



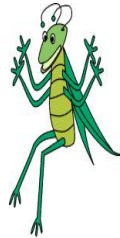
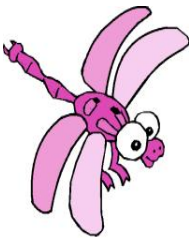
AMELIA

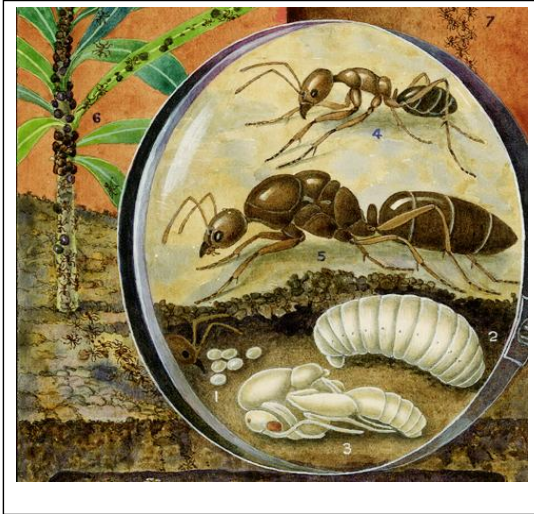
THE ANT



Written and illustrated by

Jyotsna Lal

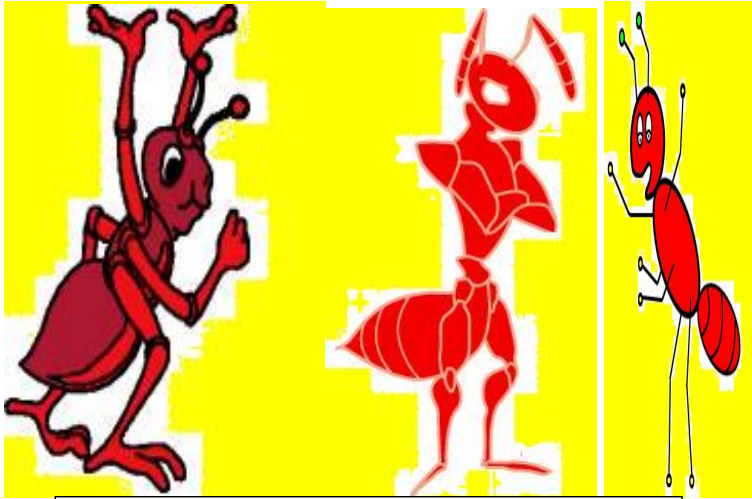




Once upon a time ,
Under the big
stone , there was an
ant city ruled by a
Queen .It was a
Prosperous city
having huge dairy
farms consisting of

a thousand Aphid cows.The Queen's subjects were loyal to her ,worker ants very faithful and honest, the harvester ants collected and stored seeds just like farmers ,other ants like good gardeners grew crops ,ant crop you know are tiny toadstools ,they were indeed good gardeners for they fertilized their gardens with fermented leaves to their Queen they brought the best of their produce.

The Queen had six children who were dear to her and all the other helper ants .There were five handsome boys and the sixth child was a cute ant girl Amelia The darling of all.



The Queen had six ant children



Ah ! but she was a very spoilt and disobedient darling .

Ofcourse you already know My dears that she was the

crown princess as ant cities are ruled by ant queens

The royal children had hundred pets , there were silver fishes

and different kinds of beetles , these the slave ants had to

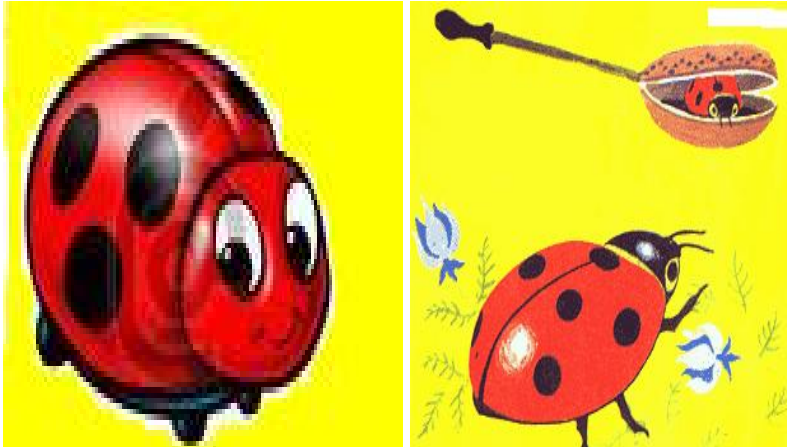
take constant care .

Now one day the soldier ants caught a ladybird [kind of beetle]

which had been found devouring the ant cows in the pasture .The

princess could be naughty and stubborn when she wished and

she demanded for the beetle .



'I want to keep the ladybird as my pet' said Amelia



'Why you want that beetle ! 'asked the Queen

'I want to keep as my pet "pouted the princes

'No ! No! said the Queen horrified by the strange request

'No ! No! said the soldier ants

No ! No! said the worker ants

No ! No! said the slave ants

Yes ! yelled the princess Amelia.

They tried to reason with her , it was not possible it will eat up all their aphid cows ,they will not have any milk ,cheese or butter but the princess was not one to be reasoned with , She threw one of her worst tantrums and gave up food ,she looked herself in her room.

A complete fortnight passed ,the princess didnt take a morsel of food in her mouth .

**Nomore
bedtime
stories
Princess
Amelia must
sleep now !
She has
been very
naughty
today!!!!!!**

**Let me tell Amelia
a storyOnce
upon a time there
was bird and a frog
who were
friends.....!!!!**



The Queen could bear it no longer ,she would have long given into the princess Had it not been for her counselor who had asked the Queen to be firm in the interests of her loyal subjects The Queen tip toed into her darling's room and immediately burst into uncontrollable sobbing ,the apple of her eye had been reduced into a bag of bones

Oh! How weak and pale she had grown .

The royal doctor was called, he dotted down a diet that would help the princess to regain her strength. The same day the lady bird was included among the royal pets

A farm was opened specially for the ladybird where aphid cows were bred for its food .

The Amelia once again became her cheerful romping self.

Day by day she became more and more fond of her strange new pet ,naming it spotty because it had beautiful black spots on a red wing case

Day by day the Amelia grew older and also beautiful but did she change her naughty ways



No! Sir! Amelia was still troublesome as before much to the distress of the Queen and the royal helpers . At meals she was especially naughty she loved all sweets like milk candy puddings, chocolates ,well the worker ants always brought the tidbits from nearby sweet shop [after all ants enter everywhere .]

The royal doctor said No!

The Queen and the royal helpers said No! for after stuffing herself with sweets Amelia would be very ill

Yet meals sometimes would be rough affairs ,she would throw away vegetables ,she would throw away her cereals and she would spill her milk all over the nice clean table cloth and she would ofcourse demand sweets

Now the Amelia loved one thing better than eating sweets and throwing trantrums

That was listening to stories ,she could situp all night listening to tales about the land outside their ant city

If it had'nt been for this love they would have all given into the Amelia and he often very silly wishes The moment the

princes would throw a tantrum ,her mother would say ,”Now don’t be difficult or I will have to stop your bedtime stories “

Immediately she would stop her tantrum and be good as gold

The poor worker ants did not get a moments rest when they returned from the land outside the ant city ,until they told her their customary stories and accounts of their adventures.

One day the Amelia decided to go with the worker ants and find the truth about the land outside .

She announced her intention one fine morning when the worker ants were leaving for work

The Queen shook her head ,” its too soon for you to go out of the ant city .You are just too young my little Ant So she had to content with this answer ,very soon she got tired of waiting to grow older and again asked her mother

The Queen made a strange promise ,” you can go out as soon as you grow a pair of wings “



‘ Wings ! indeed ‘ yelled Amelia ,turned her back and stamped to her room leaving her mother smiling mysteriously behind .

Well Amelia coaxed and cajoled but her mother was adamant .

The Amelia decided to solve the mystery herself ,was her mother trying to put her off or was there any truth in her promises.To put her suspicions at rest ,one night she closely questioned the royal butler one of the oldest citizens of the ant city ,who was her favourite storyteller and he told her a strange thing that one day she will grow wings .

The Amelia listened to him disbelieving . She was convinced that the butler was also in league with her mother .And they all were plotting and trying to discourage her from going out of the ant city. So she decided to give up the idea ,the thought of running away from the ant city did occur to her but running away was like getting out from a locked room without a key

So Amelia settled down , spent her days as before and never mentioned the trip much to the surprise of her mother .



One morning Amelia woke up up to find a pair of tiny gossamer wings ,growing on her back .

Oh! My wasn't she pleased ,she was now going to get her dearest wish . She raced to her her mother , To her surprise she found a a number of the royal councillors with her ,admiring and praising her five brothers who had also grown wings.

Amelia got ignited with their excitement and could not wait to start on the trip. They danced around their mother and asked to be allowed to go at once

No ! No ! cried the amused mother ' You cannot go just now ,you must take your breakfast and you must tidy yourself or the big beautiful sun outside will laugh at you

Oh ! No! 'cried the royal children in dismay .

"We don't want any breakfast" pouted Amelia

"We don't want to tidy up! we're are neat and clean " yelled the five ant princes who like ordinary boys hated washing up

"Bath and breakfast or I will cancel the trip", said the Queen

Off they went ,a little fearfully incase their mother kept her word and cancelled their trip .

How they tried to hurry their nurses but they would not be hurried

They washed the royal ants till they shone like ebony and their wings shimmered like costly silk. Next came breakfast.

Oh ! how they gobbled the food much to the amusement and amazement of the watching Queen and helpers,they stuffed the royal darlings with rich goodies for it appeared as they had been starving for weeks .

At last the meal was over and the were ready to leave .The children were given a basket each filled with cakes from the royal bakery

Amelia wanted to take her pet with her ,nobody refused everyone was fed up of the giant pet which had devoured a thousand of the aphid cows.



All the ants came out of their ant city to say goodbye. The soldier ants marched in a column and saluted them smartly

The Queen kissed them and wept softly in her handkerchief .

Amelia drew out of the ant city holding the leash of the ladybird , she was dazzled by the brightness of the morning . The ladybird momentarily stunned suddenly took to wing, pulling the Amelia of her feet. It flew up in the air carrying the Amelia hanging on the leash , hugging her basket amidst the shouts of the watching ants ,leaving her surprised brothers gaping at her.

After a little while, her fright passed away and Amelia began enjoying her flight. There were leafy green trees and bushes full of flowers ,carpets of green grass .Everything she found to the description of the worker ants.The air was laden with the scent of flowers .The morning was filled with sounds of the hurrying animals,busy on their errands. Chattering squirrels exchanging gossip and the melodious voices of the birds. Suddenly the air was pierced by the call of the cuckoo shouting his summer greetings .

Noddy the Praying Mantis fluttered down

'Nothing would be nicer than going to the Butterfly Ball 'said Amelia



The princes couldnot help wondering at its sweet voice.

It wa a busy morning ,nobody paid the slightest notice to the ladybird and its strange cargo ,much to Amelia's relief .

At last the ladybird tiring from its burden a lighted on the branch of a tree, the Amelia busy in gazing at the wonderful scene around ,did not notice the action ,suddenly found herself dangling from the branch of the tree.

Oh! My goodness what to do now ? Amelia couldnot prod the ladybird because her hands were full.

Oh ! how she screamed, ranted ,scolded but to no avail , the tired ladybird had fallen asleep. Amelia's hands began to tire ,she looked down and saw how far she was from the ground

To fall from such a height --Oh! My fear began to rise like drowning waters .Amelia's hold began to loosen ,in her panic she let go of the basket.

Feeling her strength ebbing ,she tried to use the leash as a rope ladder ,slipping and sliding she somehow reached the branch .

Tired and frighten Amelia gave vent to her feelings by hitting the sleeping ladybird,

The frightened bug took to wing ,leaving Amelia stranded on the tree.

Good riddance! That good for nothing bug ! ’ grumbled Amelia suddenly she began to cry realising the she was stranded on the tree.

Boo! Hoo! She cried long and loud.

A dragonfly flying past alighted near and asked, 'what is the matter'

'I cannot [sniff] climb down [sniff] the tree ‘

‘ Then fly down’ he advised

‘

Fly down ‘ she cried ,’I donot know how to fly .Please teach me to fly Mr?’

‘Dragonfly’ informed the newcomer

Mr Dragonfly , will you teach me how to fly “ Amelia repeated

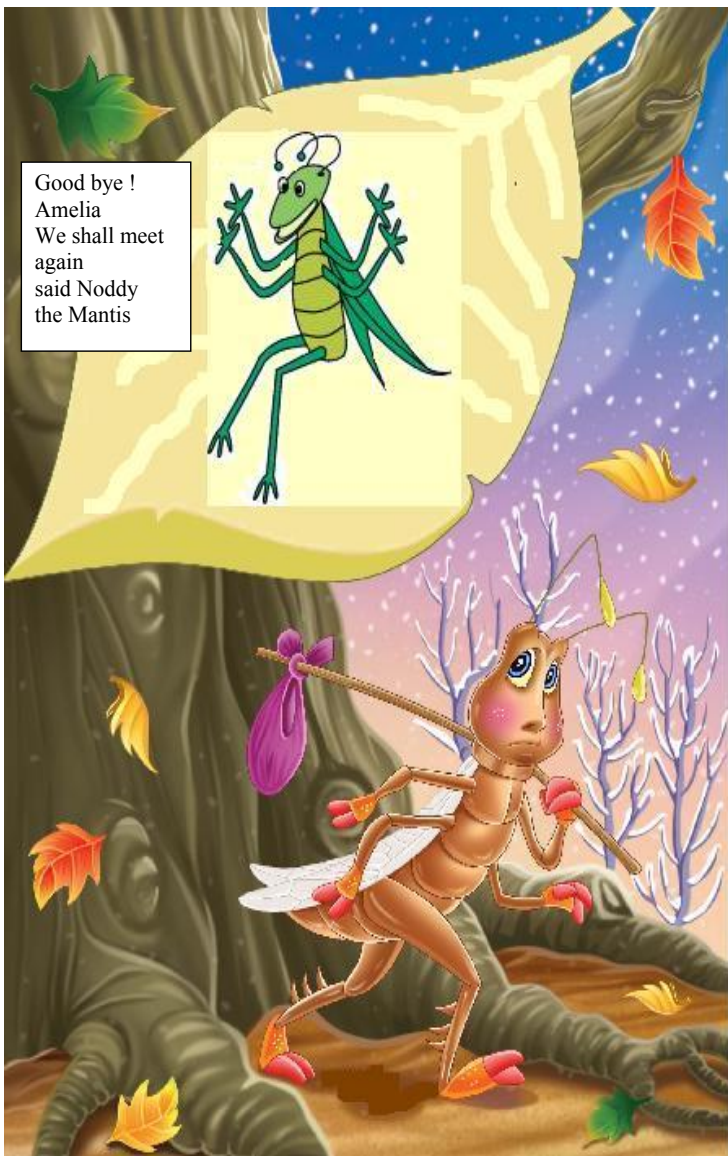
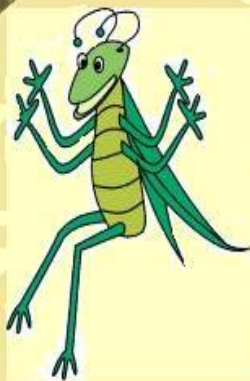
‘ Can’t said , Mr Dragonfly I’m going to the butterfly ball and if I don’t hurry I’ll be late for it’

‘Please’, she begged but Mr Dragonfly was already on his way

Mr Green caterpillar was munching leaves , he couldnot help because he was hungry and sleepy .

Mr Buzz the Bumble Bee stopped by , but was loaded with pollen so he promised to be back in a short while

Good bye !
Amelia
We shall meet
again
said Noddy
the Mantis



once again Amelia was reduced to hopeless weeping, another Dragonfly flew past and the Amelia mistaking it to be Mr Dragonfly called out to it

‘Yes ! Little Ant !

‘Please Mr Dragonfly -----‘

‘Sorry little Ant , I’m Miss Dragonfly’

‘Oh! Blushed Amelia ,Sorry madam for the mistake

‘Please do me a favour ‘

‘Anytime little Ant “

‘Please teach me how to fly ‘

Easy ,said ‘Miss Dragonfly’just jump in the air and flap your wings ‘ with these words she flew away.

Poor Amelia began trying to fly ,sometimes she would flap her wings then jump

sometimes she would jump first flap later.It was so muddlesome but all her efforts did not teach her to fly.

A shrill laugh broke out from the branch above .a green Praying Mantis fluttered down . His name was Noddy

‘what are you jumping up and down for ? was his amused question

‘ Its not the business of sticks ‘ was th rude reply

‘Now ! Now ! do’t get annoyed if you tell me ,I’m sure to find a solution if there is a problem’

‘You don’t look wise to me ‘ Amelia retorted

‘I’ll give you a treat ,promise ‘ cajoled the curious Mantis

:what kind of treat ‘ asked Amelia

‘Anything you like ‘

‘Nothing would be nicer than going to the Butterfly Ball ‘ said Amelia wistfully.

‘O.K to the Ball we shall go’ he promised .So Amelia confided her problem to him

‘Easiest problem I ‘ve ever heard ‘ commented the Mantis

“ Easy ! cried Amelia I do’t find flying easy .It’s a difficult task.’

‘Nonsense ! retorted the Mantis ‘ just do as I tell you .’

‘Close your eyes , stand on the tip your toes and spread out your wings’

‘Then ? Asked Amelia

‘First do as I tell you ’ said the Mantis .

Fearfully Amelia did as she was told . Just as she balanced herself on her toes , the Mantis gave her a push . Amelia fell off the branch and was floating on her spread out wings .

‘Whee ! Here I go ‘ Amelia shouted ‘ I can fly ’

she was bursting with happiness , she flew around sometime , then circling around the tree ,she dropped down beside the smiling Mantis

‘Oh! Thankyou kind Sir’

‘Nonsense ! I knew you had it in you! all you need was a little push . ‘Oh! Thankyou kind Sir’

‘Nonsense ! I knew you had it in you! all you need was a little push .We better hurry or we will be late for the Ball’

We better hurry or we will be late for the Ball’



The Butterfly Ball
was wonderful



Amelia and Noddy the Mantis were soon on their way to the ball .

They flew a little distance and dropped down in a beautiful garden .

Amelia found a great many insects congregated in a daisy bed .There were butterflies of many colours , shapes and sizes even Praying Mantis and Dragonfly of shapes and sizes, Many types of beetles . Butterflies were going to dance and the assembled insects will choose the best and most beautiful dancer.

The atmosphere was noisy ,honey drink was being served to those present in rose petal cups.The insects were discussing and arguing who would be the winner . Black beetle said that the last summers winner , a beautiful and graceful cabbage green would remain unbeaten while the grasshoppers and bees expected the red gold Monarch butterfly to win

Softly the crickets began to sing and the dance began, the beautiful Butterflies circled ,dipped,bowed and fluttered in time.A hush fell on the crowd ,they watched spell bound

As the sound of the crickets rose higher ,the dancers moved faster ,they whirled in a rich blaze of colour

It seemed to the watchers that if the dance continued any longer ,the raging mixture of rainbow colours would interlock and subside into one wondrous hue.

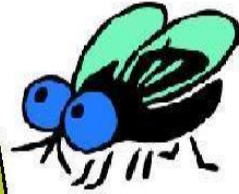
Slowly one by one the dancers began to tire and drop out, till one pancy blue Butterfly was left twirling and whirling among the daisies.it seemed tireless as the crickets voices were on a higher and louder tone

The master of ceremony a huge Moth announced the winner , all the insects were clapping when the Pancy blue butterfly received the tiny gold cup.

The Praying Mantis wished the princess goodbye and went his way . Soon princess was left alone among the daisies .The crickets were singing and princess began to dance

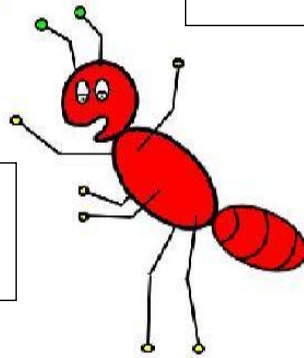
‘ Oh! Beautiful dancer ! would you care to step in my parlour ’ ,cried a sweet voice

Amelia stopped looked for owner of the sweet voice but she could not find him



**'GoodMorning! Mistress
Fly, lady with silken
wings would you step
in my humble home ',
called Mike the spider**

**" I'm not a fly '
said Amelia the Ant**



The invitation was repeated and seemed to come from the nearby lily . Amelia moved in the direction of the voice, she was intent on searching for the hidden caller and did not see the silken spider web stretched in her way. It caught her eye in the nick of time or she would have blundered into the trap. So it was a spider out to trap her.

‘Good Morning! Mistress Fly, lady with silken wings would you step in my humble home ’, called out the sweet young voice

“ I’m not a fly ’ retorted Amelia

“ You’re not a fly but you look like one ” cried the surprised spider.

“ I’m an royal ant , Amelia the princess of the antcity under the stone ’

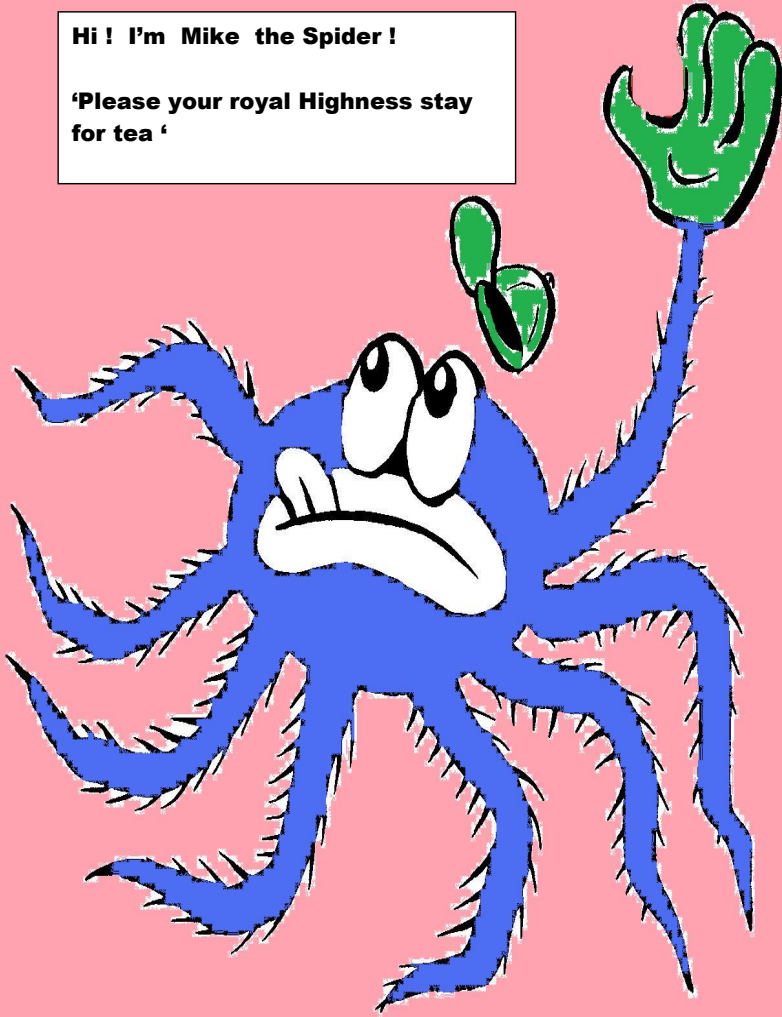
“ I’m sorry your royal Highness . I mistook you for a fly, faltered the young spider .

‘ I ’m Mike the spider , please have tea with me ’

‘ No thankyou ’, said Amelia hastily .

Hi ! I'm Mike the Spider !

**'Please your royal Highness stay
for tea '**



‘ You mistook me , your royal Highness ! please donot be frightened I do’nt eat ants “

‘ Why you donot eat ants ‘, asked Amelia rather surprised.

**“ Firstly because Flies are irritatable and dirty creatures’,
Mike the spider explained**

“Irritable and dirty creatures but I think they look pretty with their gossamer wings’

‘ They think too ,that’s why they go buzz here , buzz there , irritating everyone with their constant buzzing .I think the world would be a better place without them .Fly walks about in dirty puddles and rubbish heaps then fly about , dirt clinging to their hairy legs , dropping it everywhere.

“Second reason ! prompted Amelia

Secondly they are stupid proud creatures and blunder into my web without seeing and therefore easy to catch ’

‘Oh! I must go now ;’ said Amelia ,preparing to fly away

‘Please your royal Highness stay for tea ‘

I’d love to but I’ll get tangled in your web’

“ We’ll have a picnic tea in your honour on the big daisy for a table.

So together they sat using the yellow middle of the daisy for a table . Over the tea they talked , telling each other about themselves. The goodies on the table had been made by the spider’s mother , because he did not know how to cook .

Amelia was so hungry , that she gobbled up everything on the table .

‘ I’m sorry ! Oh ! How greedy and ill –mannered of me “

But Mike the spider was not a bit offended , but considered it a compliment to his mother

Amelia to please her new friend sang some sweet songs and told him about the Butterfly Ball .

Then Mike the spider hurried into his web and brought out a little guitar and requested Amelia to dance to its music .

Amelia was soon foot tapping and dancing among the daisies.

Mike the spider had fallen in love with Amelia because of her sweet singing and graceful dancing .



**“ Please Amelia would you
marry me. I promise to catch the
fattest flies for you and will build
you a house and your bed will
have a coverlet of finest silk ”
Said Mike the spider**

“ Please your royal Highness would you marry me. I promise to catch the fattest flies for you and will build you a house and your bed will have a coverlet of finest silk ”

“ I 'm afraid Mike my friend ’ , said Amelia blushing ‘ we’ll make an odd couple and I don’t know how to cook ’

‘ My dear Amelia I would not mind cooking , if you promise to sing for me everyday ”

‘No! No! You have got it all wrong ’,

Amelia had taken a liking of Mike the spider , but she did want to get married. She wanted to see more of the wonderful world but she couldnot explain it to Mike the spider .

“ Oh! Dear! Now how to explain , please Mike I like you very much and wouldnot mind eating flies all my life but I can ’ t marry you . Later maybe”

“ Why later ! Asked Mike the spider

‘ I want to see the world ‘

Then we both can go together after our wedding if you like traveling ’

‘No! No ! I have to go back home ’

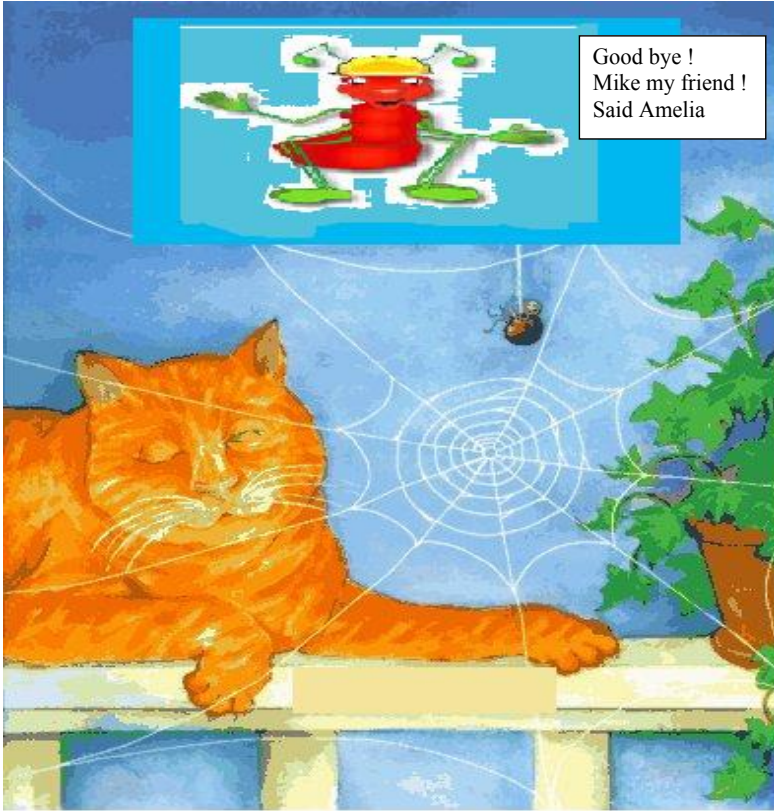
**' Oh ! No ! Amelia please donot leave me ' cried Mike the spider ,
Big tears falling from his eyes. Somehow Amelia comforted the
weeping spider and promised to be back soon with the
permission of her mother the Queen of the ant city**

And this how the first adventure of Amelia came to an end.

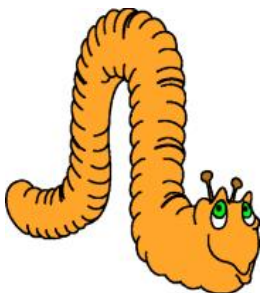
**Amelia the ant princess flew once again in the blue sky floating
on her gossamer wings.**

**Amelia went back to the antcity and told her mother about
her new friends .**

Can you remember the names of amelia's new friends ?



Good bye !
Mike my friend !
Said Amelia



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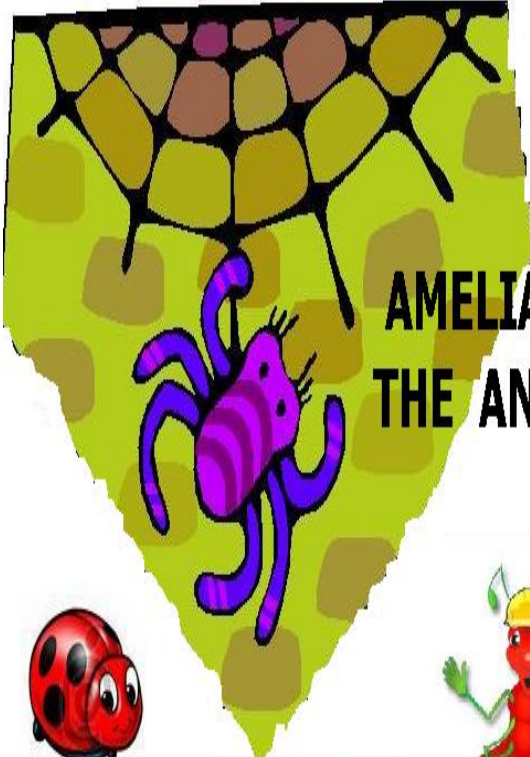
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**Queen mother was happy to see Amelia back safe and sound ,
the other royal children had flown away together .**

**Amelia brothers had practiced flying before starting their
adventures . They were going to stay in the near by antcity ,
To meet the ant girls .**

**The worker ants were happy that spotty the ladybird had flown
away.**

**Amelia was tired and sleepy so she went to bed . It was night
and she was soon fast asleep.**