



## Ant Book

### This file contains

1. The story in Maltese *Nemla wara l-oħra*
2. The story in English *Ants in a row*
3. Outlines of five pictures for colouring

an ant

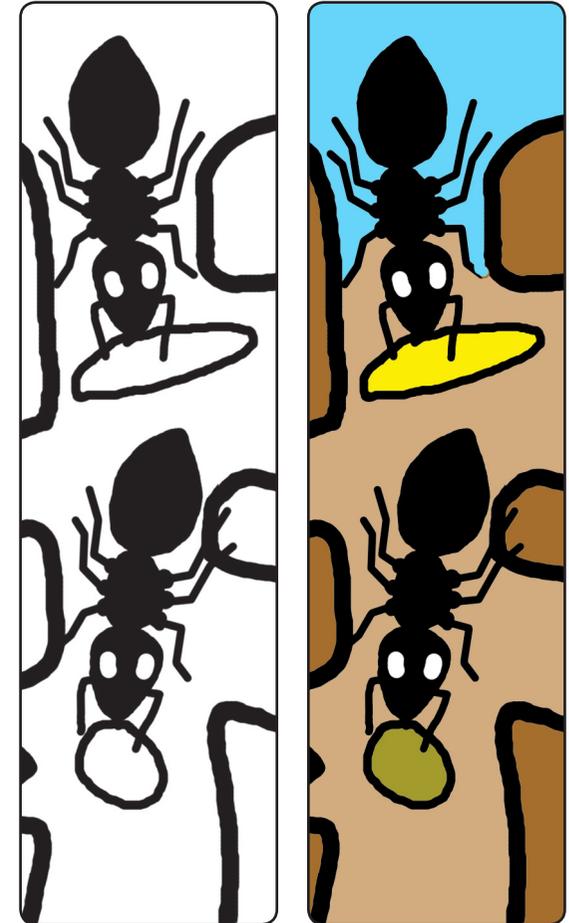
the ants' home

a cigarette and fire

the girl

a sandwich

4. The five pictures in colour



# Nemla wara l-oħra



Darba waħda kien hemm familja tan-nemel. Dawn kienu jgħixu flimkien fil-bejta tagħhom. Il-bejta tan-nemel ma tkunx bħal tal-għasafar. Tkuon hofra fil-ħamrija b'ħafna kuriduri u ħafna kmamar. Fin-nofs tal-bejta kien hemm l-ikbar kamra – din kienet il-kamra tar-reġina tan-nemel. In-nemel kienu jħobbuha ħafna lir-reġina għax hi kienet il-Mamà tagħhom kollha. Kienu jobduha f'kollox.

Kuljum in-nemel kienu joħorġu jfittxu l-ikel. Ħafna mill-kmamar tad-dar tagħhom kienu mimlijin ikel. Ir-reġina kienet tieħu pjaċir tara n-nemel tagħha jaħdmu.

“Kemm intom bravi, uliedi. Issa taraw kemm ikollna x'nieklu fix-xitwa.”

Ir-reġina kellha wkoll is-suldati tagħha. Dawn kienu nemel iktar kbar u b'rashom kbira, u kienu dejjem joqogħdu għassa mad-dar biex ma jigrilha xejn.

Il-bejta tan-nemel kienet qiegħda f'rokna fi ġnien. Il-ġnien kien ta' waħda mara traskurata. Darba waħda l-mara kienet fil-ġnien qed tpejjeper sigarett. Meta spicċalha s-sigarett, il-mara rmieta fil-ħaxix u daħlet ġewwa. Il-ħaxix kien niexef u bin-nar tas-sigarett il-ħaxix beda jaqbad. In-nar beda jinfirex u l-ġnien sar ħuġġieġa.

In-nemel xammew id-duħħan bl-antenni tagħhom. Bdew jiġru 'l hawn u 'l hemm jgħajtu “Nar! Nar!” u marru fil-bejta biex jgħidu lir-reġina.

Ir-reġina ġabritom kollha madwarha u qaltihom: “Uliedi, ejjew noħorġu niġru minn hawn ġew.”

“X'ha nagħmlu bl-ikel li għandna?” qalet waħda min-nemel.

“Xejn! Ħalluh hawn. Jekk nippruwaw inġorru ma nkunux nistgħu niġru, u ninħarqu bin-nar. Magħna nieħdu biss lit-trabi”

Ir-reġina ħarget l-ewwel. Hija frefret l-antenni biex tinduna minn fejn kien ġej in-nar. Imbagħad bdiet tiġri n-naħa l-oħra bin-nemel kollha warajha. Bid-duħħan li kien hemm bilkemm setgħu jaraw, imma ħadd ma ntilef għax kull nemla bdiet tmiss lil ta' quddiema bl-antenni.

Ir-reġina waslet ħdejn ħajt tas-sejjeħ u sabet toqba fih.

“Ejjew warajja,” għajtet, u baqgħu deħlin fit-toqba qishom purċissjoni twila. Fl-aħħar ħarġu min-naħa l-oħra tal-ħajt u sabu ruħhom ġo għalqa kbira. In-nemel waqfu jistrieħu għax kienu qatgħu nifishom. Ir-reġina bdiet iddur magħhom biex tara hux kollha kienu hemm. Ħadd ma kien inħaraq jew intilef. Lanqas nemla tarbija waħda.

“Issa isimgħu, uliedi,” qalet ir-reġina, “Id-dar li kellna spicċat għax inħarqet. Għalhekk ħa jkollna nfittxu post ġdid fejn nibnu dar oħra. Ara, hemmhekk hemm siġra sabiħa. Naħseb hemmhekk tajjeper għalina. Ejjew nibdew issa stess.” In-nemel marru jiġru ħdejn is-siġra u bdew iħaffru. Ħadd ma qagħad jitgħażżen, u ma damux ma kellhom dar kbira daqs ta' qabel.

Issa f'din l-għalqa kienet tiġi tilgħab tifla jisimha Anna. L-għada filgħodu Anna ġiet bħas-soltu

tiekol biċċa ħobż taħt is-siġra, u rat lin-nemel iduru magħha.

“Ara kemm hawn nemel,” qalet. “Dawn qatt ma rajthom hawn. U ara, għandhom bejta wkoll.”

Anna kienet taf li n-nemel iġorru l-ikel. Għalhekk qabdet farka ħobż u poġġietha fuq il-ħamrija ħdejn id-dar tagħhom.

“Tgħid jiħduh ir-rigal li tajthom?” qalet Anna, u qagħdet kokka tistenna.

Ma tantx damet tistenna għax wara ftit ġiet nemla xxomm il-ħobż. In-nemla ppruvat iġġorrha weħidha imma l-farka kienet kbira wisq għaliha. Għalhekk in-nemla ġriet lura lejn il-bejta u qalet lil xi għaxra minn ħutha. Dawn ġew mill-ewwel biex jgħinuha. Ftitt ftitt il-farka ħobż refgħuha u ġarrewha għal ġol-bejta.

Anna tant ħadet pjaċir b'dan illi 'l għada reġgħet ġiet u tathom farka ħobż oħra. U baqgħet tagħmel hekk sa ma bdiet ix-xitwa.

Ġewwa l-bejta, magħluqin fil-bejta sħuna tagħhom, ir-reġina kienet iddawwar in-nemel magħha u tgħidilhom l-istejjer. Meta jaqbadhom il-ġuħ, kienu jinżlu f'waħda mill-kmamar tal-ikel u jnaqqru ftitt mill-frac li kienet tathom Anna.

U dik ix-xitwa ħadd ma baqa' bil-ġuħ. Prosit Anna.

# Ants in a row



Once upon a time there was a family of ants. They lived together in their nest. The ants' nest is not like a bird's nest. It is a hole in the ground with lots of corridors and rooms. In the middle of the nest there was the biggest room – this was the room of the queen ant. The ants loved their queen very much because she was their mother. They obeyed her in everything.

Every day the ants went out to look for food. Many rooms in the nest were full of food. The queen was happy to see her ants so busy.

“How good you are, my children. We will have lots to eat this winter.”

The queen also had soldier ants. The soldier ants were bigger than the worker ants. Their head was huge. The soldier ants kept guard at the door of their nest.

The ants' nest was in the corner of a garden. The garden belonged to a careless woman. One day the woman was in her garden and she was smoking a cigarette. When she finished, she threw it on the grass and went inside. The grass was dry and it soon caught fire. The fire got bigger and bigger and it was all over the garden.

The ants smelled the smoke with their antennae. They ran about shouting “Fire! Fire!” and they ran to their nest to tell the queen.

The queen gathered the ants around her and said “My children, let's get out of here as fast as we can.”

“What shall we do with all the food?” asked one of the ants.

“Nothing! Leave the food here. If we try to carry it we will be too heavy to run, and the fire will burn us. Let us take only the babies.”

The queen ant went out first. She twitched her antennae to smell where the fire was. Then she began to run the other way, and all the ants ran after her. There was a lot of smoke and the ants couldn't see very well. So they walked in a row and each ant touched the ant in front with her antennae. And so nobody got lost.

The queen came to a wall and she found a hole in it.

“Follow me,” she shouted, and they all went into the hole in single file. The ants walked in the wall and soon they found the way out on the other side. There was a big field there.

The ants stopped to rest because they were out of breath. The queen went around to see if they were all there. Nobody was hurt and nobody was lost. Not even one baby ant.

“Now listen to me, my children,” said the queen, “Our old home is gone. We have to find a new place and build a new home. Look, there's a nice big tree over there. I think it's a good place for us. Let's begin right now.”

The ants ran to the tree and they began digging. Nobody was lazy and soon they had a nest as big as the old one.

Next day a girl called Anna came to play in the field. She sat down under the tree to eat her lunch, and she saw the ants.

“What a lot of ants,” she said, “I never saw them here. And look, they have a nest too.”

Anna knew that ants carry food. She took a bit of bread and put it on the ground near the ants' home.

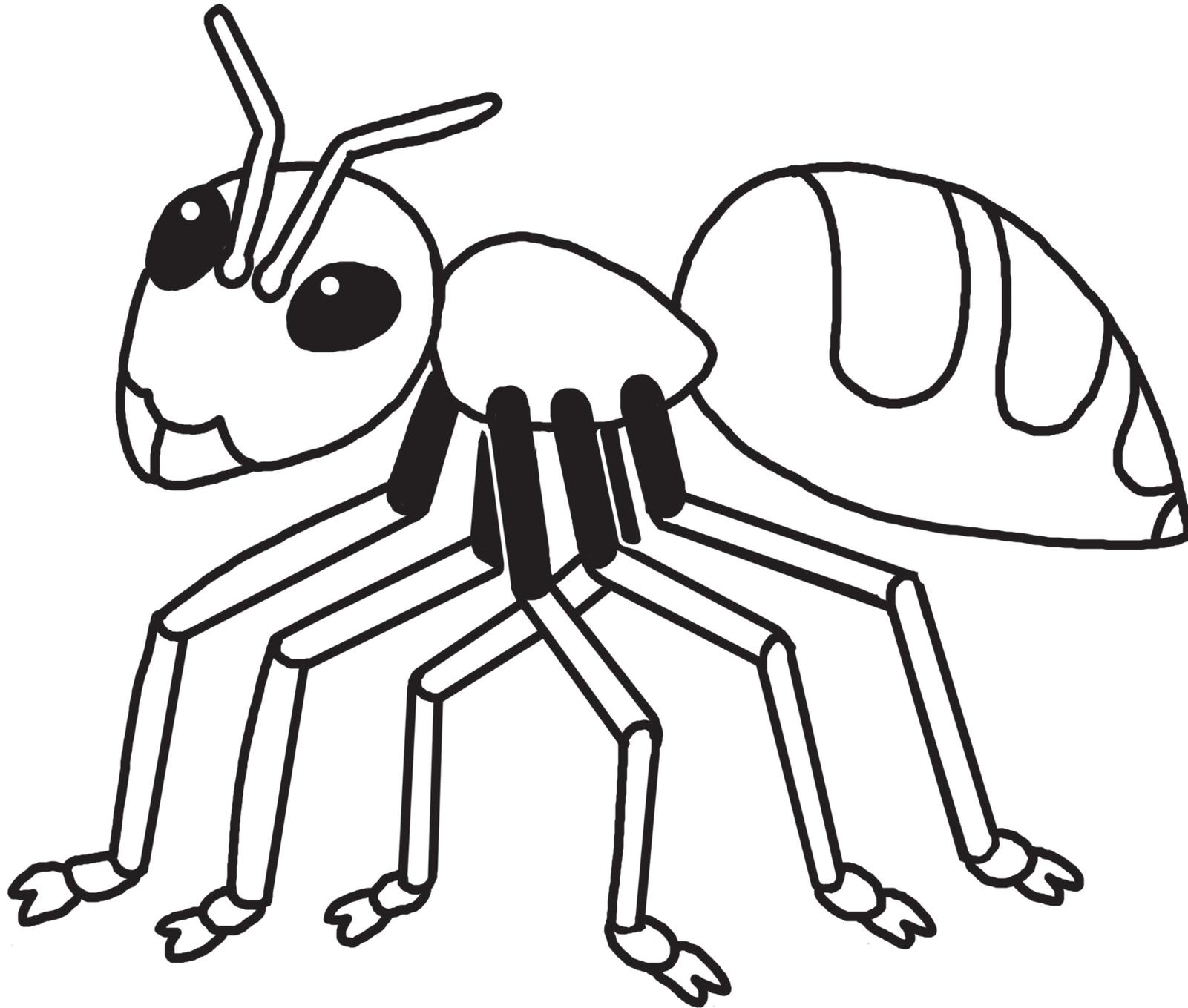
“I wonder if they will take my little present,” said Anna. She waited to see.

Soon an ant came by and began to smell the bread. The ant tried to pick up the bread but it was too heavy. The ant ran to the nest and told some of her sisters. Soon a group of ants came to help. Together they picked up the piece of bread and carried it to the nest.

Anna was very happy. She came back the next day and gave the ants another bit of bread from her lunch. Anna came every day until winter arrived.

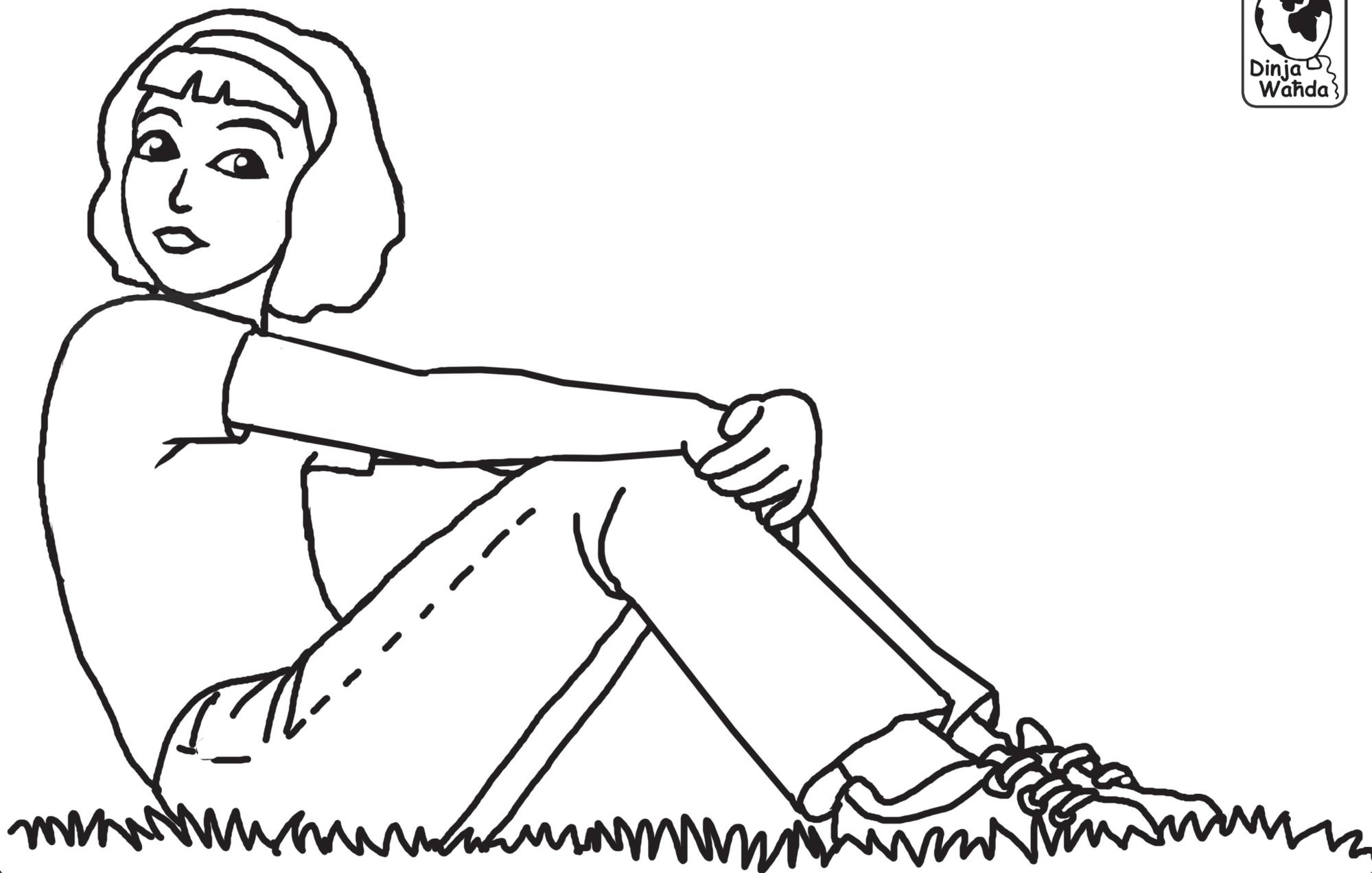
The ants were now safe and cosy in their nest. The queen gathered her children around her and told them stories. When they got hungry they went to one of the rooms and ate some of the food Anna gave them.

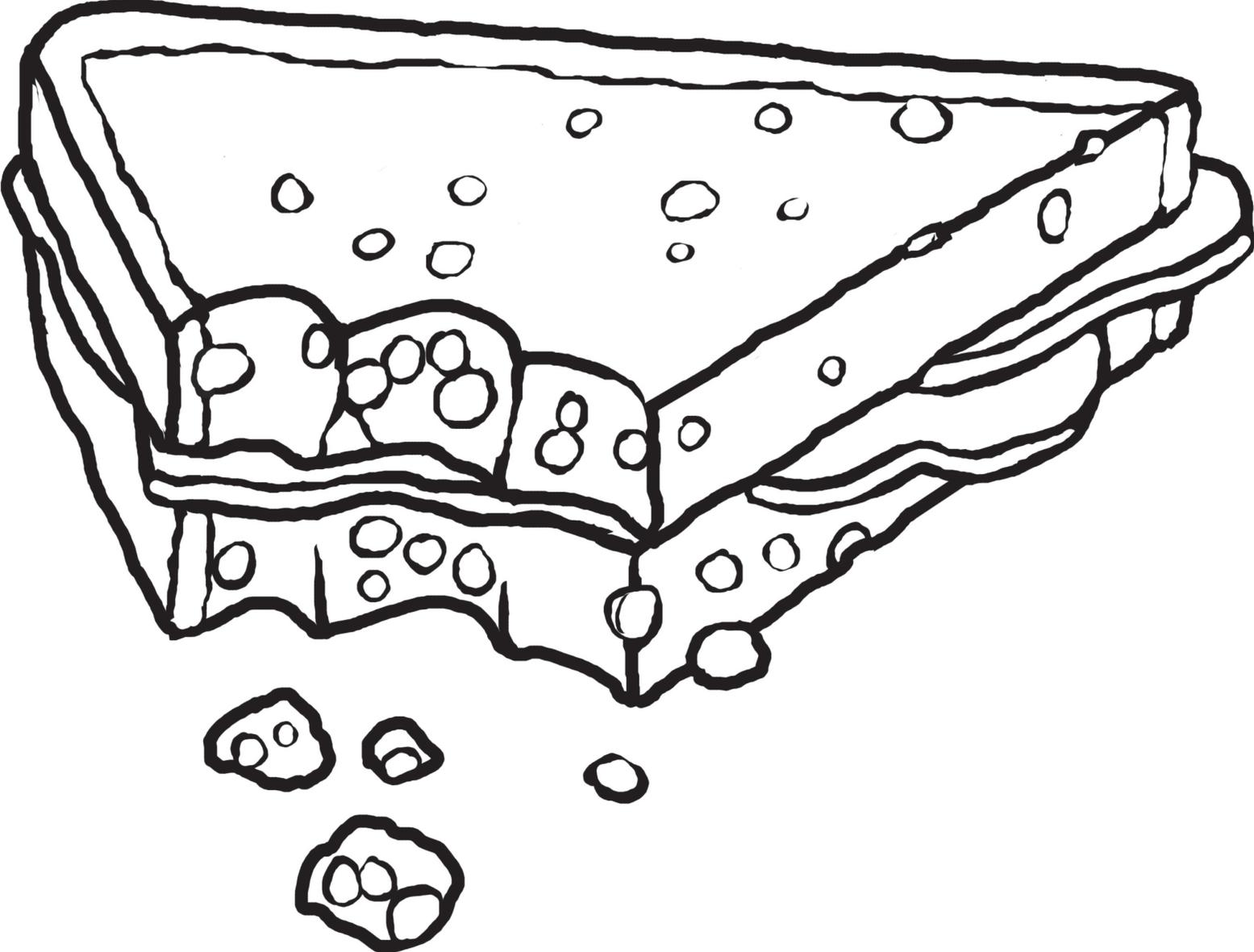
Nobody stayed hungry that winter. Well done Anna.

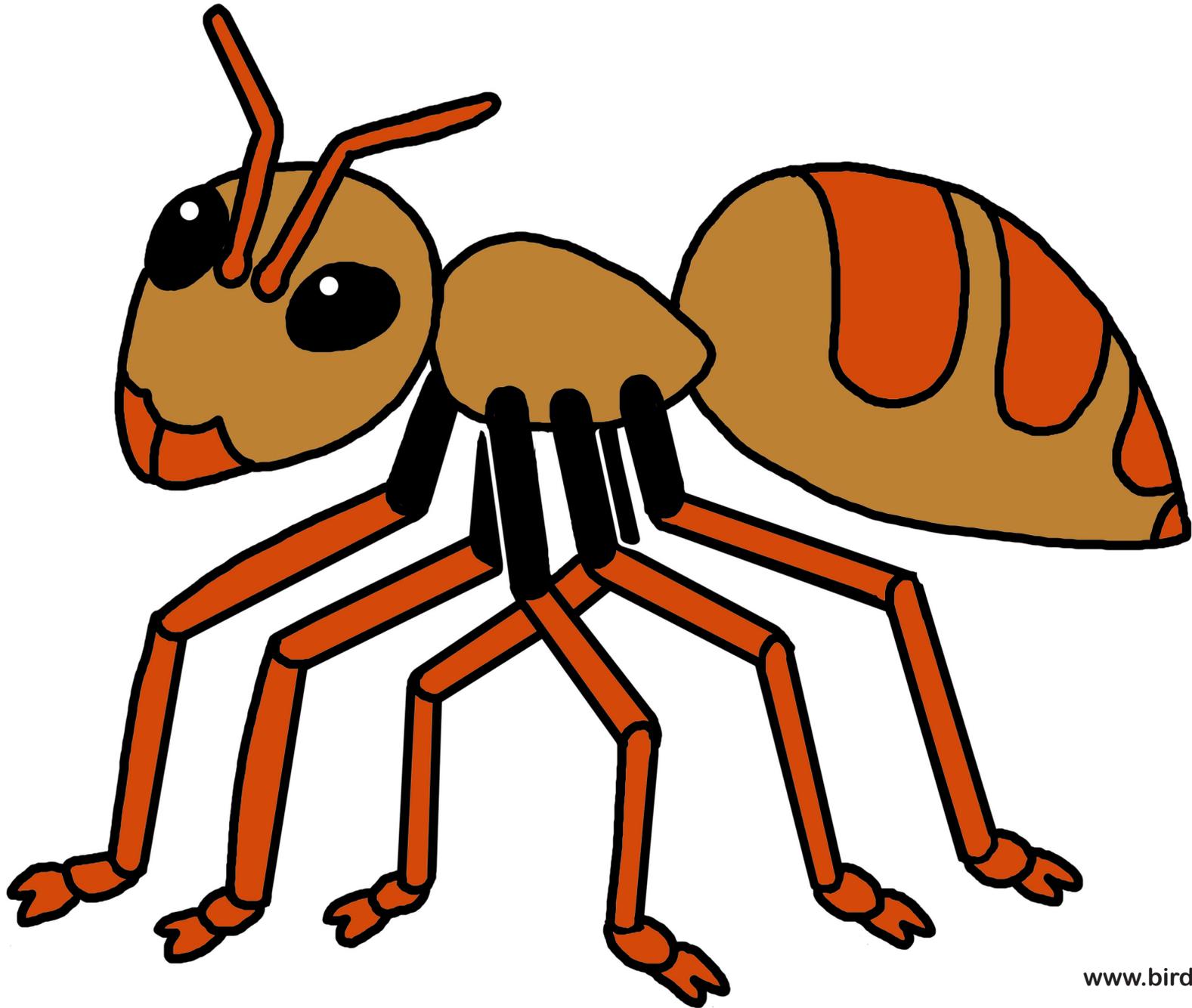


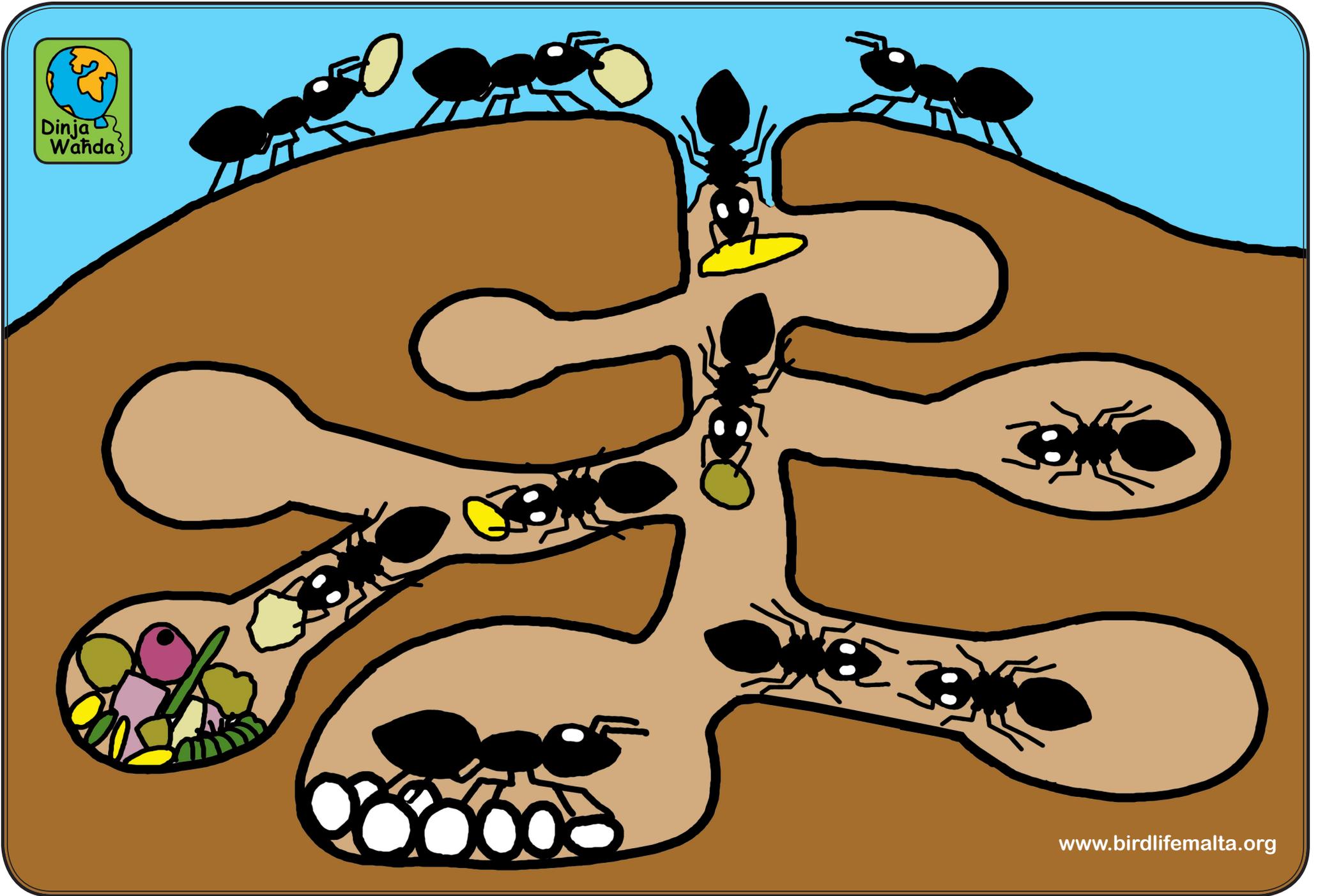




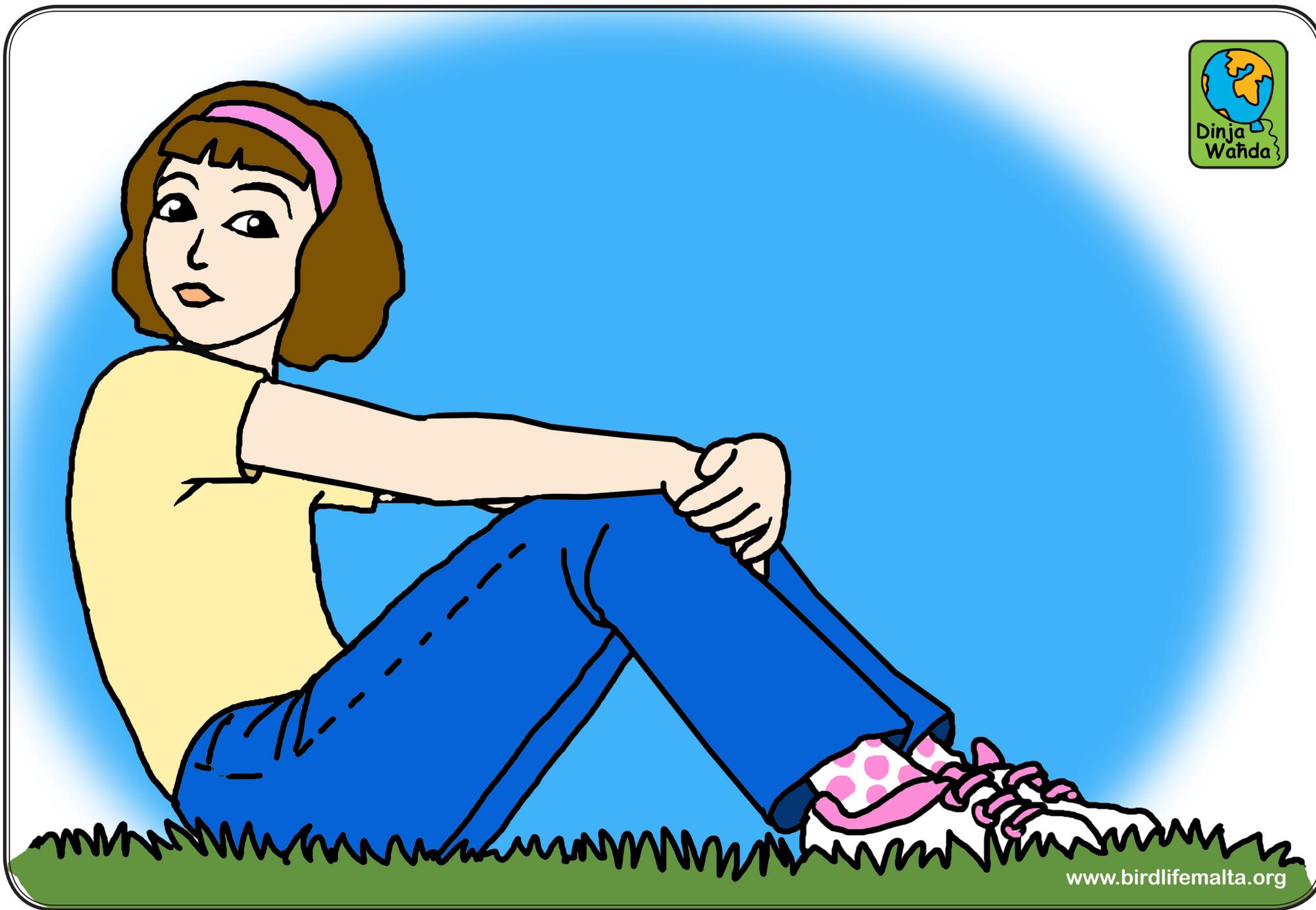












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