

Hey, Little Ant

by Phillip and Hannah Hoose

Kid:

1 Hey, little ant down in the crack,
Can you hear me? Can you talk back?
See my shoe, can you see that?
Well, now it's gonna *squish* you flat!

2 Anyone knows that ants can't feel.
You're so tiny you don't look real.
I'm so big and you're so small,
I don't think it'll hurt at all.

3 Are you crazy? **ME** like **YOU**?
I have a home and a family, too.
You're just a speck that runs around,
No one would care if my foot came down.

4 But my mom says that ants are rude,
They carry off our picnic food!
They steal our chips and bread crumbs, too,
It's *good* if I squish a crook like you.

5 But all my friends squish ants each day,
Squishing ants is a game we play.
They're looking at me—they're listening, too.
They all say I *should* squish you.

Ant:

1 Please, oh please, do not squish me,
Change your mind and let me be,
I'm on my way with a crumb of pie,
Please, oh *please*, don't make me die!

2 But you are a giant and giants can't
Know how it feels to be an ant.
Come down close, I think you'll see
That you are very much like me.

3 Oh big friend, you are so wrong,
My nest mates need me 'cause I am strong.
I dig our nest and feed baby ants, too,
I must not die beneath your shoe.

4 Hey, I'm not a crook, kid, read my lips!
Sometimes ants need crumbs and chips.
One little chip can feed my town,
So please don't make your shoe come down.

5 I can see you're big and strong,
Decide for yourself what's right and wrong,
If you were me and I were you,
What would *you* want *me* to do?

Should the ant get squished? Should the ant go free? It's up to the kid, not up to me.
We'll leave the kid with the raised-up shoe. What do **you** think that kid should do?