The Ant's Enormous Full Name

A small introduction grows too long.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Ant's Enormous Full Name

READ TOGETHER

Ant introduced herself as Ada. Her friend called himself Sir Barnaby Bumblebottom the Third, Explorer of the Biscuit Crumb and Keeper of the Picnic Blanket. He was also an ant.

Ada waited politely for the name to finish. "What shall I call you when the game starts?" she asked. Barnaby thought. The full name might take longer than his turn.

"Barnaby will do," he said. Ada made two name cards. Hers was short. His became a folding strip with enough room for all the pretend titles on the back.

During the game, Ada called, "Your turn, Barnaby!" He moved his counter immediately. Nobody had to wait through the Biscuit Crumb or the Picnic Blanket.

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READ TOGETHER

Afterwards, they played royal explorers. Barnaby unfolded the grand card and announced every title. Ada gave herself one too: Ada, Finder of the Missing Green Counter. It was an achievement she could prove.

Their teacher asked which names they wanted on their everyday boxes. "Ada," said Ada. "Barnaby," said Barnaby. The long titles stayed with their make-believe game.

At tidy-up time, Barnaby found the biscuit-crumb drawing under a chair. He returned it to the game box with great dignity. An explorer, after all, ought to know where his own equipment belonged.

LET'S TALK

Why did Barnaby choose a shorter name during the game?

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