
Shelter from the Rain Circle

Adapted from a Russian Folktale by Holly Koteen-Soulé

Editor's Note: *Images of shelter, safety, and generosity among small, vulnerable creatures bring reassurance and pictures of protection. This circle, with delightful rhymes, can be company to the familiar tale of "The Mitten."*

There was an ant caught in the rain.
"Where can I hide?" he wondered in vain.
He saw a mushroom peeking out,
Crawled beneath and looked about.

Song:

Rain on the green grass and
Rain on the tree
Rain on the roof top,
But not, not on me.

(Spoken) Thank you friend!

A dripping butterfly fell down,
Wings so wet, she'd almost drowned.
"My wings are wet, I cannot fly."
"Come in," said the ant, "Here you can dry."

Repeat song

A mouse ran up all drenched to the bone,
"Please let me in, I'm far from home."
They huddled together, made room for the mouse,
While the rain still fell on their mushroom house.

A sparrow flew down to the forest floor,
Feathers soaked and wings so sore.
"I need to rest 'til the rain has stopped."
"I'm battered from head to top."

Repeat song

A rabbit hopped by and cried,
"Is there a place for me to hide?"
"The quick-footed fox is chasing me."
They brought him in, his shelter to be.

The rabbit hidden, the old fox sighed,
"Have you seen a rabbit nearby?"
"You silly fox," said the friends all four,
"We've hardly room for us any more!"

Then the clouds went away
And the sun shone bright.
Each little creature came
Out into the light.

Rabbit hopped into the glen.
Sparrow flew to her nest again.
Mouse ran off and did not stop.
Butterfly lit on a flower top.

The little ant wondered as he crawled away,
Why there was so much room to stay.
A nearby Frog croaked, "You know,"
"When it rains, mushrooms grow."

What the frog said was surely true,
And something else was also true:
In that mushroom house, ant knew
Hearts were growing bigger, too! ♦

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