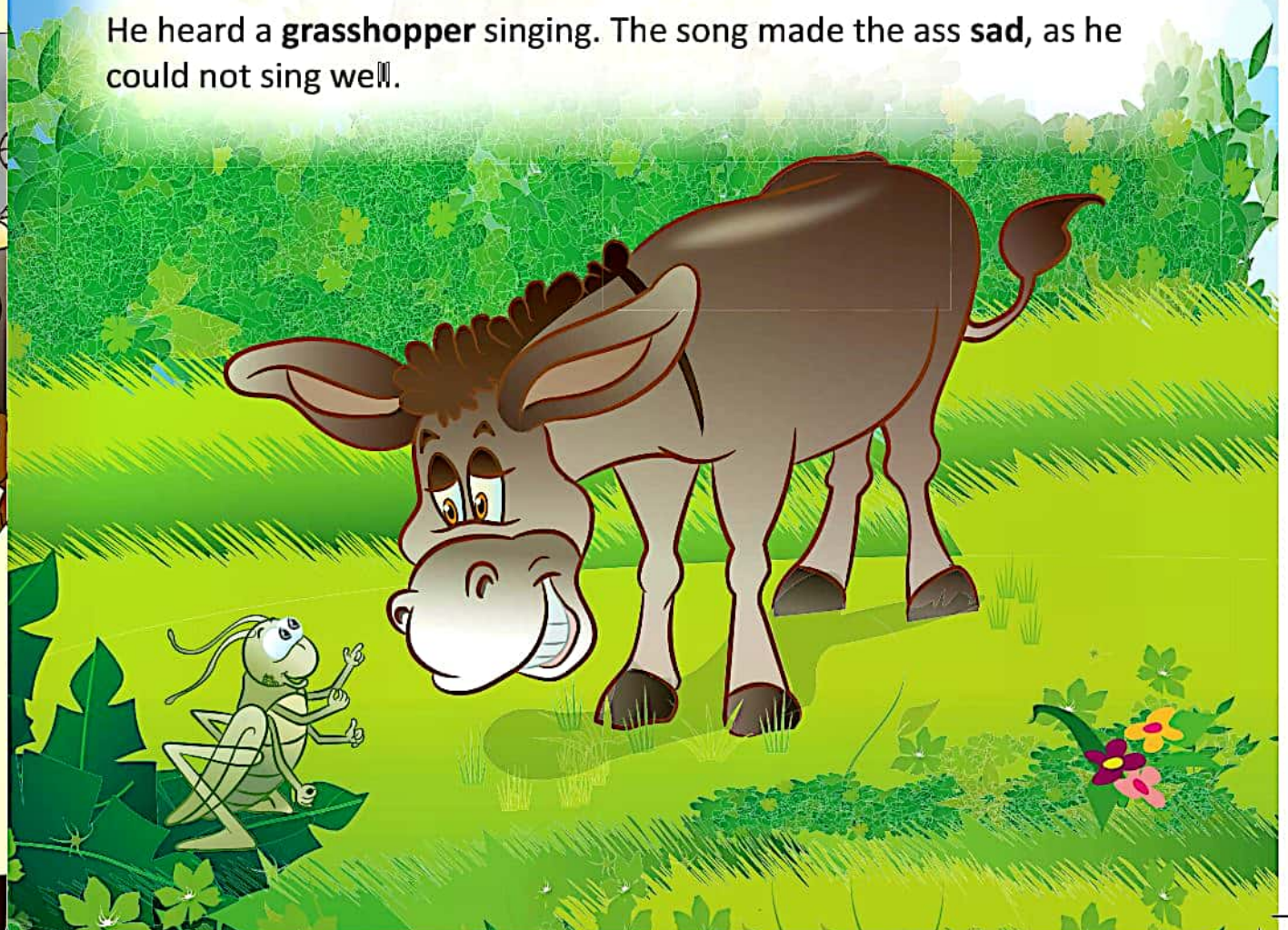
(A fable by Aesop)



READING SKILL

It was a hot day. An ass was **grazing** in a field.

He heard a **grasshopper** singing. The song made the ass **sad**, as he could not sing well.



The ass wanted to have a sweet voice such as the grasshopper had.

The ass asked the grasshopper, "How do you sing so well? I cannot. What is it that has given you such a sweet voice? Do you eat some **special** food or drink?"

The grasshopper wanted to play a **joke** on the ass. "Yes," replied the grasshopper, "I drink **dew**."

"That is what I need," thought the ass.

So, he started to eat and drink nothing, **except** the dew. But his voice did not change. He became thin. Soon, he died of **hunger** and **thirst**.





VOCABULARY SKILL

A. Say the words and learn their spellings.

Grasshopper	Thirst	Sweet	Voice
Thought	Field	Special	Change
Grazing	Wanted	Except	Nothing
	Replied	Hunger	

[Note to teacher - 'a' in grass and 'a' in ass are different in pronunciation.]

B. My Dictionary

1. Grazing — Eating grass
2. Grasshopper — An insect that lives in the grass
3. Sad — Not happy
4. Special — Not common
5. Joke — Trick someone for fun
6. Dew — Water drops which form on the grass at night
7. Except — Other than
8. Hunger — Wanting to eat food
9. Thirst — Wanting to drink water





COMPREHENSION SKILL

C. Answer the questions.

1. Where was the ass?

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.....

2. How was the grasshopper singing?

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.....

3. Why was the ass sad?

.....
.....

4. What did the ass start living on?

.....
.....

5. What happened to the ass?

.....
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