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The Ant and the Chrysalis

Read the fable aloud.

An Ant nimbly running about in the sunshine in search of food came across a Chrysalis that was very near its time of change. The Chrysalis moved its tail, and thus attracted the attention of the Ant, who then saw for the first time that it was alive.

“Poor, pitiable animal!” cried the Ant disdainfully. “What a sad fate is yours! While I can run hither and thither, at my pleasure, and, if I wish, ascend the tallest tree, you lie imprisoned here in your shell, with power only to move a joint or two of your scaly tail.”

The Chrysalis heard all this, but did not try to make any reply. A few days after, when the Ant passed that way again, nothing but the shell remained. Wondering what had become of its contents, he felt himself suddenly shaded and fanned by the gorgeous wings of a beautiful Butterfly.

“Behold in me,” said the Butterfly, “your much-pitied friend! Boast now of your powers to run and climb as long as you can get me to listen.”

So saying, the Butterfly rose in the air, and, borne along and aloft on the summer breeze, was soon lost to the sight of the Ant forever.

“Appearances are deceptive.”

Three Plot Components

Give examples of recognition, reversal, and suffering (if applicable).

1. Recognition: _____

2. Reversal: _____

3. Suffering: _____

Variations: Part I

Give at least two synonyms for the selected words in each sentence.

Then vary the sentence in three ways.

1. **“I can ascend the tallest tree.”**
I: _____
can: _____
ascend: _____
tallest: _____
tree: _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Paraphrases

Rewrite the fable using your outline and Variations: Part 1.

Follow the special directions for each paraphrase.

1. Rewrite the fable with an example of each of these figures of description:

- Anemographia** a vivid description of wind; e.g., "a cool breeze tickled its back"
Dendrographia a vivid description of a tree; e.g., "the great oak that shades the forest"
Ethopoeia a description and portrayal of a character; e.g., "the cocky overconfident ant"

2. Rewrite the fable by inverting the sequence of events. Start with the commonplace.

Variations: Part 2

Give at least two synonyms for the selected words in each sentence.
Then vary the sentence in three ways.

1. “The **Butterfly rose** in the **air**.”

butterfly: _____

rose: _____

air: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. “The **wind rushed** at me like a **mad bull**.” — Charles Dickens, “The Holly-Tree”

wind: _____

rushed: _____

mad: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____