Ant and the Full Stop



A tiny visitor pauses at the end.

A short story to enjoy together

Ant and the Full Stop

Musa was writing a very short story at the kitchen table. Mum helped him sound out the words. The story was about a dog who found a hat.

Musa drew the dog. He drew the hat. Then he read his last sentence aloud.

"The dog went home."

A tiny black dot appeared beside the words.

"My full stop is moving," Musa said.

Mum leaned closer. The dot had six little legs.

An ant walked around the end of the sentence. It paused beside the dog, then continued towards the hat.

"Perhaps it wants to hear the story," Musa whispered.

He began again, more slowly. The ant crossed the empty space below his drawing. Musa imagined it walking along the same path as the dog.

"It is a very small reader," he said.

Mum opened the nearby window. She placed a leaf on the table, with its tip beside the ant.

Ant and the Full Stop

They waited. The ant explored the edge. Then it climbed onto the leaf.

Mum carried the leaf outside and set it gently beside the basil pot.

Musa looked back at his page. Without the ant, his last sentence was missing something.

He picked up his pencil and made one neat dot.

"This full stop will stay."

He added a tiny ant beneath the drawing, far enough from the words that nobody would mistake it for a mark.

When Dad came home, Musa read him the story.

"Who is that little character?" Dad asked.

Musa smiled. "Our first reader. He has already gone home too."

THE END

LET'S TALK

How did Musa and Mum help the ant? What does a full stop tell us when we read?

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