**The Ant and the Grasshopper**

In a field one summer’s day, a grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart’s content. An ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he taking to the nest.

“Why not come and chat with me,” said the grasshopper, “instead of toiling and moiling in that way?”

“I am helping to lay up food for the winter,” said the ant, “and recommend you to do the same.”

“What bother about winter?” said the grasshopper, “we have got plenty of food at present.” But the ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

Then the grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

Reread the theme of this fable.

Are there any clues in the story that help reveal this theme? Pretend the theme is not written. What clues from the story might help us uncover this theme?

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|  | **The Turnip**  (Russia) |  |  |

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|  | **AN OLD MAN** planted a turnip. The turnip grew to be enormous. The old man started to pull the turnip out of the ground. He pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it out. So he called over the old woman.                      The old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, they pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it out. So the old woman called over the granddaughter.                      The granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, they pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it out. So the granddaughter called over the dog.                      The dog took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, they pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it out. So the dog called over the cat.                      The cat took hold of the dog, the dog took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, they pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it out. So the cat called over the mouse.                      The mouse took hold of the cat, the cat took hold of the dog, the dog took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, they pulled and pulled--and finally--out came the turnip! |