

### THE BEETLE AND THE BERRY

Arthur the beetle was hungry. Arthur was as small as a freckle, but he had a big appetite. He set out to search for food and found a large, juicy berry. It was so large, Arthur felt like a mouse next to an elephant.

"How can I get it home?" he asked himself.

Arthur took a deep breath and pushed hard against the berry. It moved! Arthur pushed again, and the berry, being round, rolled along the ground.

"Great!" said Arthur. "Once I get it home, I'll have food for a week."

So Arthur pushed, and the berry rolled. Sometimes Arthur had to run to keep up. But then the berry would slow down, and Arthur would give it another push to keep it going.

Up ahead, where Arthur couldn't see it, a twig lay on the ground with thorns sticking out. Arthur's berry rolled right onto a thorn and stopped.

Arthur pushed, but the berry didn't move. Arthur pushed again, and again the berry didn't move.

"I must try harder," Arthur told himself.

He bent over and pushed with his head. The berry didn't move.

Arthur pushed with his shoulder. The berry still didn't move.

Arthur dug his feet into the ground, bent all the way over, and pushed with his back. That berry just did not move.

Arthur stopped pushing. He stood up and looked at the berry.

"What do I do now?" he said.

Then Arthur had an idea. He walked around to the other side of the berry and gave it a push. The berry moved! Arthur pushed harder, and the berry was freed. Now Arthur could see the long, sharp thorn.

"So that's why my berry wouldn't move!" said Arthur. "Good thing I changed directions."

Arthur sang to himself as he rolled his berry around the twig and all the rest of the way home.

Now Arthur had food for a week.

THE END