

Ant meets Earthworm



MOS

duurzame
scholen
straffe
scholen



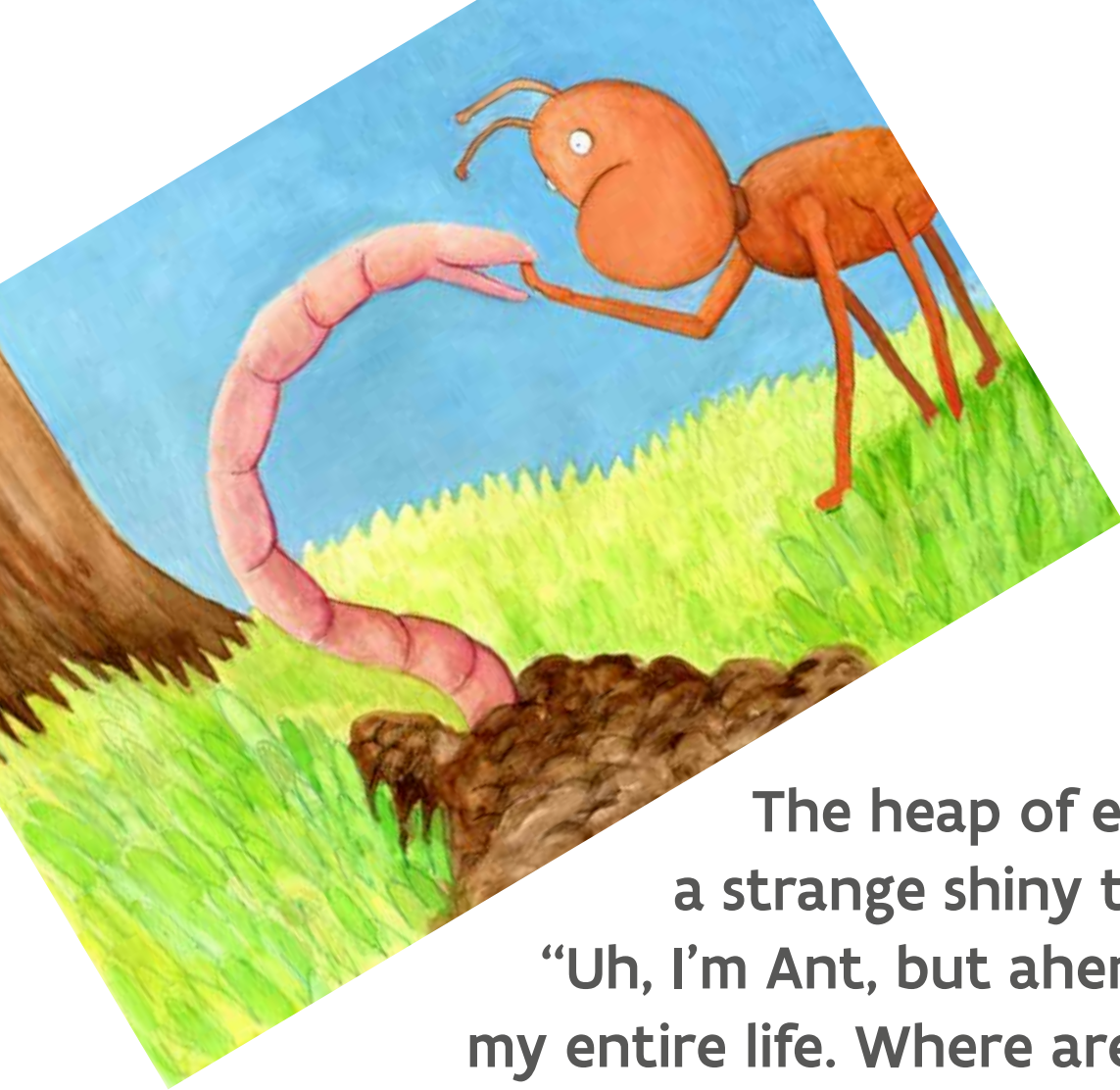
Ant is looking for a delicious snack. “Mm, what do I feel like eating today? I’d really like the taste of a gorgeous sweet cherry. I’ll ask Snail, Bee and Cricket right away to help me eat all those delightful things. They’ll like that!” Ant is on her way when suddenly the soil starts trembling. It seems as if the soil is growing rapidly. “Help! An earthquake,” Ant screams in panic.



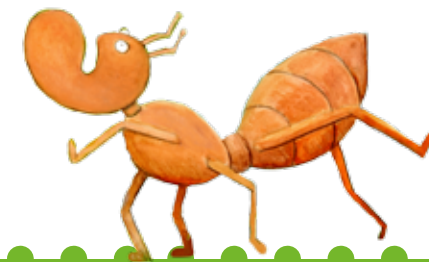
POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

What might be wrong with the earth? What’s making the soil tremble?



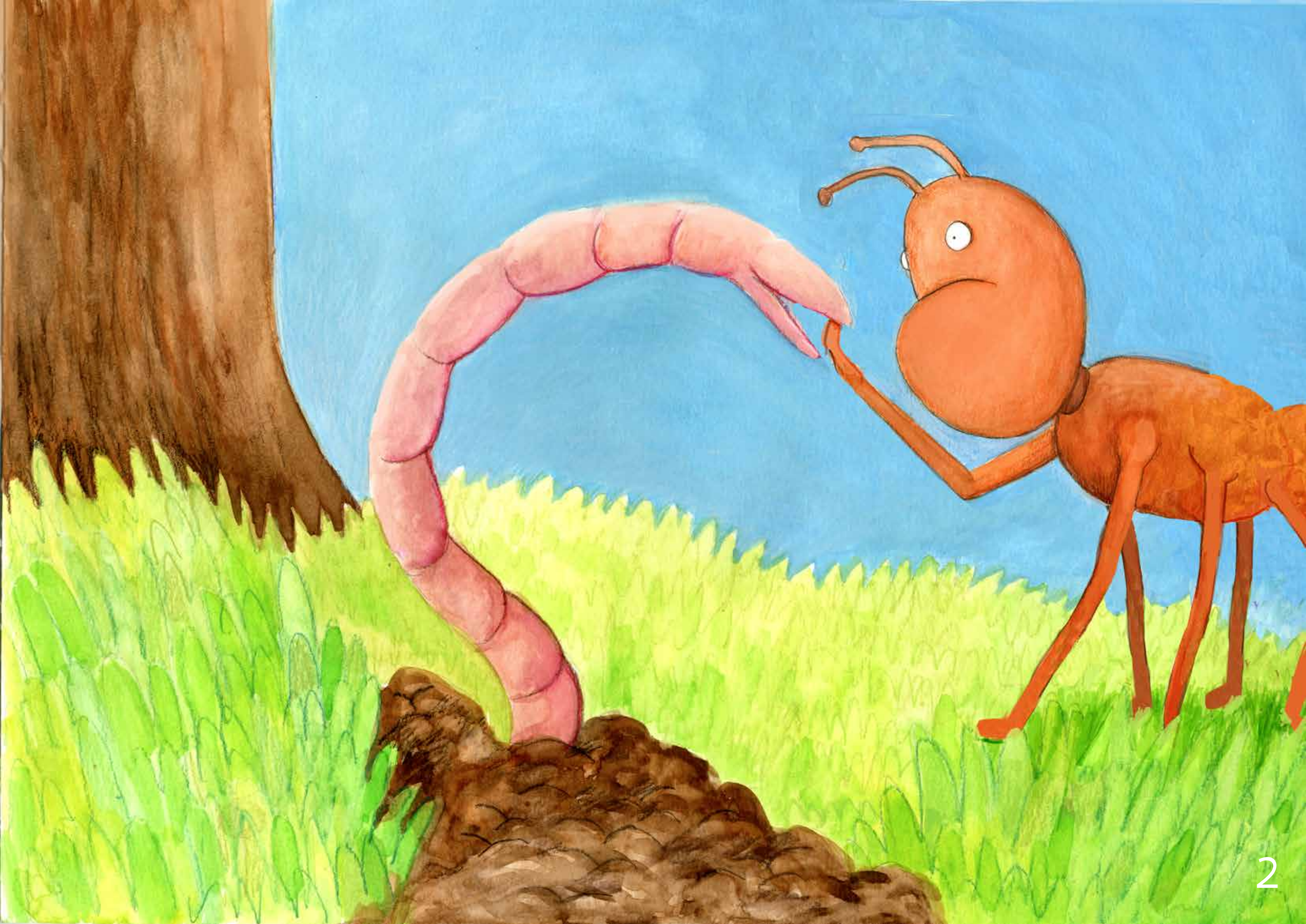


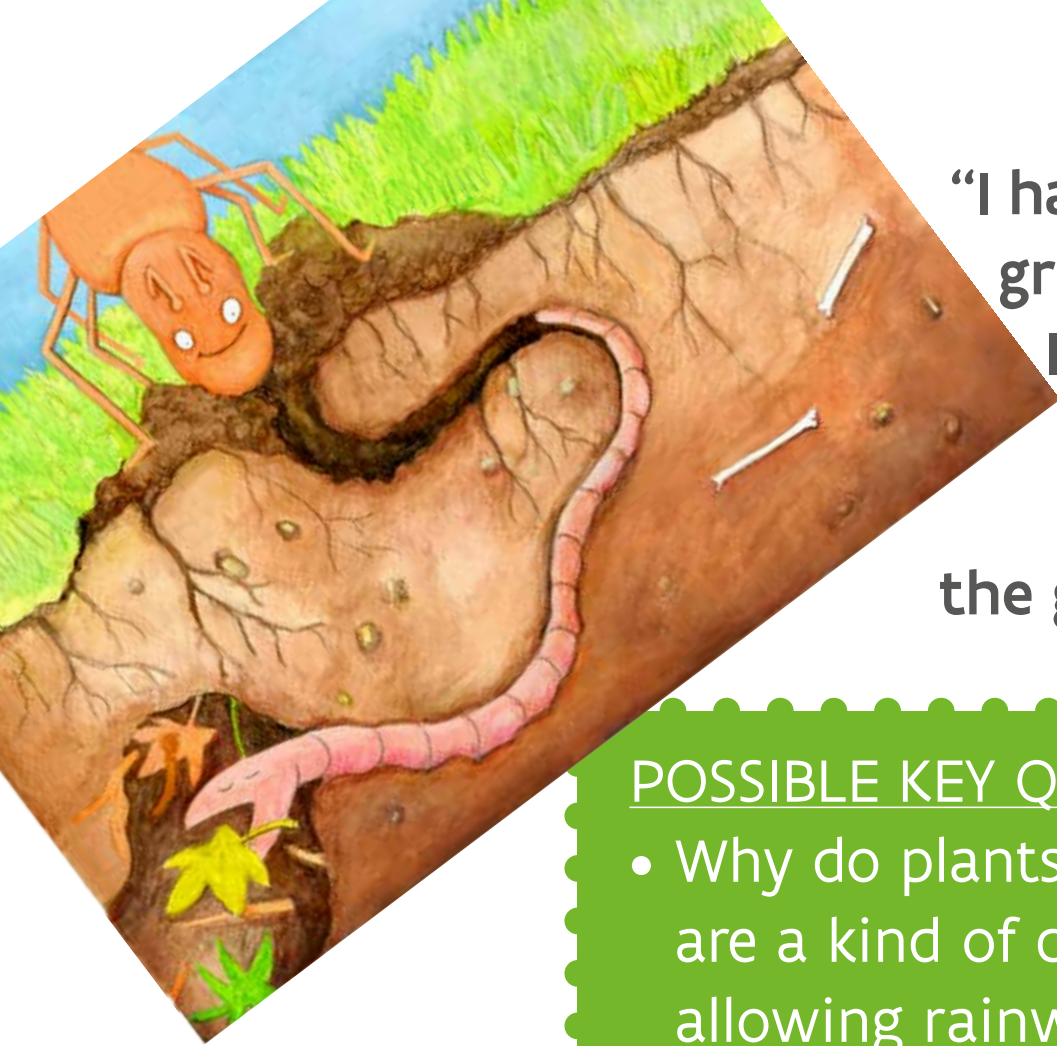
The heap of earth is getting higher and higher till suddenly, bang! bang!, a strange shiny thing appears. “Hello! I’m Worm. And who are you?”
“Uh, I’m Ant, but ahem, sorry to say, I haven’t seen such a weird thing like you in my entire life. Where are your eyes?”



POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who has already seen an earthworm? Who has already hold it? How did it feel?
- Do you know other worms (e.g. a caterpillar, a snake... is it really a worm?)?
- Do these animals have names? What names? →Let the children fantasize creatively.





“I haven’t got any”, Worm answers. “I almost always live underground and it’s dark there, so I don’t need any eyes.

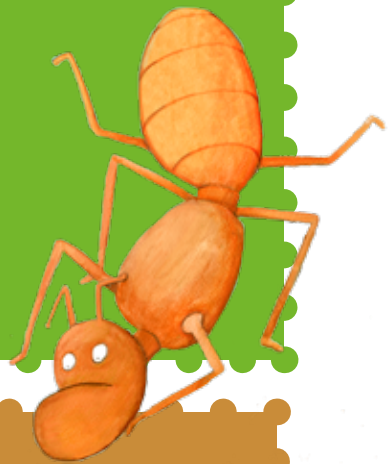
I dig corridors and eat old leaves. So, I make sure that plants and vegetables above are growing better. Only when there is a lot of movement or if it’s raining, I’ll come and take a look above the ground. They also call me earthworm.”

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Why do plants and vegetables grow better if Worm eats leaves?→the excrements are a kind of compost or fertilizer. Moreover, the worm corridors aerate the soil, allowing rainwater to penetrate the soil more easily and stimulating the growth of roots (and thus also the growth of plants).

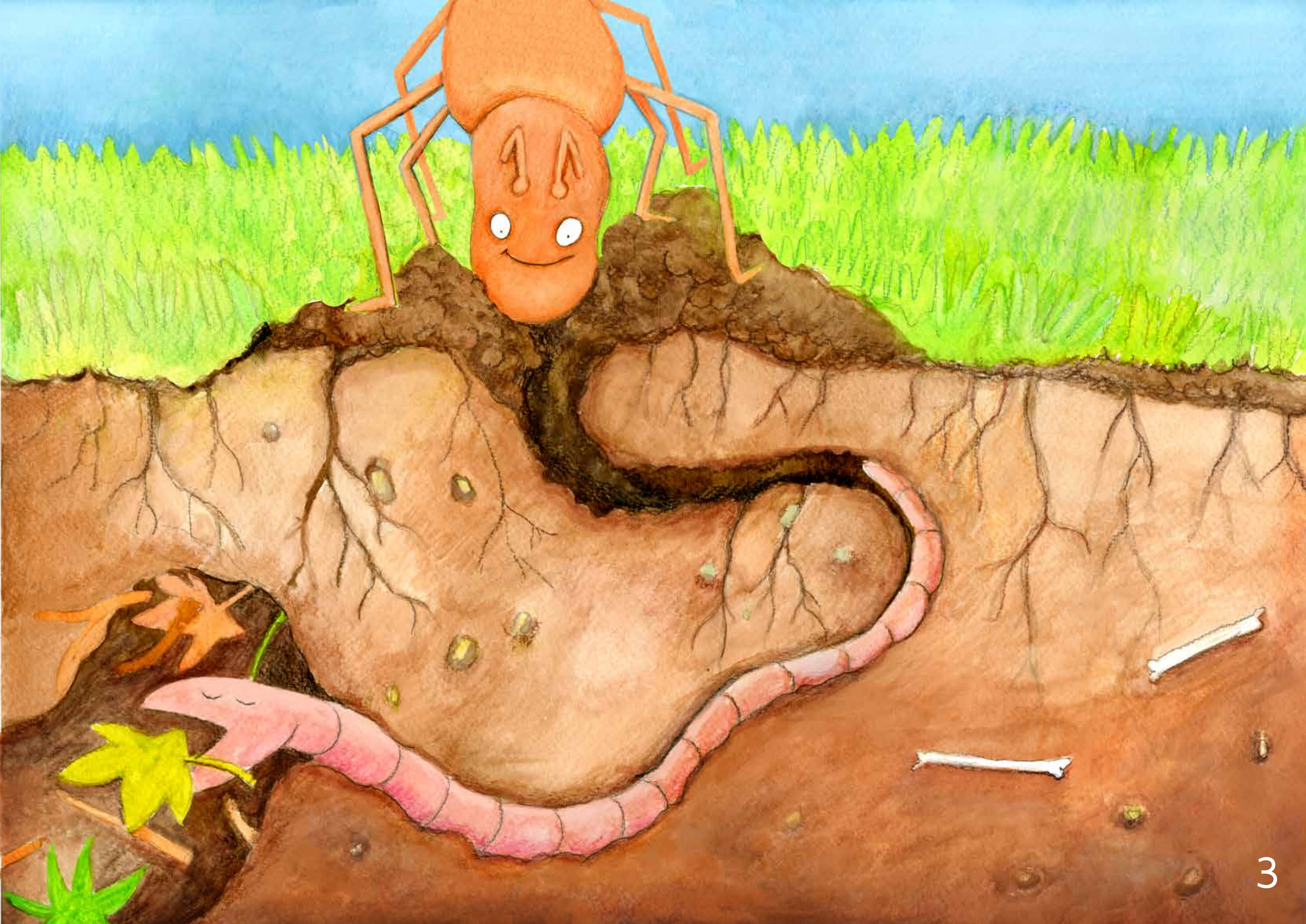
- Here you can find more information on earthworms:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthworm>



Golden MOS-tips

1. *Let the children experience how it feels to be an earthworm and what it means to have no eyes by blindfolding them. E.g. let them crawl through a play tunnel in which you’ve put different kinds of (old and new) tree leaves, earth, grass... Ask them what they feel and how they experience it. For the youngest a “Touch ‘N Feel Box” can be an alternative.*
2. *Let the kids, all together, stamp their feet on the (bare) soil. Does a worm appear? Which animal is always scurrying around and why?→a chicken, because it eats worms.*





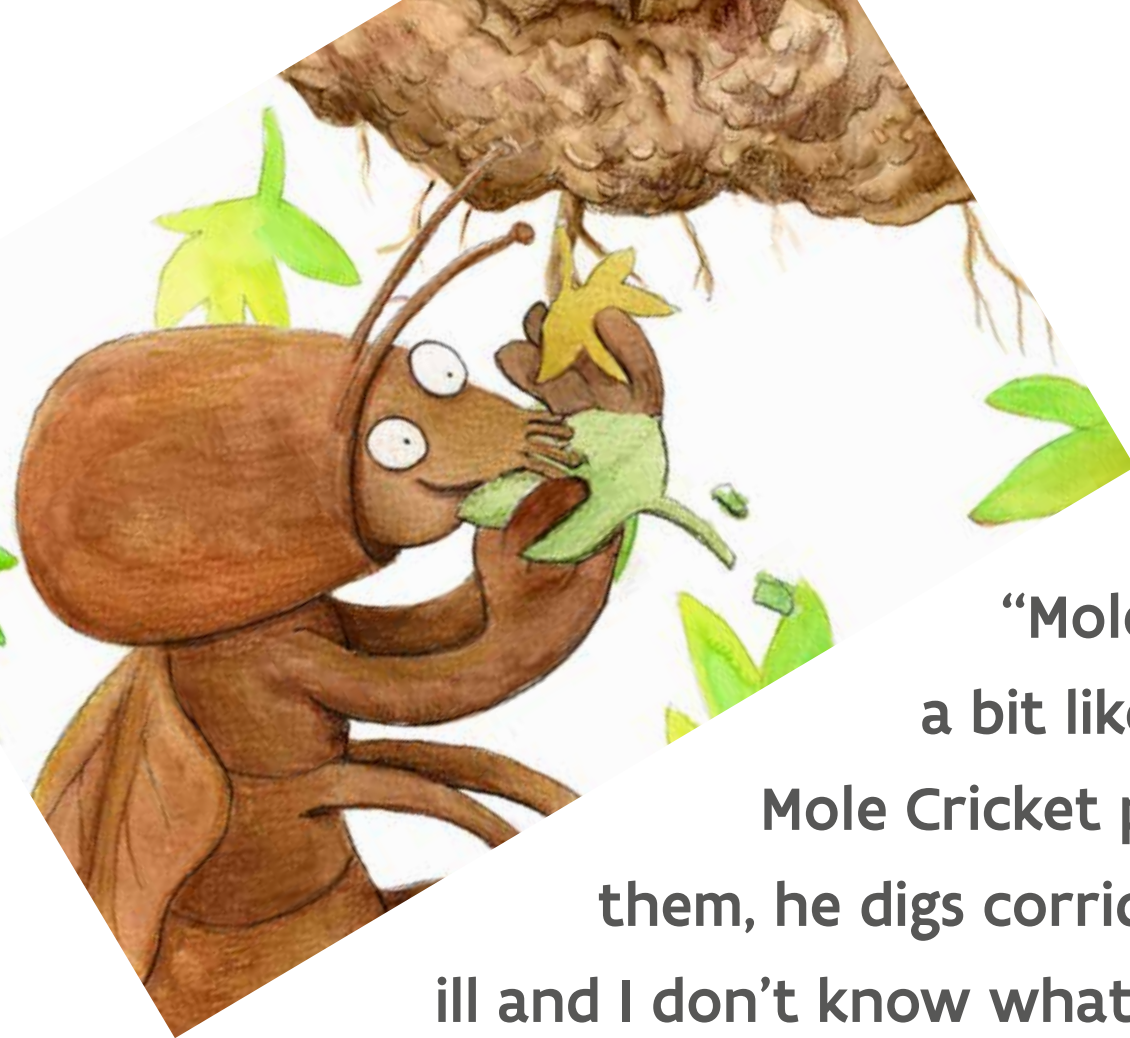
“Wow!” Ant whistles admiringly. “But, uh, why have you come up now? It’s not raining, is it?” “Yeah”, Worm answers, “we have a problem down there. There is a fishy smell and our food has a strange taste? More over my friend Mole Cricket is ill. So I’m trying to find out what’s going on.”

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

What could be wrong with Mole Cricket? Let the children fantasize creatively. Try to find out whether they make the link with the smell and the peculiar flavour.







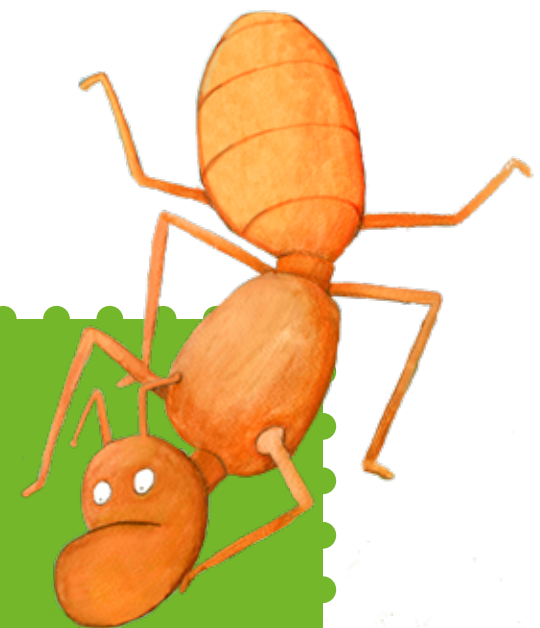
“Mole Cricket? Who’s that?”, Ant asks. “My friend Mole Cricket looks a bit like a cricket”, Worm answers. “But still, they are not related. Mole Cricket prefers living underground. He has big, strong forelegs. With them, he digs corridors. Just like me, he likes leaves and also roots. But now he is ill and I don’t know what the problem is.” Worm is worried and concerned about his friend. That is obvious.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

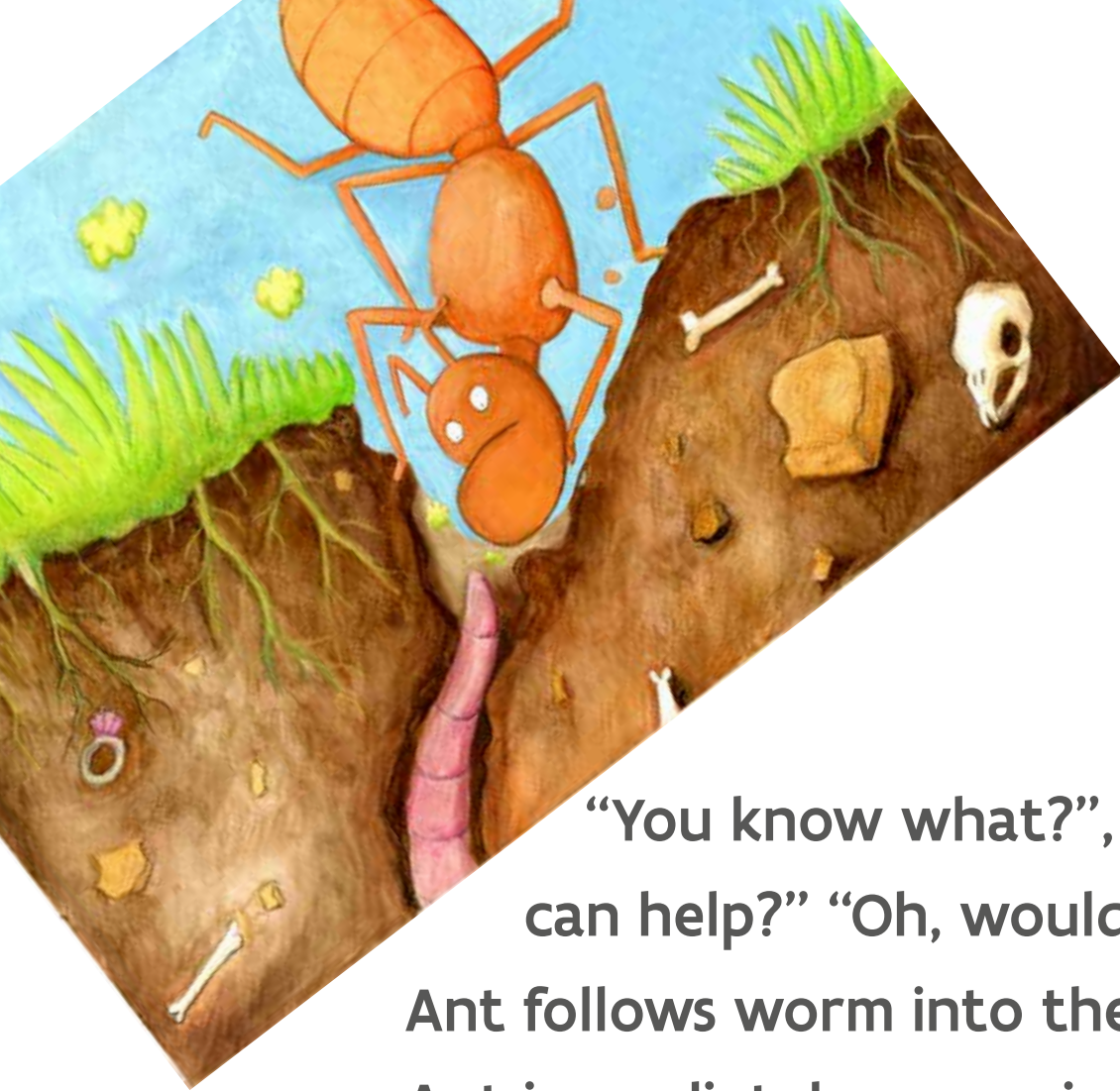
Mole Cricket also resembles another animal with his big, strong forelegs.

Guess! He has a black fur and also lives underground.

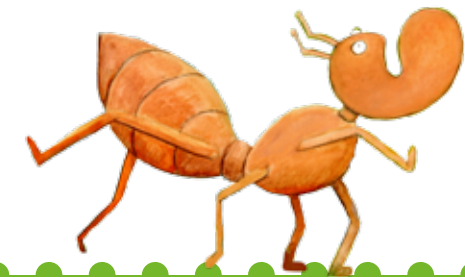
We know he is in our garden when we find heaps of earth all around.→Mole





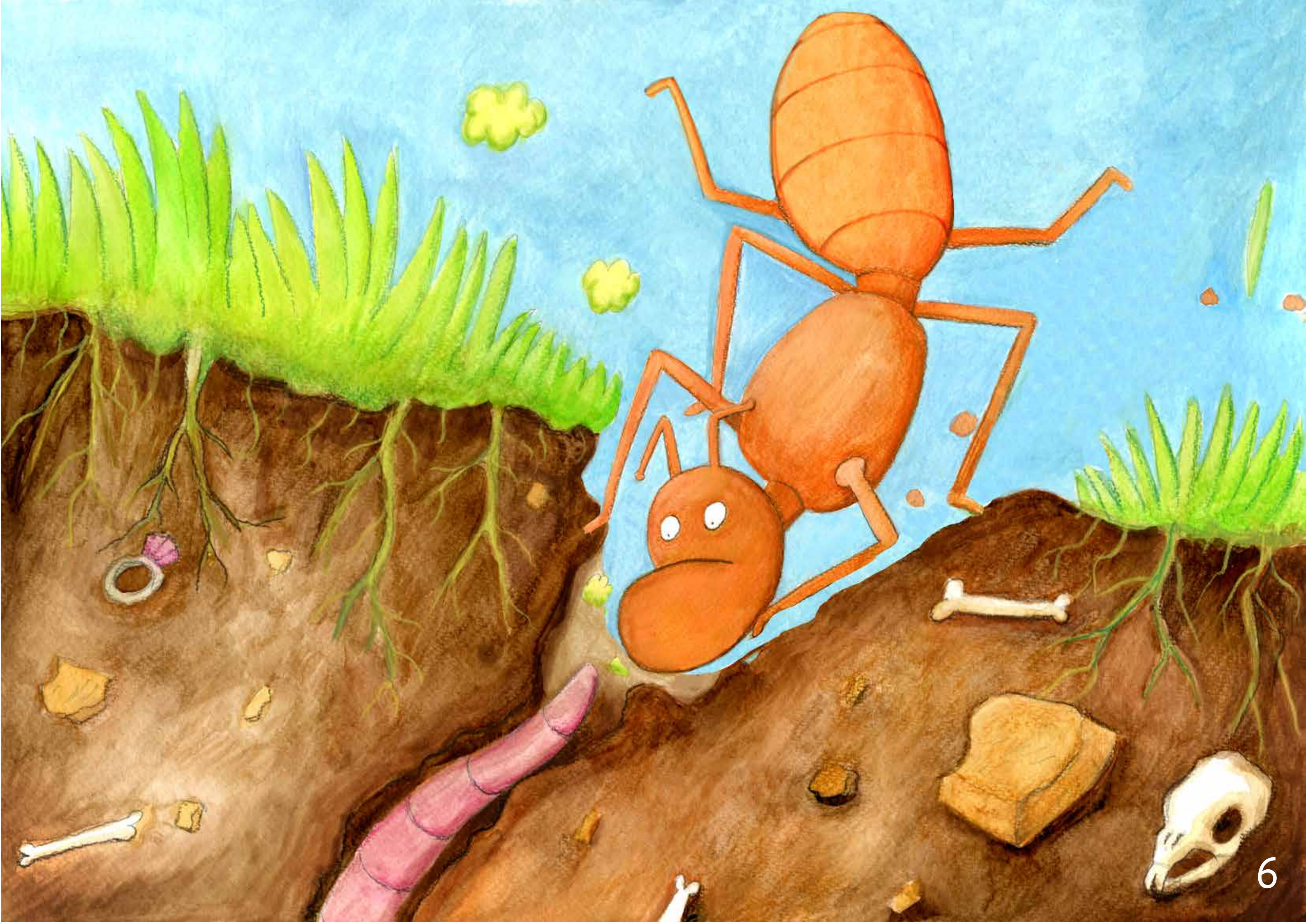


“You know what?”, Ant says. “Shall I come with you and have a look? Maybe I can help?” “Oh, would you do that? I’d like that very much!” Worm cheers. Ant follows worm into the corridor. It’s so dark in here! And there is a fishy smell! Ant immediately recognizes the smell.



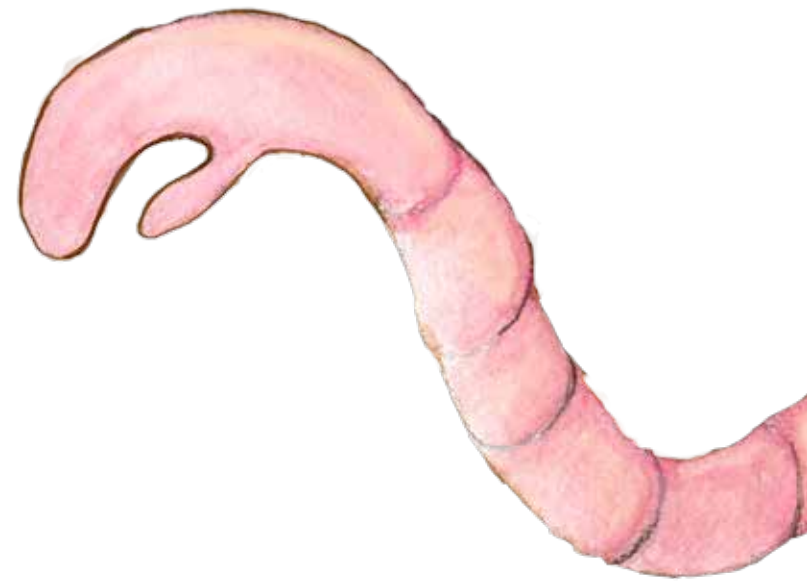
POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

Have you any idea what Ant would smell? → Let the children fantasize creatively.





Mole Cricket does not look good at all. He is holding his belly with his big forelegs. “Ouch, my belly hurts so much!” Ant looks worried. “I think I know where the pain is coming from.” Worm and Mole Cricket are looking at Ant curiously. “Tell us”, Worm insists.







“Strange creatures are living above us”, Ant continues her story.
“They are called ‘humans’. Some of those ‘humans’ like their garden in perfect order, shipshape, you could say. And therefore they use all kinds of filth, because they don’t want to have certain plants in their gardens. It’s that odour that I smell here. I think the filth has reached the leaves and roots of the plants. Since Mole Cricket eats these plants, his belly is hurting.”

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who has got a (small) garden at home? What’s growing in your garden?
- Are worms and ants who live there too? How do you know?
- Who takes care of the garden at your home? Are you allowed to help? Do you like it or not?



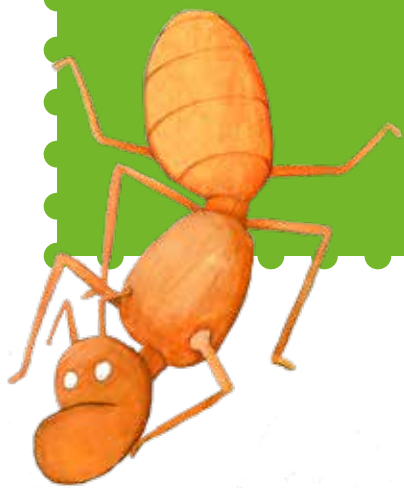


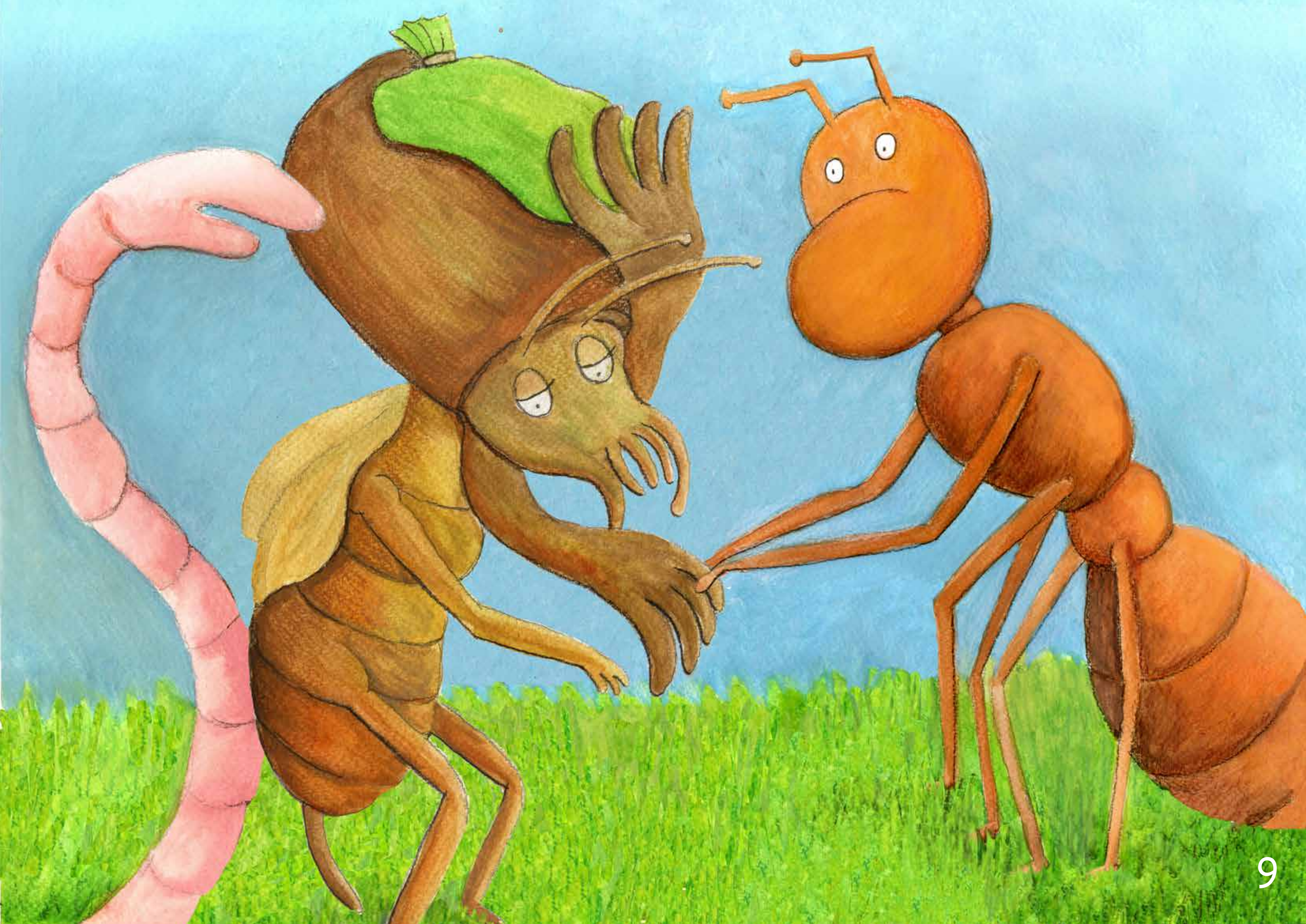


“Oh dear”, Worm and Mole Cricket wail with one voice. “This is horrible. This is dreadful. What should we do now?” “Well”, Ant answers and she doesn’t look pleased at all. “As long as the ‘humans’ keep using that filth, I’m afraid nothing much can be done. Moving to another spot seems to be the only solution.” Sad because she can’t help, Ant says goodbye to Worm and Mole Cricket.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- What’s your opinion about the fact that Worm an Mole Cricket have to move because of all that filth in the soil?
- How can we make sure that Worm, Mole Cricket and Ant continue to live in our gardens?

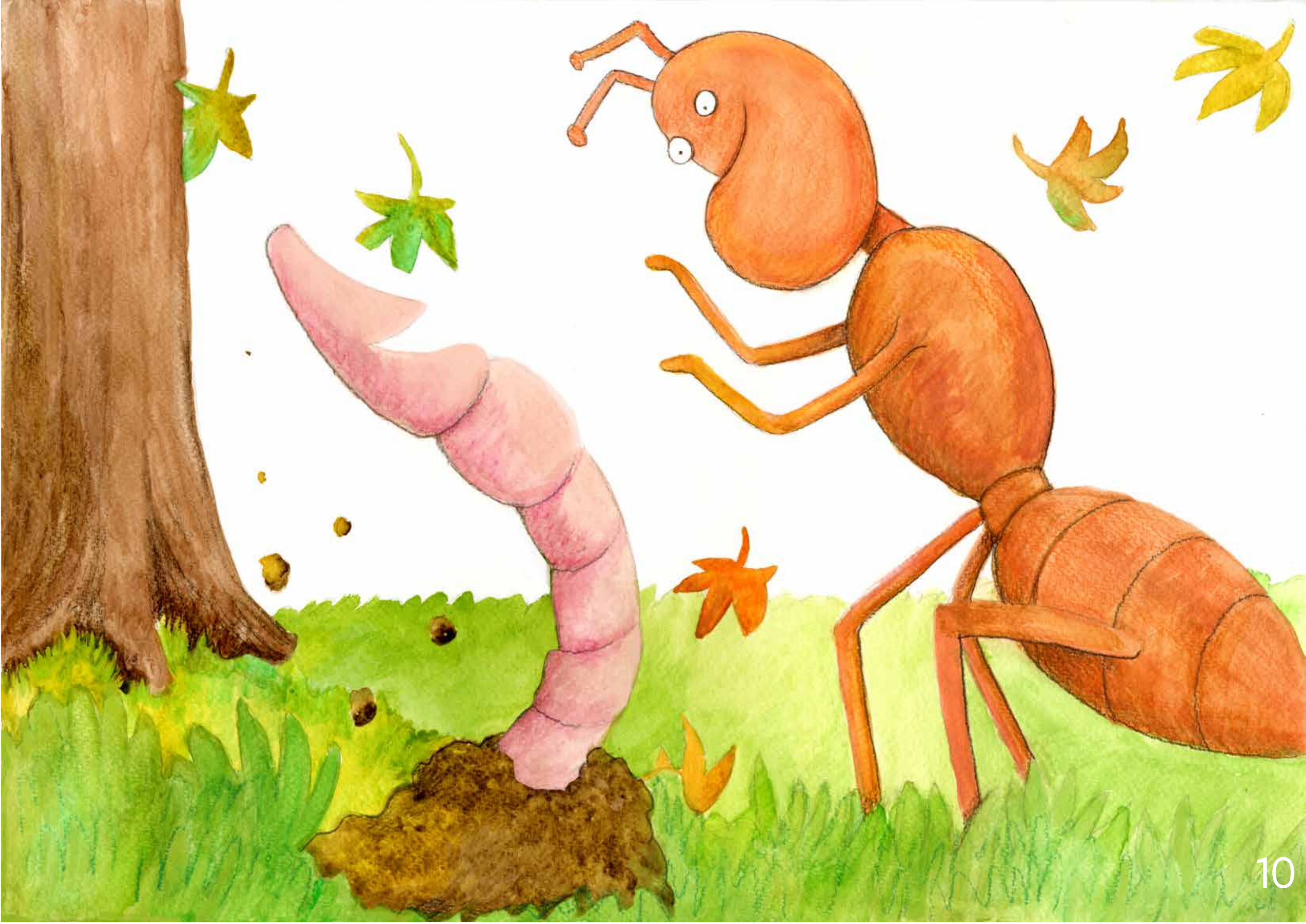






It's autumn. The leaves are falling from the trees. Ant is taking care of a stock of snacks for the winter. Suddenly the soil comes up. It is Worm. "Hello Ant". Worm looks good. He's glowing and shining. "Hello, Worm. You really look good," Ant says. "I owe this to you," Worm answers. "Mole Cricket and I moved to a spot without filth in the soil. Mole Cricket recovered immediately. His belly ache is gone!"







“That’s really good news,” Ant says. She is happy that her new friends are doing well. Who knows, I might also move to that spot!”

“For a friend like you, Mole Cricket and I are happy to make some room,” Worm smiles. And he gives Ant a wormy hug.





ANT MEETS EARTHWORM

Target group: from kindergarten 1st year
till primary school 1st grade

AUTHOR: Herwig Kevelaerts

ILLUSTRATOR: Tim Joye

TRANSLATION: Erick Craenhals & Marc De Decker