



The Blind Termites

In the Pasture land termites show gratitude to the hazel ants because they are blind and can't fly and ants feed them. Until one day they come across Terry, the termite, who can see and fly. Learn why all the other termites are blind and can't fly.



The Blind Termites
Yamam Khartash

Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



Every morning the hazel ants led the herd of termites to the green plants. The termites drank from tasty, juicy plants until they were full. So the termites showed gratitude to the ants day and night.



These termites were blind, and without the ants they couldn't reach the plants and quench their thirst.



The hazel ants also protected the termites from ladybugs. The termites had short wings. They wouldn't be able to fly away from the ladybugs if they attacked. So the termites showed gratitude to the ants day and night.



The ants were also responsible for the termites' eggs. The ants carried the eggs for the termites, and hid them underground. When the eggs hatched, they led them to feed on the roots of the juicy plants. So the termites showed gratitude to the ants day and night.



One day, while the ants were carrying the eggs to place them underground, one of the eggs fell and rolled away. The ants didn't notice the missing egg and went on their way. The egg ended up on a small leaf and hatched after a few days.



When Terry the Termite was born, she opened her eyes and looked around. She was astounded by the beauty of nature around her. She drank from the juicy plants until she quenched her thirst. She liked the taste of the juice and drank it every day. Terry grew large and healthy.



One day a lady bug attacked! Terry saw her coming, so she flapped her wings and flew away. She flew all the way to the field where the termites lived with the hazel ants.



"Those insects look just like me! I will go say hello." She flew over to meet the termites in the field. "Hello there! You look just like me," she said. "Maybe we are related!" When they heard Terry's voice and her wings flapping, they were astonished. "Who are you? How can you fly?" they asked. Terry was surprised to realize they could not see nor fly, like she could.



Terry looked around and saw other termites drinking juice the ants prepared for them. She saw ants carrying the termite eggs away and wondered where they took the eggs.



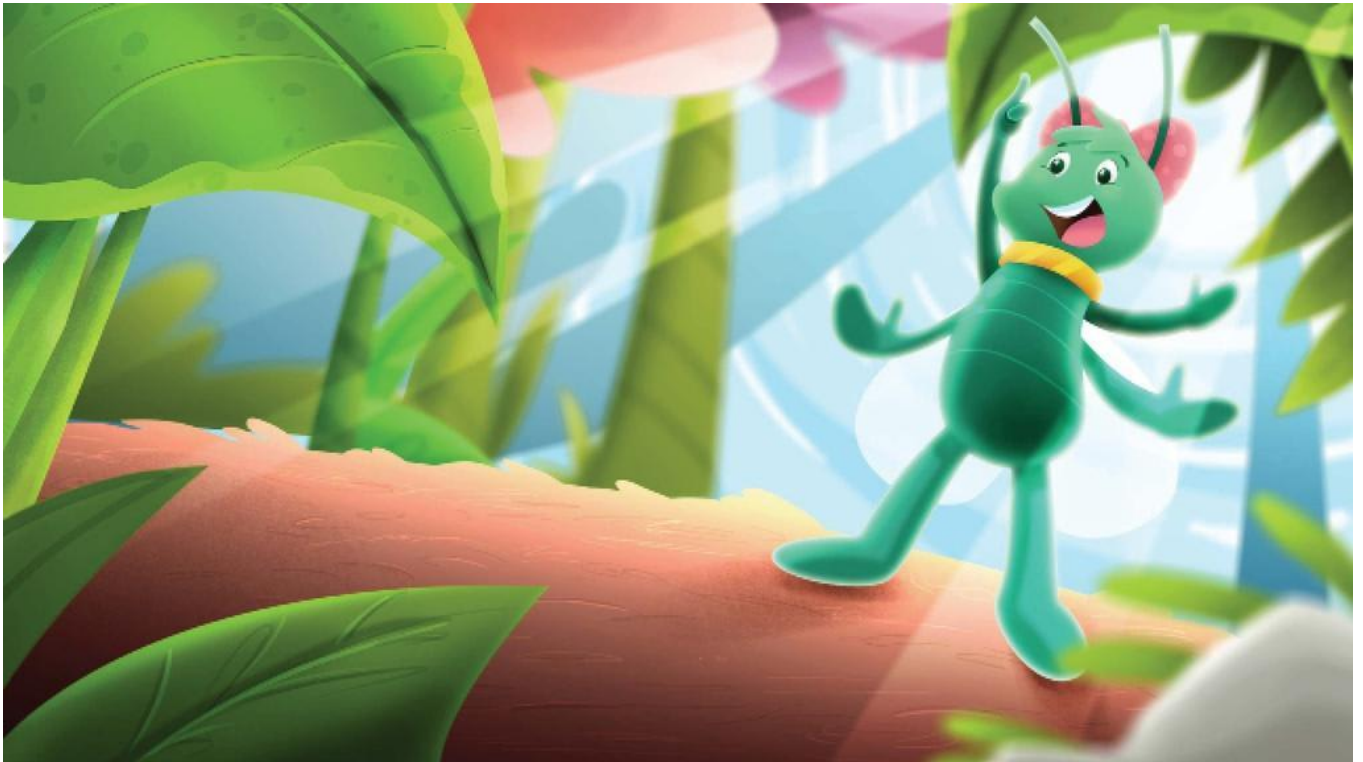
Terry decided to follow them. She saw the eggs hatch. Tiny termites came out. Ants kept them in holes until they became poor sighted, then they cut their wings.



Terry hurried to tell the other termites what she had seen. The termites could not believe it. "That's not true!" they cried. "The ants feed us and protect us." "But look at me!" Terry begged. "Why do you think I can fly and see? Because I didn't grow up with the ants."



An old termite spoke up. "Even if you are right, why should we change things if the ants bring us food and protect us from the ladybugs?" Then she looked at the rest of the termites and said, "Let's go. It's time to show our gratitude to the ants."



But Terry would not give up. "Have any of you seen the warm rays of the sun through the leaves of trees?" she asked. "Have any of you seen the waterfall as it flows between the rocks in the river? Or the wonder of two cuddled clouds under moonlight? There is life beyond the field. If you had your wings, you could fly and hide from ladybugs, without needing anyone to protect you."



No one cared what Terry said. Only three termites decided to stay with her. They hid together behind the leaves until the ants passed by.



Terry protected her friends. She told them when she saw danger. She also told them about the wonderful colors she could see.



Before winter, the termites laid lots of eggs. Terry hid them under the roots of a plant, where the ants could not find them. It was the beginning of new generation of termites.



When spring arrived, the eggs hatched. The baby termites gazed at the wonder of nature. They played together and ate and drank from many delicious plants.



While they wandered around, the young termites saw a field of insects and hazel ants. The little ones approached and said, "You look like us!" They managed to convince twenty more termites to leave the field and the ants. They protected them and told them about the beauty of everything they could see.



THE END

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