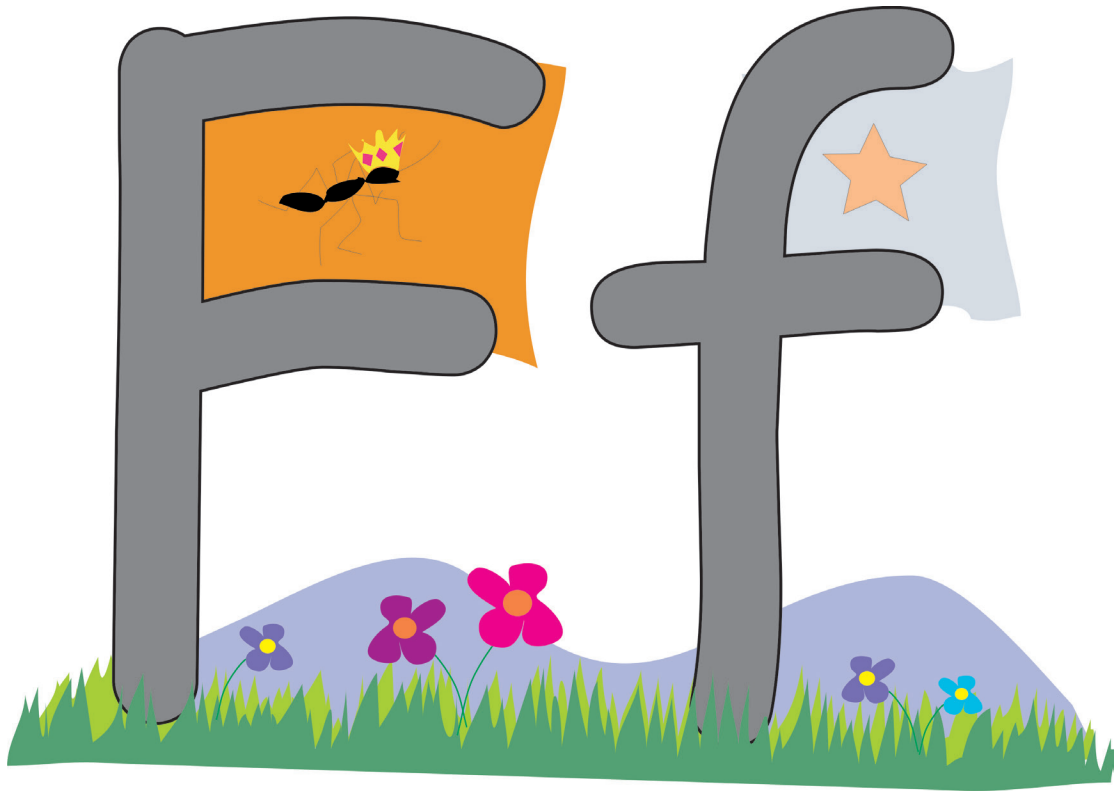




By Sarah K Major

The Story of F



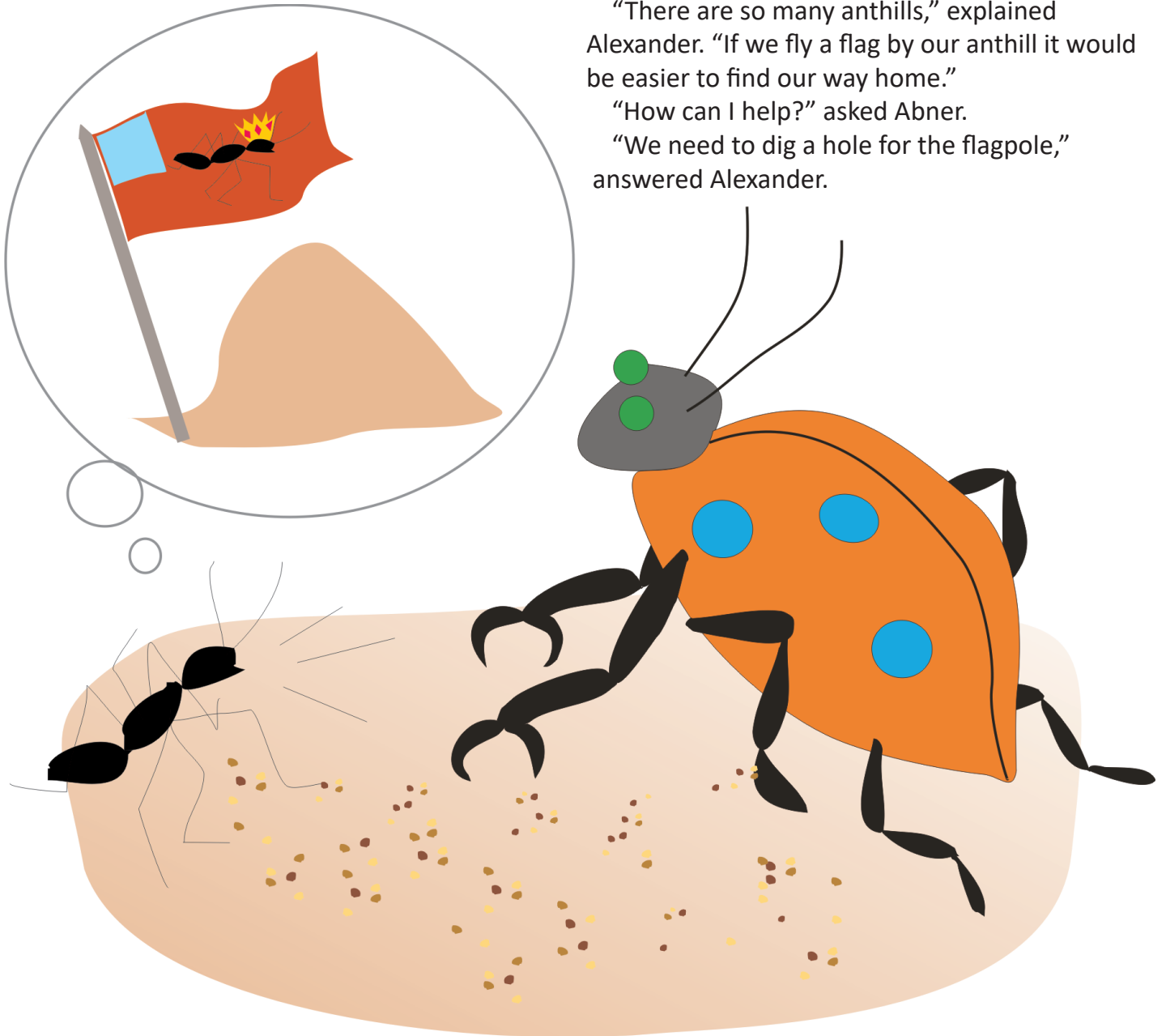
Fancy Flying Flags

After dinner, Abner asked Alexander what he wanted to talk about.

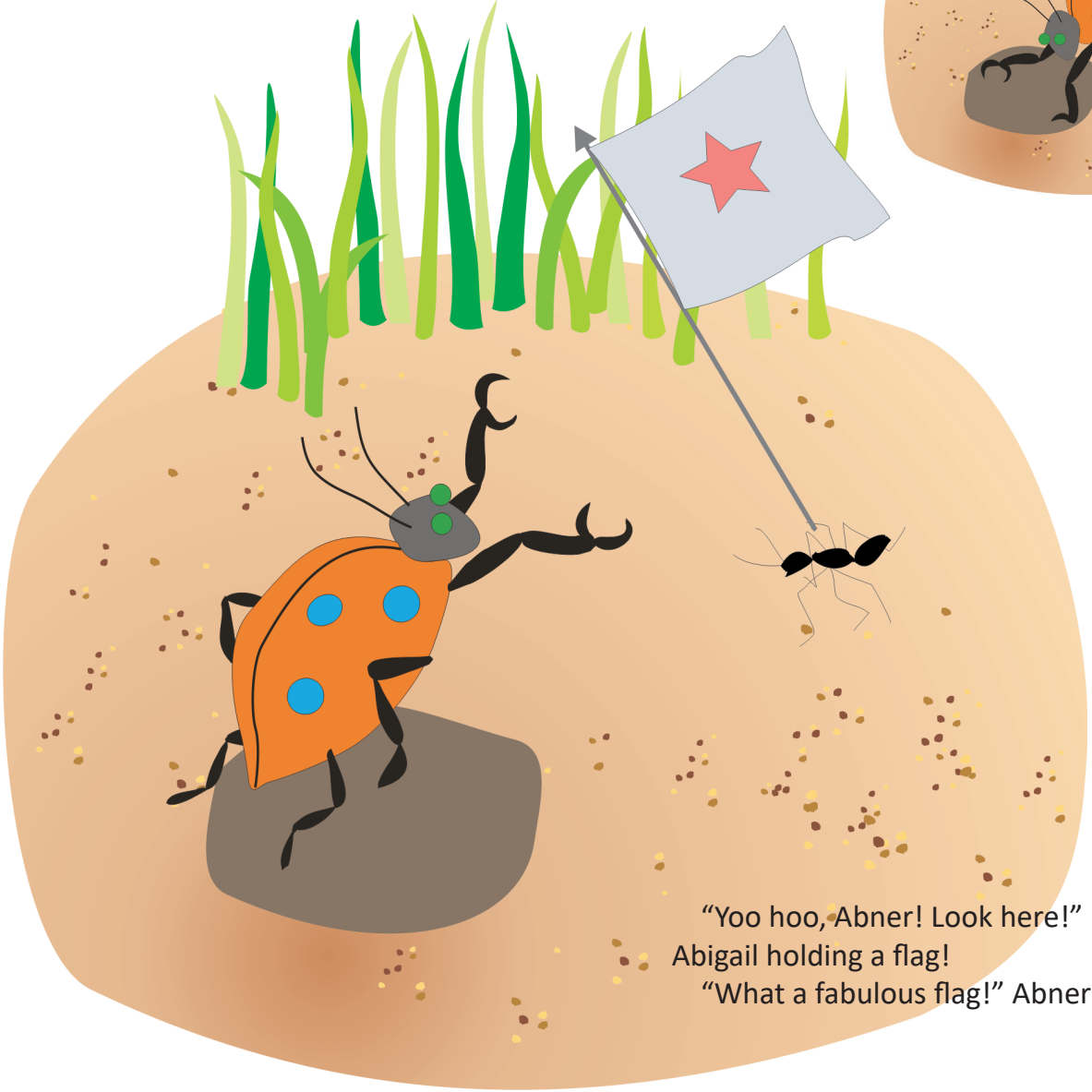
“There are so many anthills,” explained Alexander. “If we fly a flag by our anthill it would be easier to find our way home.”

“How can I help?” asked Abner.

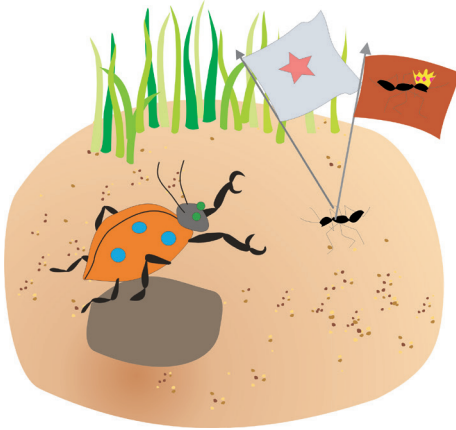
“We need to dig a hole for the flagpole,” answered Alexander.



The next morning, Abner started to work. He wasn't very fast, but he was very, very strong! Soon dirt was flying! Then Abner heard a voice behind him.



“Yoo hoo, Abner! Look here!” It was Abigail holding a flag!
“What a fabulous flag!” Abner exclaimed.

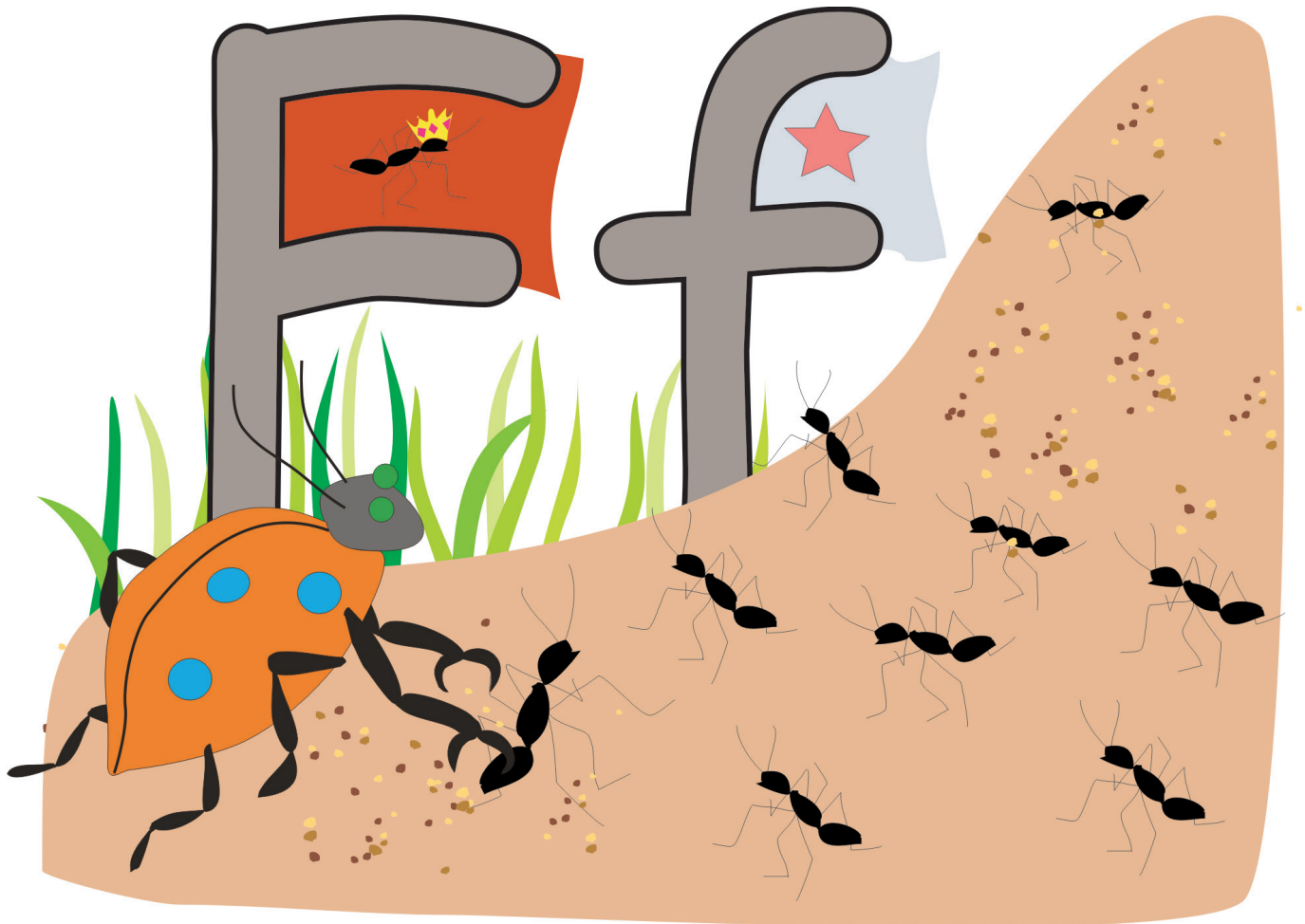


Then Abigail showed Abner another flag that was even finer than the first one.

“We can’t decide which one we like better, so we want both of them!”

“I guess I need to dig another hole,” Abner said.

Abner got right to work, and soon two fancy flags were flying by the anthill. Abner and the ants gathered around to celebrate.



ACTIVITIES FOR AFTER YOU READ

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before writing whole letters, practice these simple shapes and names:

1] Thin Man: |

2] Table: —

3] Slide: \ and /

4] Cave: C

5] Curve:)

6] Hump: ∩

TIPS FOR TEACHING

1. THIN MAN: Stand up very straight and tall and have the children copy you. Say, “Start with your pencil at the top of the thin man’s head and draw a line straight down to the floor!” As you say this, demonstrate on your own body, using your pointer finger as the pencil and drawing an imaginary line from head to toe. Have the children copy your motions and words. Then repeat, using paper and pencil.

2. TABLE: Draw the children’s attention to a table or desk top and have them feel how flat it is. Show them that if the table is tilted, your pencil will roll off. Practice “drawing” a very flat table in the air, then repeat with pencil and paper.

3. SLIDE: Talk about sliding down a slide at the playground. You start at the top, sit down, and then slide at an angle to the ground. Mention that slides can be going in different directions. With the children, practice making your hand “sit down” at the top of a slide; then swoop and slide your hand down to the ground. Move now to pencil and paper. Practice drawing a slide down and toward you and a slide up and away from you.

4. CAVE: To make a cave with right-handed children, have them make a cave shape with their left hand, using thumb and pointer finger to make the curve. They can initially draw the cave inside this structure of their hand by putting their pencil at the tip of their pointer and then going on around until they reach the tip of their thumb. Lefties can stick their pointer finger out onto the paper, pretend it is a bear, and draw a cave around it. Practice doing this together in the air, then move to paper and pencil. See illustrations on page 6.

5. CURVE: For the curve, reverse the directions exactly from number 4, depending on if the child is right- or left-handed.

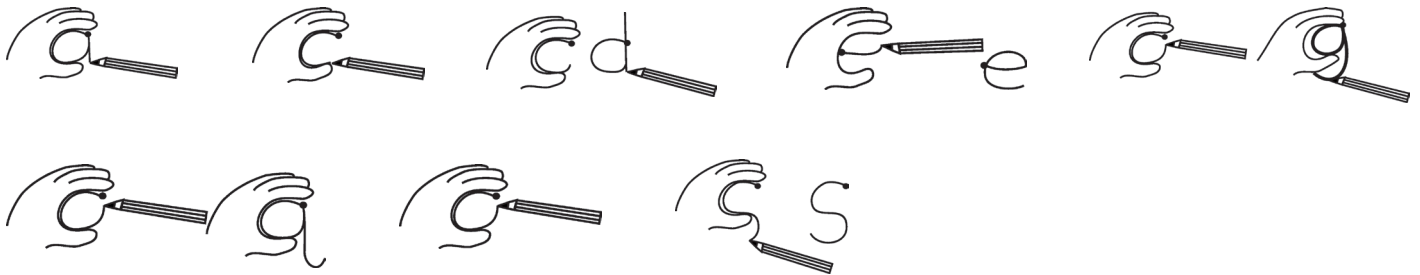
6. HUMP: Have children jump ahead a short step to simulate what they are going to draw with their pencils. Point out that they start on the ground, jump up and forward, then land back on the ground! Practice together, then move to doing it with paper and pencil.

CATEGORIES OF LETTERS

The alphabet may be grouped into categories based on how each letter is formed. What follows is one way of grouping the letters. It might be a good idea to work on the letters in one group before moving on to the next group.

Cave Letters: a, c, d, e, g, o, q, s

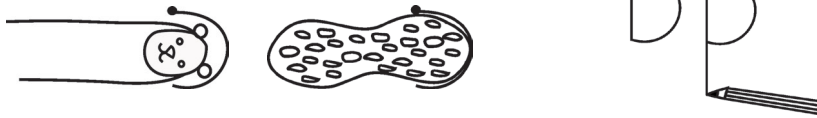
Children will make a cave like this:



Left-handed children can make a bear with their right pointer finger and draw the cave around the bear!

Bear or Peanut Letters: p, b

The letters for "peanut butter" are made this way.



Left-handed children can make a cave with their right hand and draw the letters inside the cave!

Slide Letters: k, M, N, v, w, x, y, z

Thin Man Letters: F, H, i, j, l, T

Hump Letters: u, (h, n, m, r)

Combo Letter: R

Ff

HAND MOTIONS:



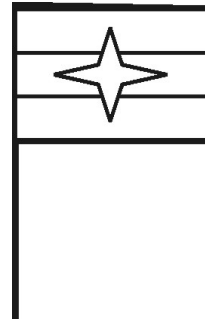
WRITING:

Uppercase: "Make a thin man for the flag pole. Put your pencil on the top of the thin man's head. Make a table. Put your pencil on the thin man's belly button and make another table."

Lowercase: "Start on the top line, but instead of going straight down, start a curve, and then drop the line to the ground. Make a table near the dotted line that goes all the way through the thin man."

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Children can make real flags out of a chop stick, wooden skewer, or plastic straw, adding a decorated rectangle of paper glued to the top.





Sarah K. Major is the Founder and CEO of Child1st Publications LLC. Her absolute belief in every child's ability to learn, and her passion to empower the child by supporting his/her own unique giftedness have fueled her life's work and provided a new pathway for children to succeed academically. She was the recipient of The Outstanding Parent Satisfaction and The Major Academic Program Improvement awards during her tenure as Title 1 program designer/director. Her numerous books and multisensory learning resources such as: SnapWords®, Easy-for-Me™ Reading, the Right-Brained Math Series, The Illustrated Book of Sounds & Their Spelling Patterns and more have earned a host of five star reviews, and have helped to advance the education of children around the world. Ms. Major taught preschool through the 12th grade, and holds a Master's degree in Education, and a Bachelor of Arts.

Child1st multisensory learning resources for math and reading are designed specifically for right-brained learners, including beginners, visual and kinesthetic learners, and those children who have already been labeled with dyslexia, autism, Asperger's, auditory processing disorder, ADHD and more.

For more information please visit www.child1st.com.