



ICKY INSECTS

Lexile Range: 447-470

Icky Insects – Lexile Range: 447–470

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Online Materials

What is an Insect?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUPXkWqC1aA>

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Glossary – What is an Insect?

<i>Word</i>	<i>Student-Friendly Definition</i>
wings	A part of an animal's body that is used for flying <i>Some insects have wings that help them fly.</i>
feelers	Insects have feelers, also called antennae, to smell with instead of a nose <i>Ants have 2 feelers in their heads.</i>
ladybird	A type of small flying insect that has a round red back with dark spots, also called a ladybug <i>The ladybird flew around and landed on leaf.</i>
legs	One of the long body parts that are used especially for standing, walking, and running <i>All insects have legs, some have more than others.</i>
lovely	Something that is very good <i>She had a lovely and great time at the party.</i>

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Online Materials

Icky Insects

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYawa4piO4k>

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Glossary – Icky Insects

<i>Word</i>	<i>Student-Friendly Definition</i>
thorax	The middle of the three main body parts of an insect <i>An insect's six legs grow from the thorax.</i>
abdomen	The back portion of an insect's body <i>An insect has three body parts: a head, thorax, and abdomen.</i>
exoskeleton	A hard shell on the covering an insect's body <i>Insects are protected by their hard exoskeleton.</i>
hatch	To be born out of an egg <i>Insects hatch from an egg.</i>
arthropods	An animal with an exoskeleton and segmented body <i>Insects can also be called arthropods.</i>
divided	To separate into two or more pieces <i>An insect's body is divided into three parts.</i>
distinctly	Clearly seen and different from each other <i>An insect's three body parts are distinctly divided.</i>

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Online Materials

Let's Talk About Insects (slideshow)

<http://extension.illinois.edu/insects/01.html>

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Glossary – Let's Talk About Insects

<i>Word</i>	<i>Student-Friendly Definition</i>
species	A group of animals or plants that are similar <i>There are approximately 8,000 species of ants.</i>
exoskeleton	A hard covering on the outside of the body <i>Insects have an outside skeleton, or exoskeleton.</i>
mouth	The part of the body used for eating <i>I stuffed all of my food in my mouth.</i>
thorax	The middle section of an insect's body <i>The thorax is what is connected to an insect's wings and legs.</i>
abdomen	The rear part of an insect's body <i>Many of the insect's important organs are in its abdomen.</i>
composite	Made of different parts <i>Some insects have composite eyes.</i>

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Ants, Ants, and More Ants

A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book • Word Count: 168



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Ants, Ants, and More Ants • Level G

3



Ants swarm food left on the floor.

Ants Everywhere!

You can find ants in lots of different places.

You can find them in the grass and dirt in your yard.

You can find them on trees and in your home.



Ants can be tiny or large.
Some big ants are as
large as a paper clip.
Ants are very strong
for their size.



A very big ant



Ants, Ants, and More Ants • Level G

A very small ant



7

Some ants have large,
strong jaws.
They use their jaws
to cut food and to fight.



8

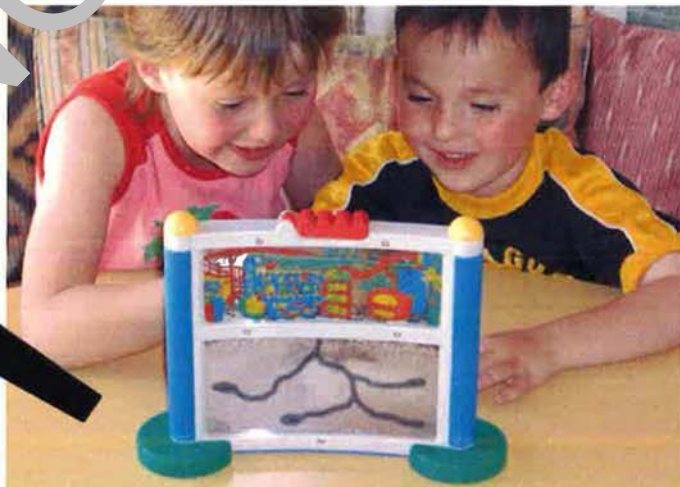




Some worker ants take care of
the eggs and baby ants.
Some worker ants get food.
Soldier ants guard the nest.

Ants, Ants, and More Ants • Level G

11



Watching Ants

Ants are amazing animals.
You can have fun
watching ants at work.

12

Glossary – Ants

<i>Word</i>	<i>Student-Friendly Definition</i>
swarm	A large number grouped together <i>Hundreds of ants swarmed the food dropped on the floor.</i>
antennae	Moveable organs on the top of an insect's head that help communicate <i>Ants have a pair of antennae on their head.</i>
thorax	The part of the body of a mammal between the neck and the abdomen <i>The thorax connects the top and middle part of the ant's body.</i>
jaw	The parts making up the walls of the mouth and serving to open and close it <i>Ants have very strong jaws to bite their food.</i>

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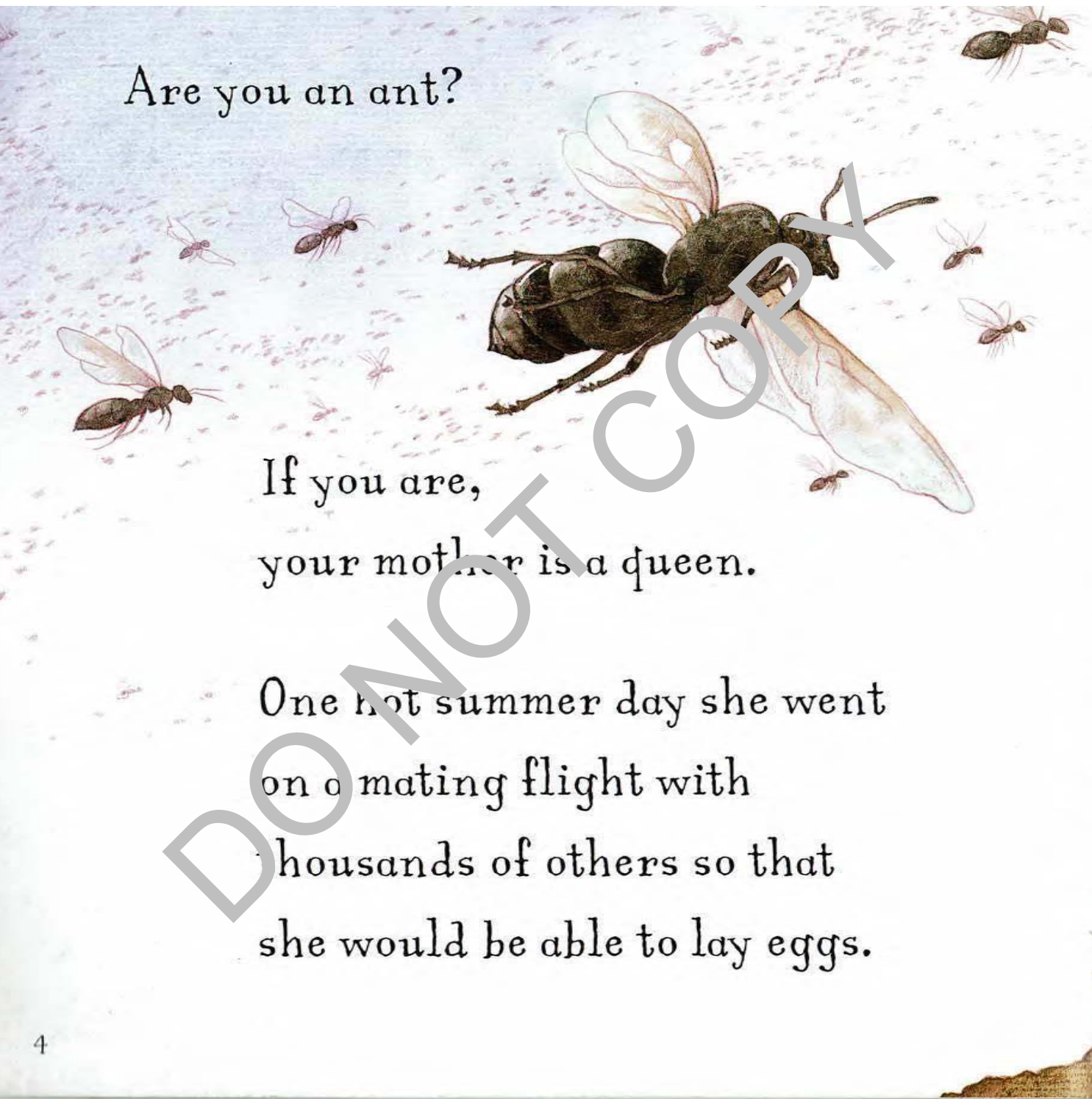
B a c k y a r d B o o k s

Are you an Ant?



Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries



KINGFISHER
BOSTON



Are you an ant?

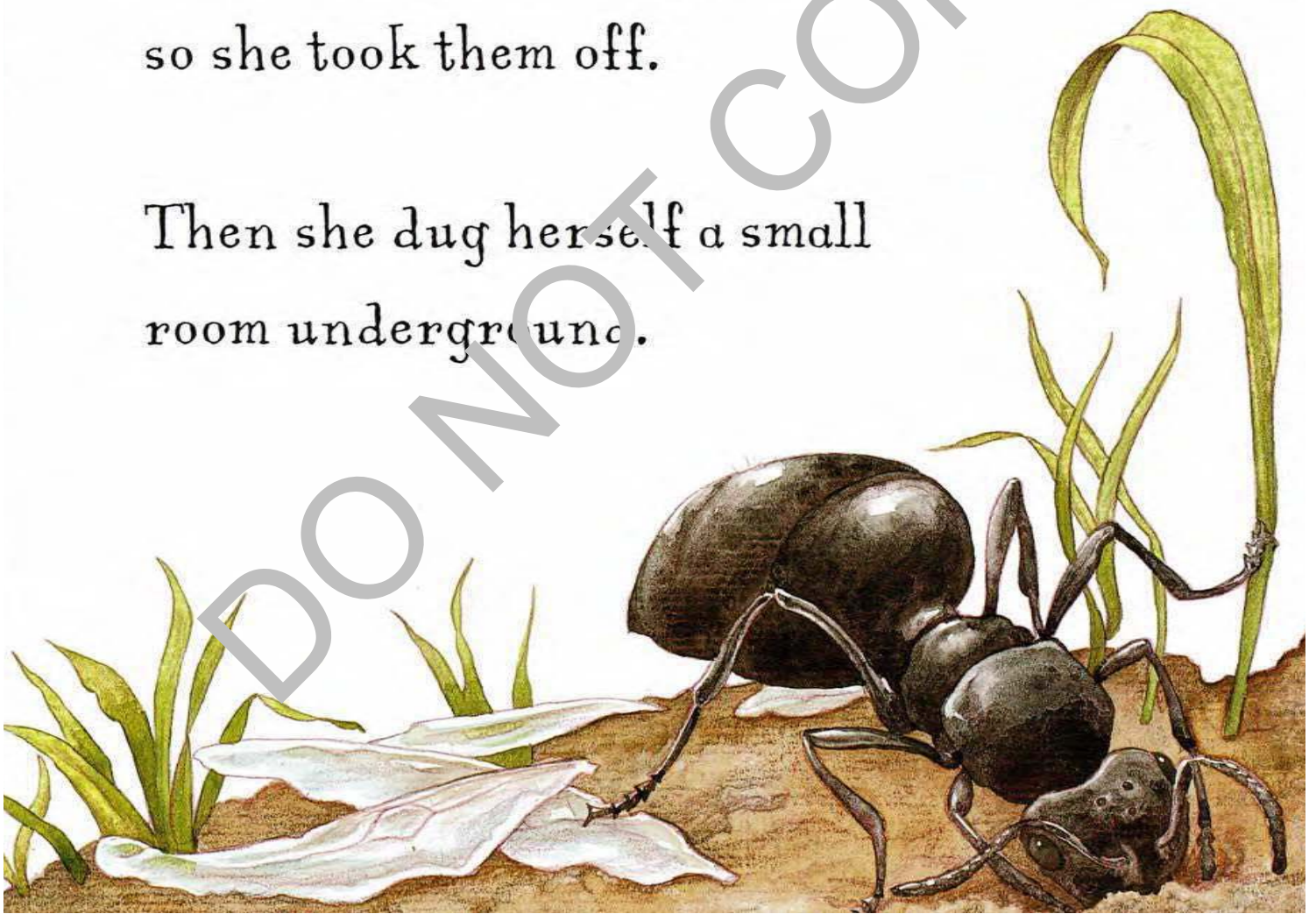
If you are,
your mother is a queen.

One hot summer day she went
on a mating flight with
thousands of others so that
she would be able to lay eggs.



Afterward she flew down
to the ground. She knew she
didn't need her wings anymore,
so she took them off.

Then she dug herself a small
room underground.



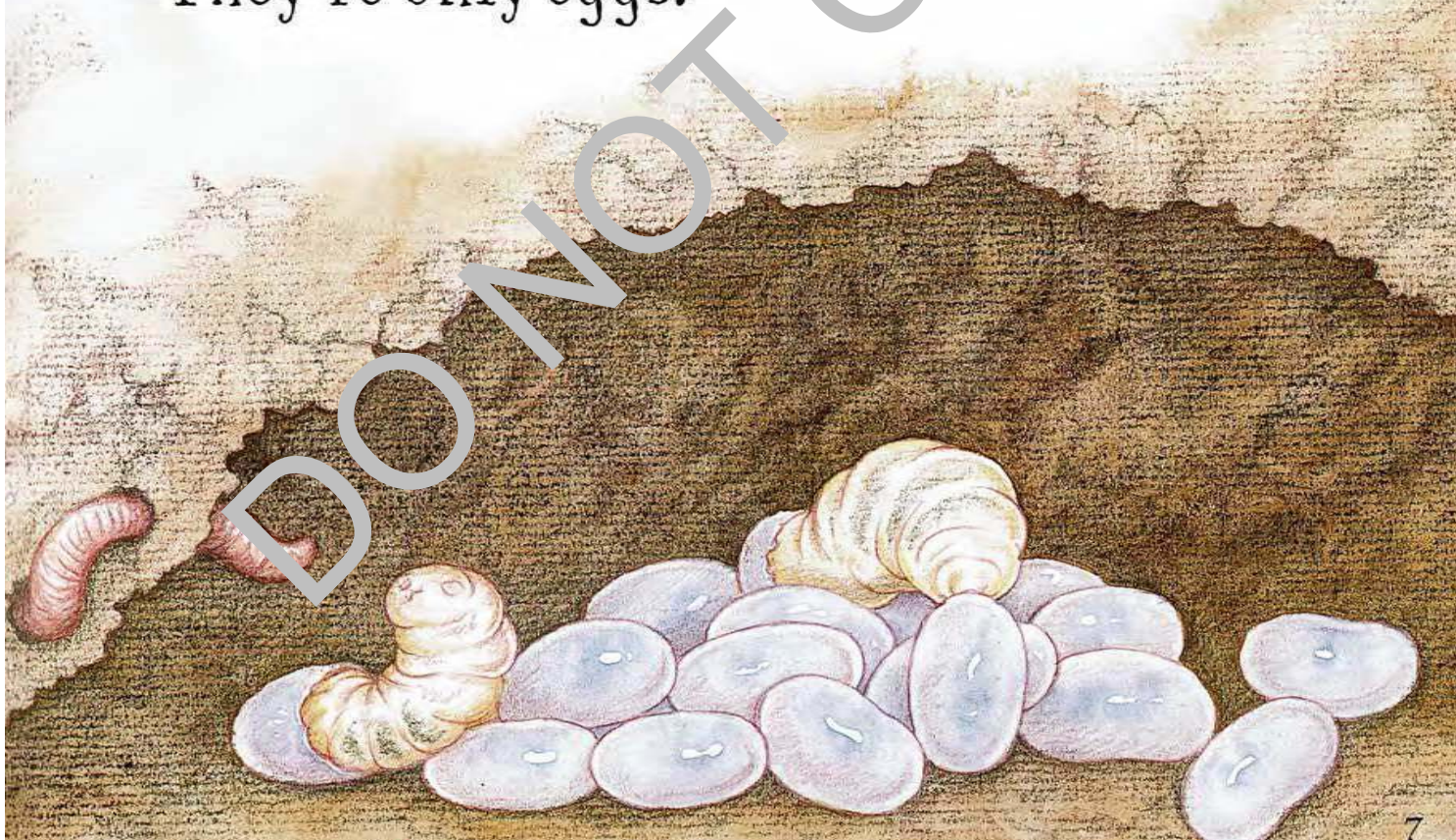
Now that she is in her room,
the queen begins to lay eggs.

You are in one of them.

Hatch out of the egg
as soon as you can.



You don't look like an ant yet.
You're a larva, and you're hungry.
There are eggs all over the place.
Eat some. It's all right; they won't mind.
They're only eggs.



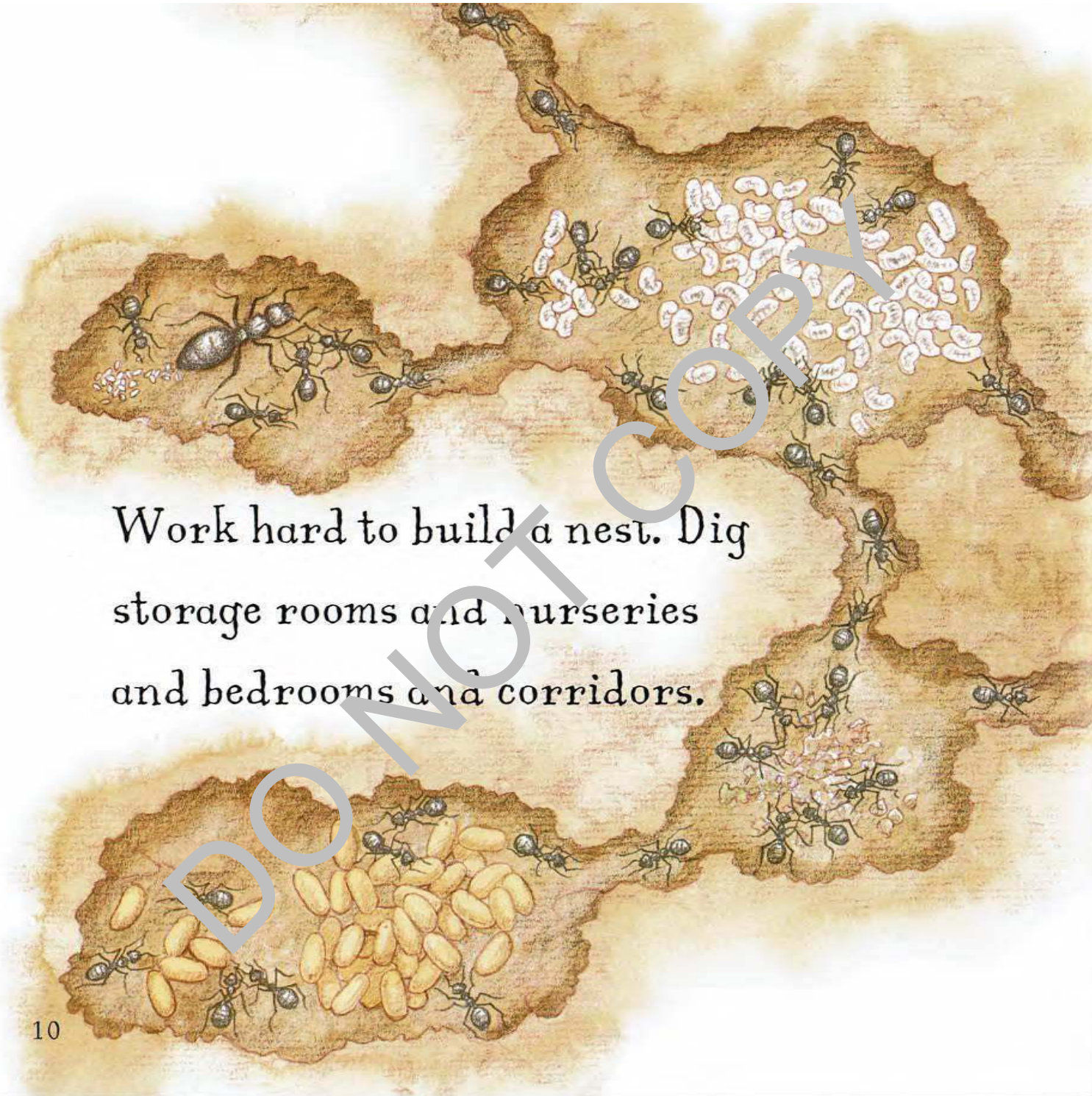


Soon you must change into a pupa.
A pupa is a little like an egg, only
bigger. When you're ready, break out!

You look almost like an ant—
but you're white and soft.



Don't worry.
Slowly your skin will become hard
and black, and you'll look perfect.
There are a lot of others like you.
You are one of a big family.
You are a worker!


A detailed illustration of an ant colony's underground network. It shows several interconnected chambers and corridors. One chamber is filled with numerous white, oval-shaped eggs. Another chamber contains many yellow, oval-shaped eggs. A third chamber has a pile of small, pinkish-brown granules. Numerous ants of various sizes are shown moving through the corridors and tending to the eggs. The background is a textured, brownish-yellow color representing soil.

Work hard to build a nest. Dig
storage rooms and nurseries
and bedrooms and corridors.

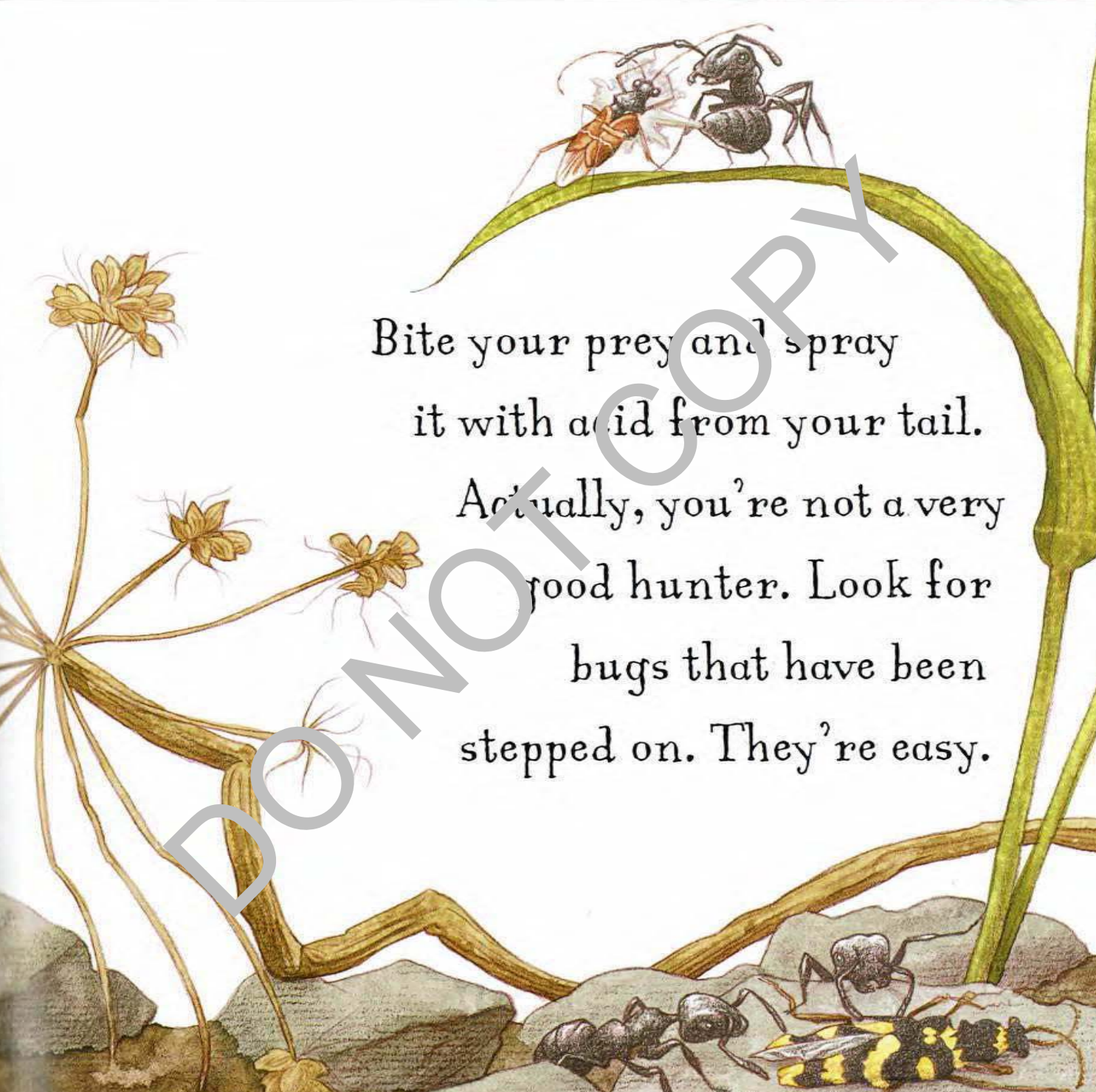
It's all right; you don't
have to work alone. The
others will work with you.

You don't have
any voices, but you can talk to
each other by touching feelers.



A detailed illustration of a natural scene. On the left, a green plant with long, pointed leaves grows from a rocky ground. In the center, a large ant is perched on a leaf. To the right, a small, segmented insect with long antennae is shown. Below the text, another ant is visible near a small hole in the ground. On the far right, a small, segmented insect is shown near a cluster of yellow flowers. The background is a light, textured surface.

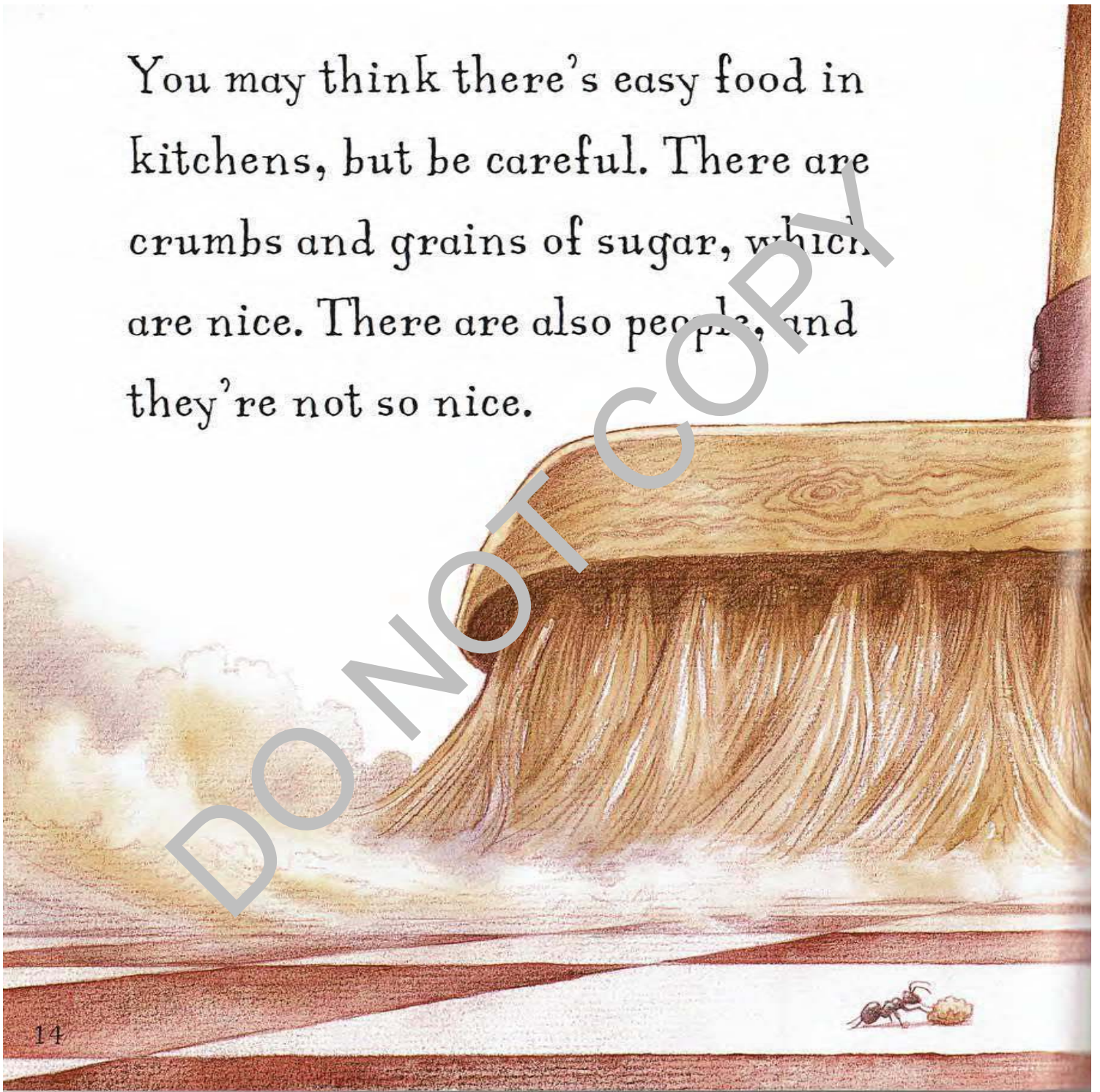
Don't eat any more eggs.
Go out and hunt for food.
Seeds are nice. So are bugs
and wood lice. Springtails
are delicious, but hard to
catch because they jump.

A detailed illustration of ants in their natural habitat. At the top, two ants are on a green leaf; one is dark and the other is reddish-brown. On the left, a plant with thin stems and small, yellowish flower heads grows from a rocky ground. At the bottom, two more ants are on the ground near some rocks. One is dark, and the other is a larger, yellow and black striped ant, possibly a wasp or a different species of ant. The background is a plain, light color.

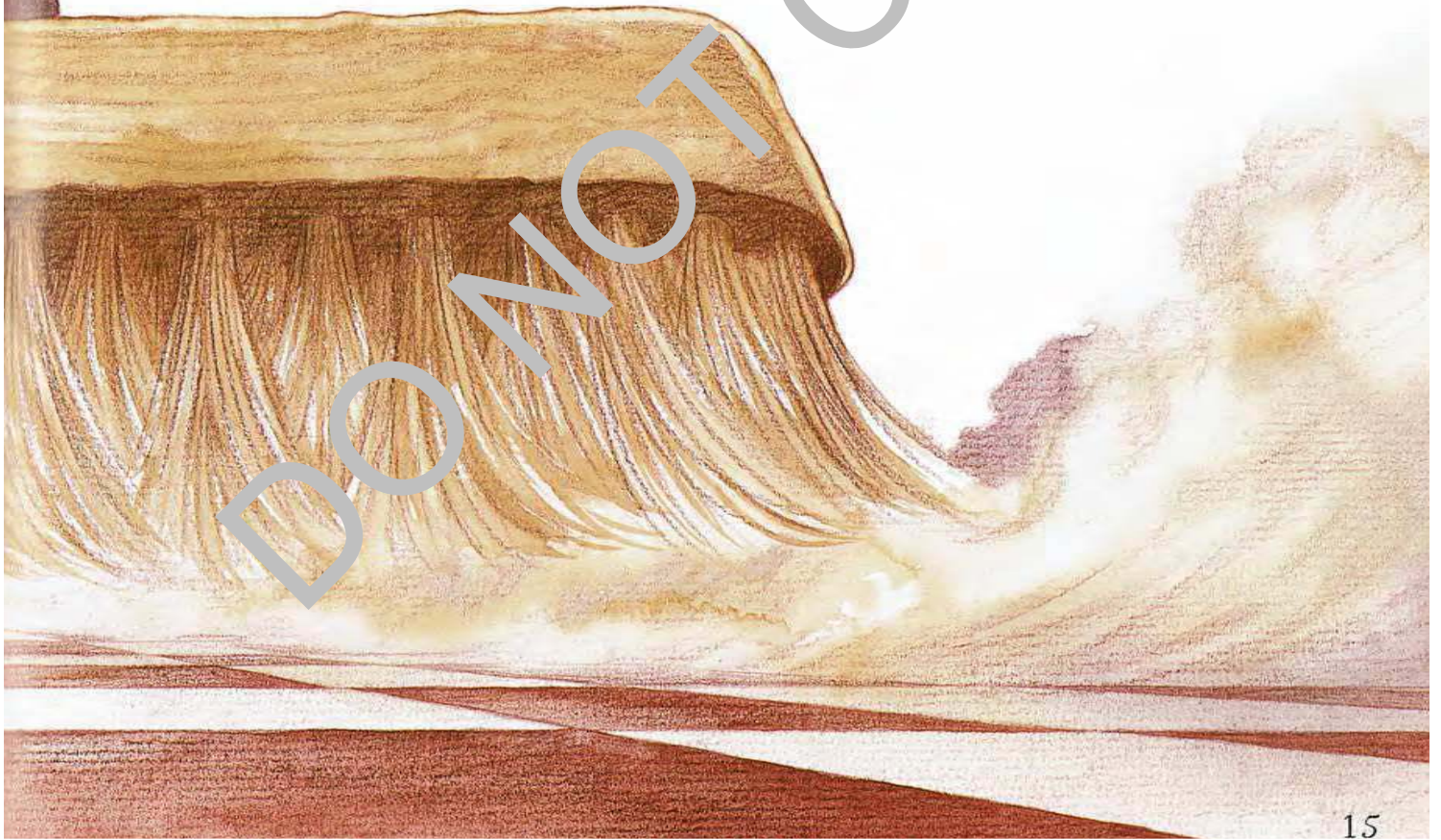
Bite your prey and spray
it with acid from your tail.


Actually, you're not a very
good hunter. Look for
bugs that have been
stepped on. They're easy.

You may think there's easy food in
kitchens, but be careful. There are
crumbs and grains of sugar, which
are nice. There are also people, and
they're not so nice.



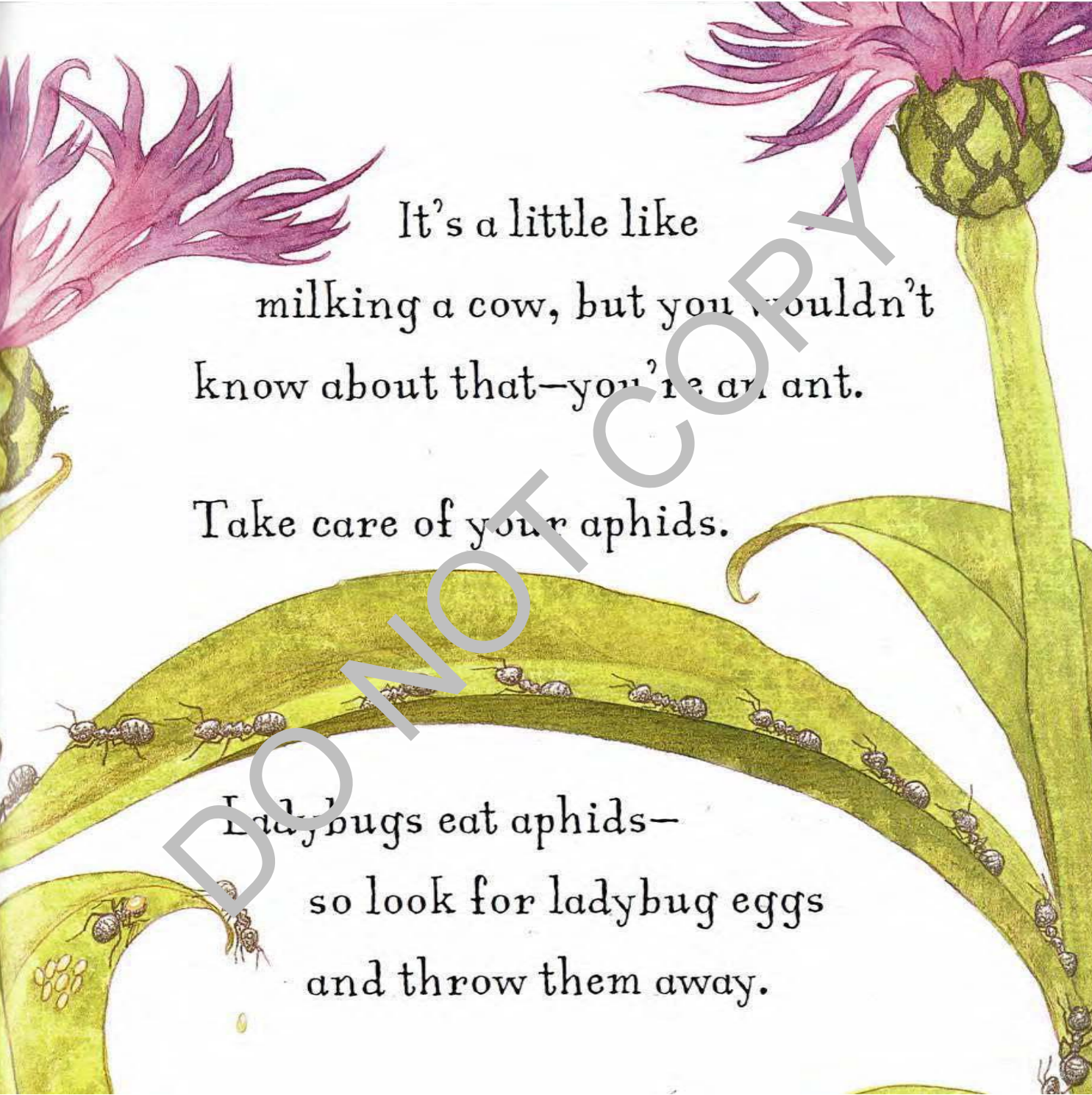
People don't like you in their homes.
They may squash you. They may poison
you. Or they may sweep the floor so you
can't find anything to eat.



An illustration of a green plant stem with two pink, spiky flowers at the top. A line of ants is marching up the stem. A large, curved green leaf is in the foreground, also with ants on it. The text is overlaid on the illustration.

The best food is honeydew.
It comes from aphids.
Find a plant with aphids
feeding on it.

March up the stem
with the other workers.
Now stroke an aphid until
it gives you a drop of honeydew.

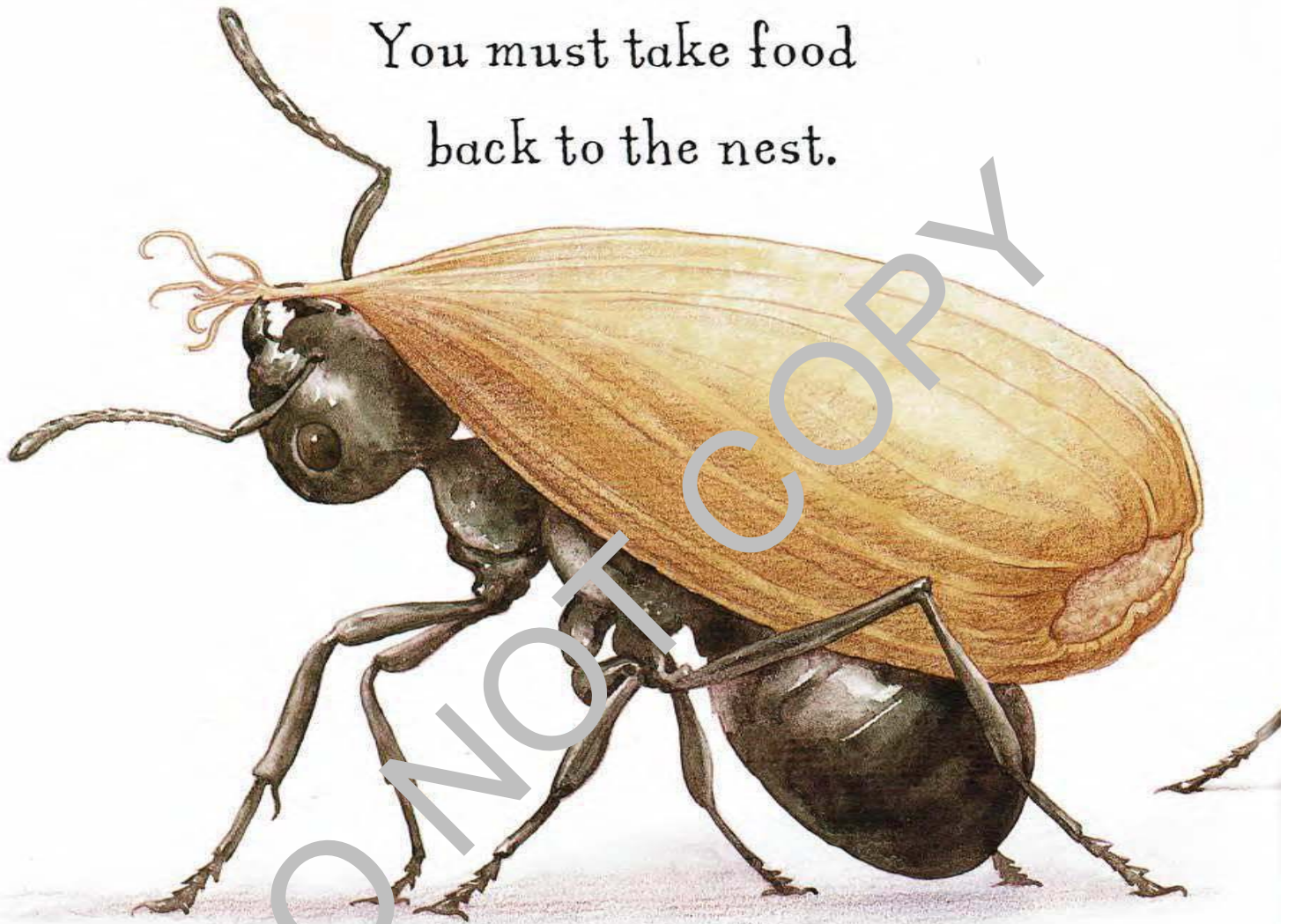


It's a little like
milking a cow, but you wouldn't
know about that—you're an ant.

Take care of your aphids.

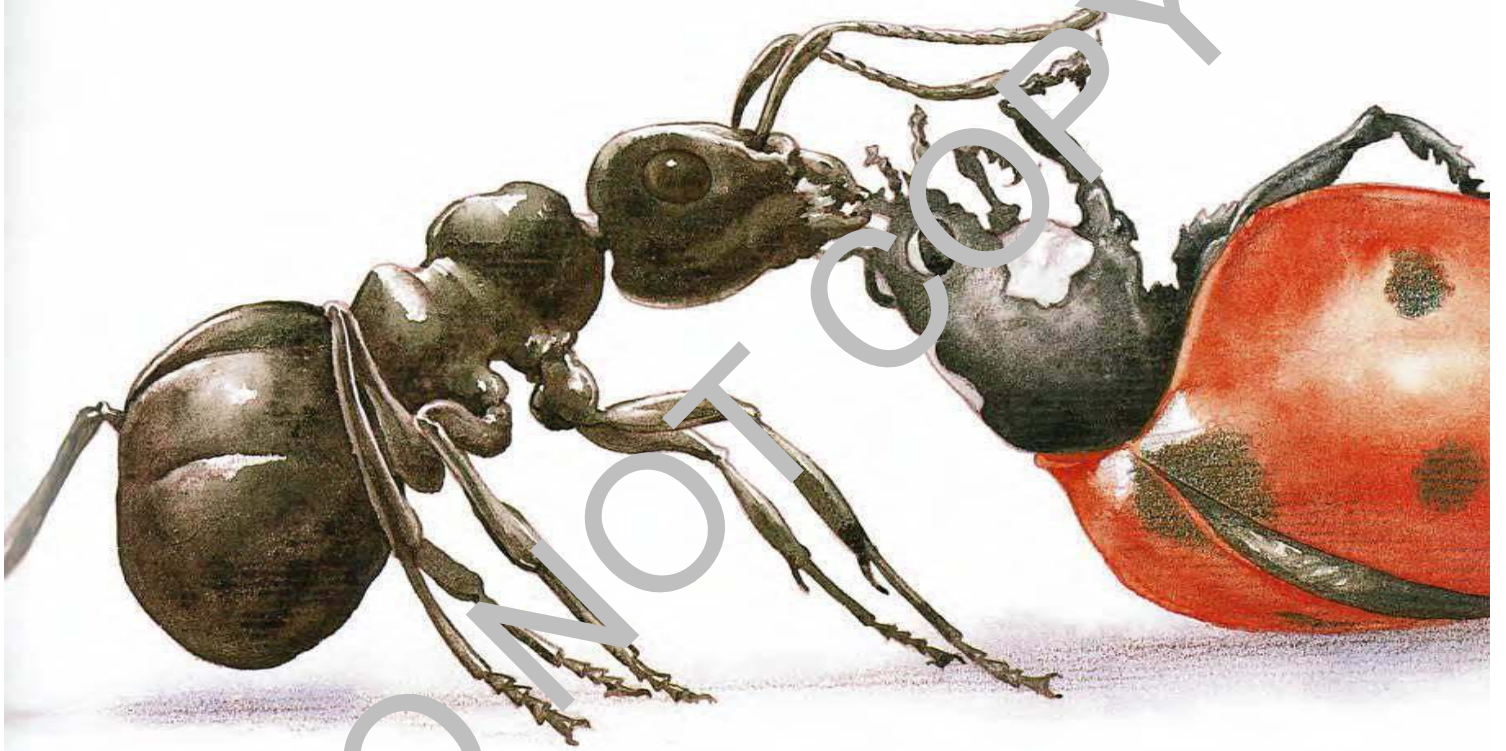
Ladybugs eat aphids—
so look for ladybug eggs
and throw them away.

You must take food
back to the nest.

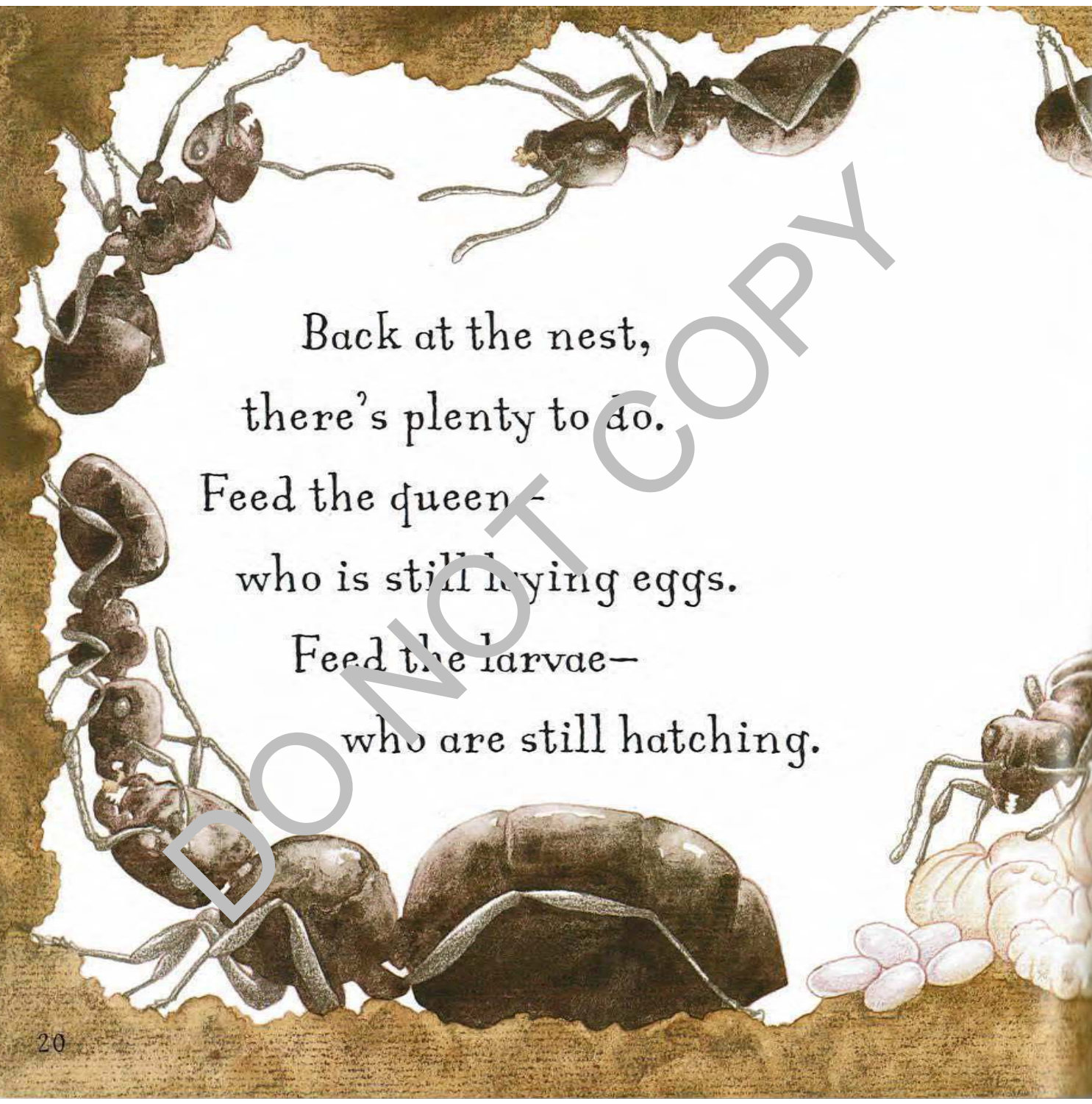


Some you can lift.


Some you can drag.



Some you can put in your second stomach. It's called a crop, and it's very useful for carrying spare food home.

A detailed illustration of an ant colony's nest. The nest is a brown, textured opening in the ground. Several ants are shown: one at the top left, one at the top right, one on the left side, and one on the right side. In the center, a large queen ant is shown with a cluster of small, white, oval eggs. The text is centered within the nest opening.

Back at the nest,
there's plenty to do.
Feed the queen—
who is still laying eggs.
Feed the larvae—
who are still hatching.

An illustration of an ant colony's nest. The nest is depicted as a white, irregularly shaped area with a torn, brown paper-like border. Inside the nest, several ants are shown. At the top left, a line of ants is moving. On the right side, a single ant is walking. In the bottom right, a large, segmented, light-colored larva is being carried by two ants. At the bottom left, another ant is positioned near a cluster of similar larvae. The text is centered within the nest area.

Take care of
the eggs and larvae.

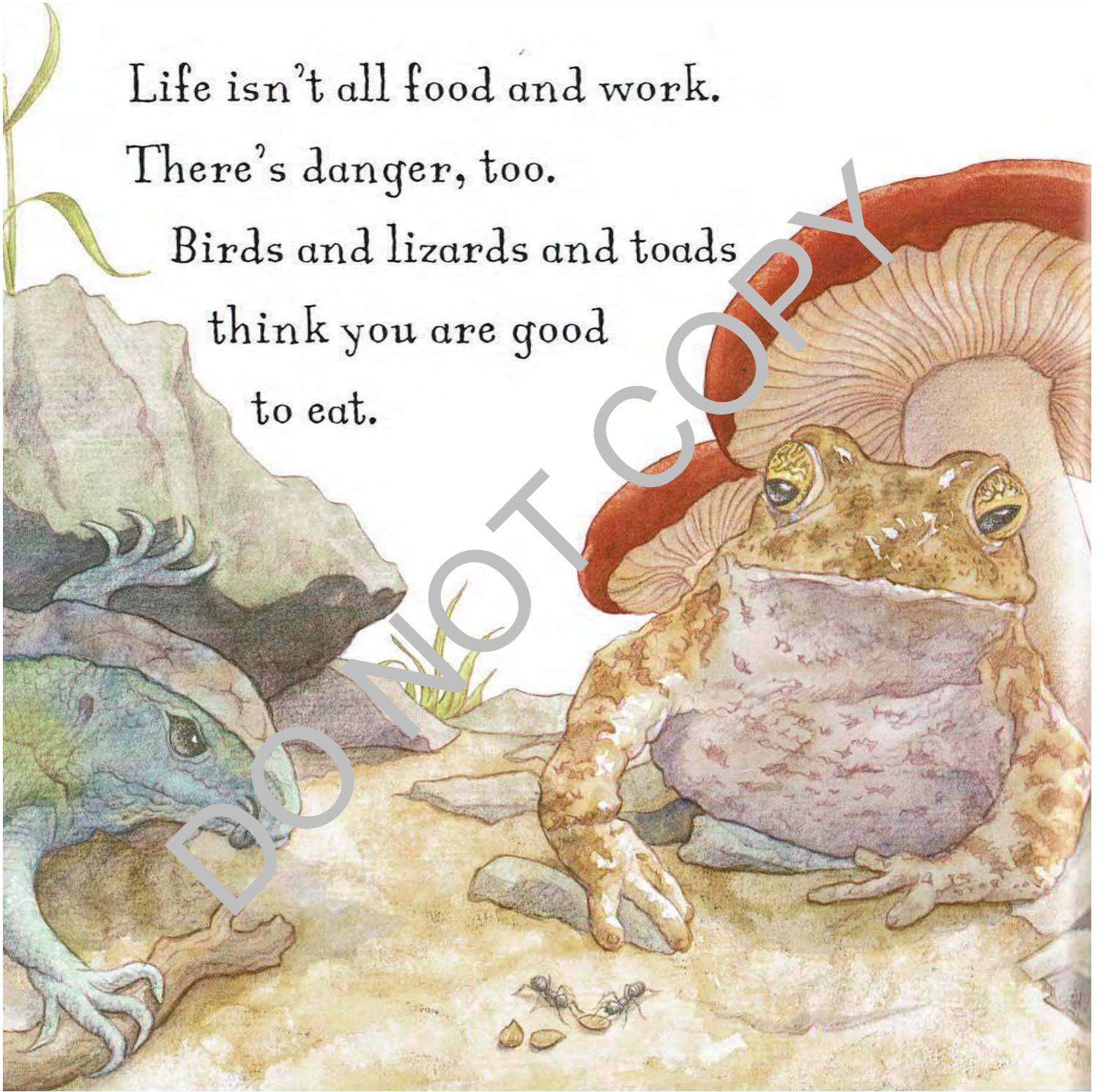
When it's cold, carry them
deep into the nest, where it's cozy.
When the sun warms the ground,
carry them up near the surface.


Oh—and don't forget to take
out the garbage.

Life isn't all food and work.

There's danger, too.

Birds and lizards and toads
think you are good
to eat.





Some birds
pick you up and push
you under their wings.

Why? Because the acid in your
body kills the ticks that bite
them and make them itch.

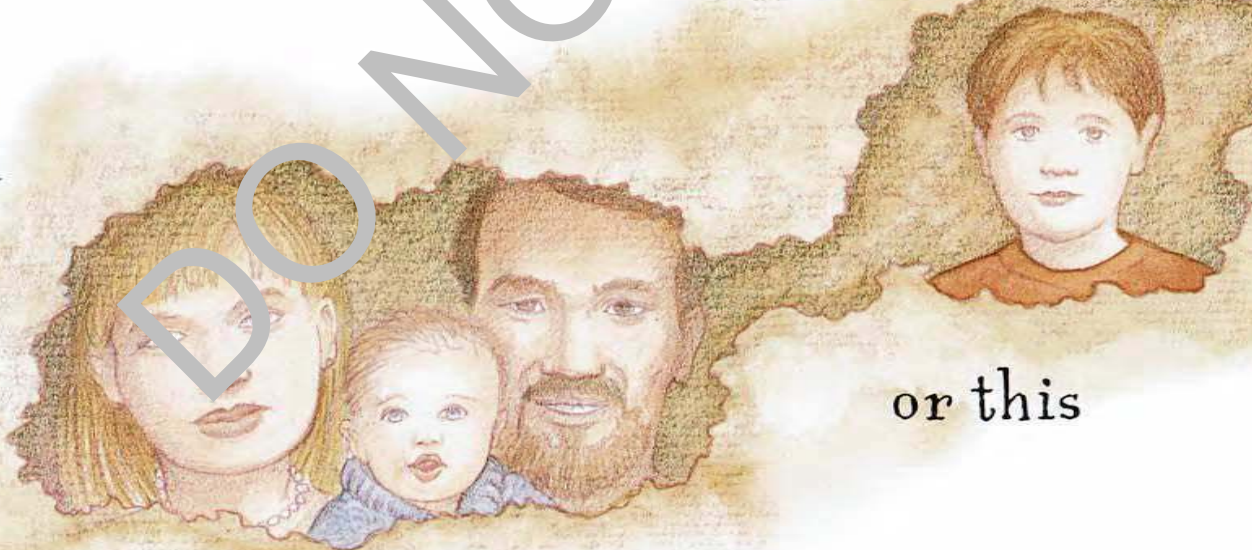
This is called anting.

Anting is nice for birds.
Anting is not nice for ants.

However, if your
family looks a little



like this



or this

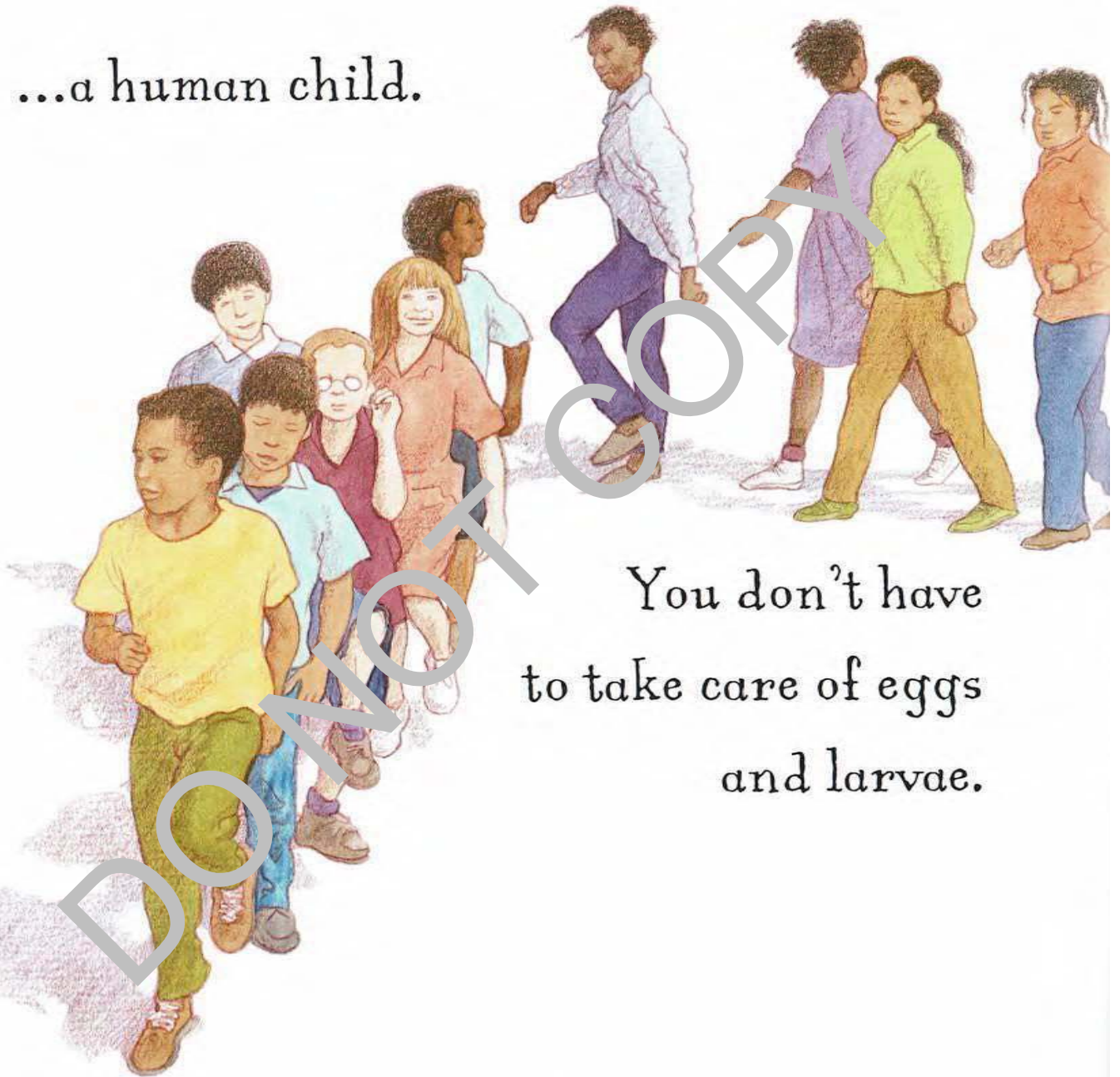
or this

you are not an ant.



You are...

...a human child.



You don't have
to take care of eggs
and larvae.

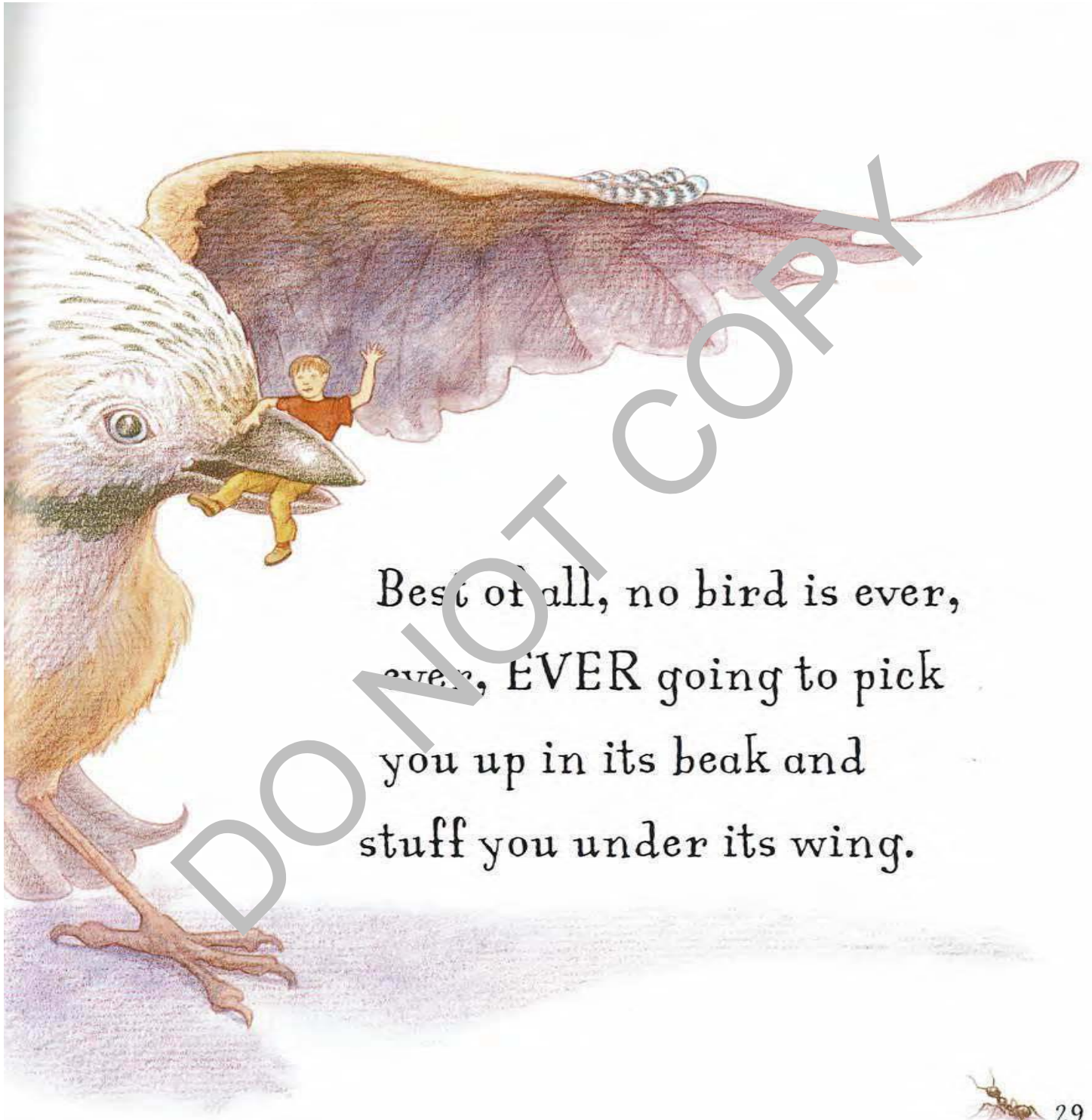


You don't have
to milk aphids.

You probably don't
have to march in a line
with a lot of others.

Don't worry—you can
do many things that
ants can't do.





Best of all, no bird is ever,
ever, **EVER** going to pick
you up in its beak and
stuff you under its wing.

Did You Know...



...the ants in this book are black garden ants, but there are about 10,000 different kinds of ants living all over the world.

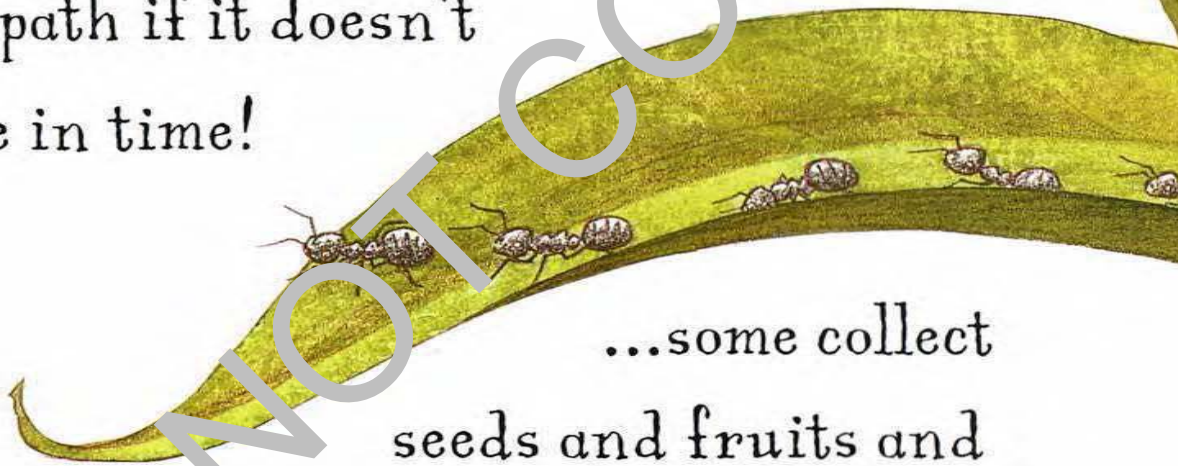
...some grow their own food—South American leafcutter ants carry pieces of leaves home and chew them up to make compost for their fungus gardens.



...some are hunters—thousands of African driver ants march in long columns, eating any animal in their path if it doesn't escape in time!

...some collect seeds and fruits and honeydew—these ants leave a scent trail to guide their worker sisters to the food.

...some ants can sting, so be careful!



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Glossary – Are You an Ant?

<i>Word</i>	<i>Student-Friendly Definition</i>
mating	To join or fit together to become a mate <i>The ant went on a mating flight so she would be able to lay eggs.</i>
larva	A young, wormlike form that hatched from the egg of many insects <i>A caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly.</i>
pupa	A stage of an insect that occurs between the larva and the adult and is usually enclosed in a cocoon or case <i>The ant larva turns into a pupa so it can grow into an adult.</i>
feelers	Insects have feelers, also called antennae, to smell with instead of a nose <i>The butterfly used its feelers to smell the flowers.</i>
prey	An animal hunted or killed by another animal for food <i>Fire ants inject poison into their prey.</i>

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Bibliography

"Ants, Ants, and More Ants." In ***Ants, Ants, and More Ants***, by Roberts, Brian. pp. i, 4, 8, 12. **Reading A–Z**, Rightsholder Voyager Expanded Learning, 2017. (4 pages).

"Are You An Ant?" In ***Are You An Ant?*** by Allen, Judy; Humphries, Tudor. pp. 4–31. **Kingfisher Books**, 2002. (28 pages).

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http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=1112&sort=name

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