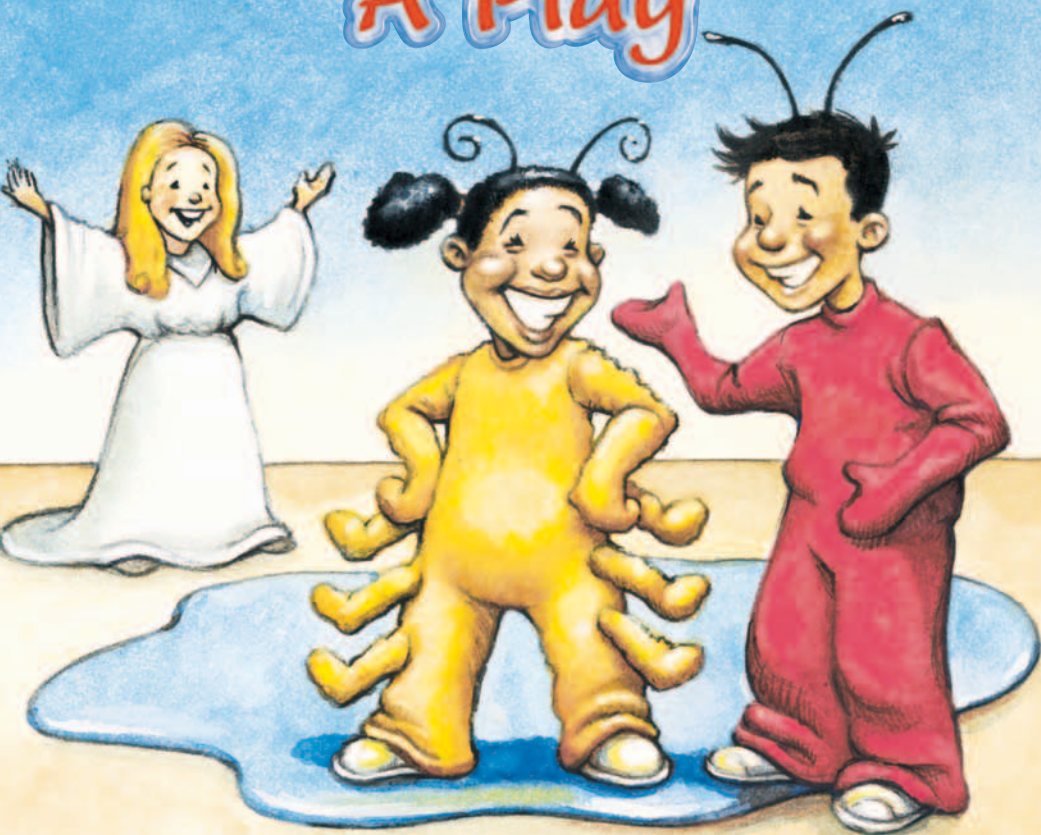


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The Edge of the Puddle

A Play



by Holly Melton
illustrated by David Merrill

 Harcourt

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■ **Characters:** Storyteller
Caterpillar
Butterfly
Bee
Frog
Ant
Wind

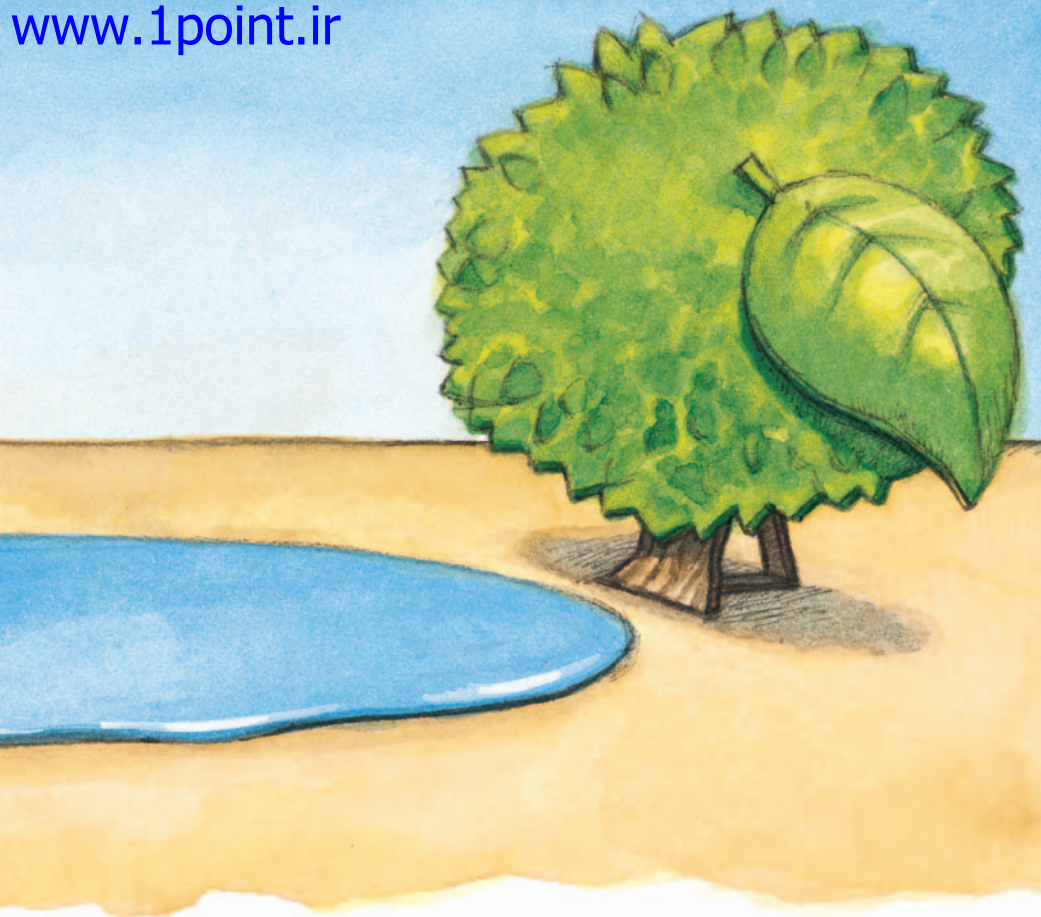
■ **Setting:** the edge of a
puddle



🔊 **Storyteller:** A caterpillar sat at the edge of a large puddle. A gentle butterfly flew down.



- ▶ **Caterpillar:** I want to be a butterfly just like you.
- ▶ **Butterfly:** It's not magic, you know. Just make a chrysalis!



- ▶ **Caterpillar:** I'll go up in that bush. The puddle is too large to cross.
- ▶ **Butterfly:** Okay. I must fly!



- ▶ **Caterpillar:** Oh, dear. How will I cross the puddle?
- ▶ **Bee:** Make your chrysalis in that hedge. I must buzz off!



- **Frog:** Why are you angry?
- **Caterpillar:** The puddle is too large to cross. Can you help me?
- **Frog:** Sorry. I've got to hop off!



▶ **Storyteller:** Caterpillar was sad and angry. Would he find help?



- ▶ **Ant:** What's up?
- ▶ **Caterpillar:** This puddle is as large as an elephant!
- ▶ **Ant:** I can help!



||| **Caterpillar:** How can we cross this giant puddle?

||| **Ant:** We could make a bridge.



- **Ant:** I know! You can go around the edge of the puddle.
- **Caterpillar:** That would take too long.



■ **Ant:** That's it! A giant leaf boat!

■ **Caterpillar:** Oh, yes. That is it!



- ▶ **Caterpillar:** We can put the leaf at the edge of the water.
- ▶ **Ant:** Then we can climb on and cross the puddle!



- ▶ **Storyteller:** The wind gave the leaf a nudge and pushed it.
- ▶ **Caterpillar:** I wonder if there are alligators in the puddle.



||| **Ant:** Yes. I've seen large ones.






||| **Caterpillar:** Really?

||| **Ant:** I'm joking. Look!
We are nearly there!



- ▶ **Ant:** Now you can make a chrysalis!
- ▶ **Bee:** You'll be a gem of a butterfly.
- ▶ **Everyone:** The End!

Think and Respond

-  **1** What four animals does Caterpillar meet?
-  **2** What does Ant do that makes him different?
-  **3** Why does Caterpillar want to get to the tree?
-  **4** Does the play have a happy ending?
How do you know?
-  **5** Which character do you like best in the play? Explain.



Put on the Play Work with friends to present the play. Each of you can take a part. Make some props and costumes. Act out the play for an audience.



School-Home Connection In this play, Ant helps Caterpillar to solve a problem. How do you solve problems? With a family member, discuss friends, family, and others who can help you.



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