

## Sample 6th Grade Essay

Prompt: Explain the grasshopper's personality and point of view in Aesop's *The Ant and the Grasshopper*.

Key: **Thesis** **Topic sentence** **Information** **Detailed Analysis** **Ending**  
**strong vocabulary** literary device

Context to introduce thesis with title, author, genre

Aesop is a famous writer from 2,500 years ago whose short stories are still read today. In one of his fables, *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, a Grasshopper frolics all summer. The grasshopper's irresponsible attitude resulted in him having to beg for food in Winter. **The Grasshopper is blithe and adamant against completing any work that he doesn't feel is suitable to him which leads to his offending other people.**

✓ Answers prompt  
 ✓ Includes insight

**In this fable, the grasshopper is very blithe.** The grasshopper sees an ant working hard to collect food for the winter, the grasshopper says, "I watched the ant scurry back and forth gathering food - insects, flies, grains of wheat - anything she could find, never once stopping to admire the glorious day or relax in the rays." The

✓ Clear claim

grasshopper doesn't acknowledge the fact that the ant is working hard because he is thinking about being chill, carefree, and calm. As he watches the ant, the first thing he notices is that the ant isn't taking a moment to relax. He didn't notice she was working hard. This shows that he is blithe because when he saw the ant, he didn't commend her hard-working actions; he was confused and almost disturbed by it. This attitude will offend people because he doesn't understand the hard work of those who aren't carefree. When he makes comments about people doing their jobs, the comments will offend people and they think the grasshopper doesn't commend their work.

✓ Information from text shows claim

✓ Explains quote

✓ Proves and builds upon the claim

The grasshopper is adamant against completing any work that isn't suitable to him. The grasshopper watches the ant and then comments, "Take it easy there, Ant! I don't understand why you're working so hard. The day is long! Food is plentiful. Come and rest awhile, and listen to my latest melody." The grasshopper is strongly opinionated against completing work he doesn't want to do, like a toddler not wanting to eat vegetables. He doesn't know why people work hard to do arduous tasks and not sit back, relax and have fun. Even though the Ant and the Grasshopper both work hard (GH sings and Ant collects food), he doesn't acknowledge that working for food is going to be more helpful in the end. People will eventually think less of him because he doesn't work as courageously as others do and shames people who do work that hard.

✓ Information from text shows claim

Literary device

✓ Engagement

Contrast sentence

✓ Variety

The grasshopper does not admire other people's jobs and is only focused on his. He speaks of himself in a higher manner, offends people, and discourages their work, and in the end, the hate goes back to him. The moral of the story is that when you aren't kind towards people, they will think lowly of you. The result is that you will lose friends and become lonely.

✓ Summary

✓ Identifies lesson

Thesis

Topic Sentence

Information

Detailed Analysis

Strong vocabulary

Sentence variety

- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Complex
- ✓ Compound

Ending