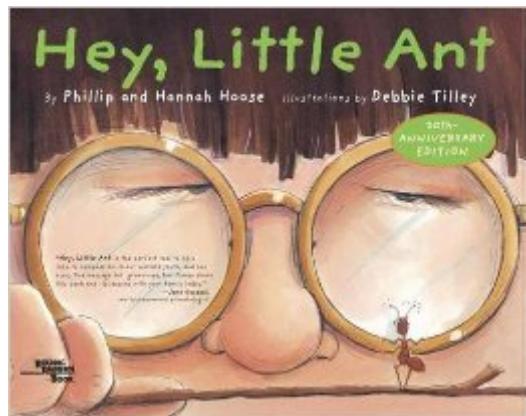


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# Hey, Little Ant



## **Synopsis**

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on looked up and started talking? Would you stop and listen? What if your friends saw you hesitate? That's what happens in this funny, thought-provoking book. Originally a song by a father-daughter team, this conversation between two creatures, large and small, is bound to inspire important discussions. It might even answer that classic childhood question: To squish or not to squish?

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tricycle Press (July 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1883672546

ISBN-13: 978-1883672546

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,881 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure #20 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #45 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Kid: "Hey, little ant . . . /See my shoe, can you see that?/Well, now, it's gonna squish you flat!" This situation opens the book. The story then evolves into a dialogue between ant and kid to decide the ant's fate. The kid feels like he can do what he wants if the ant cannot talk back, but his ant can. The ant begs for his life. Then the kid argues that ants don't feel, and no one will miss him. The ant points out that he will be missed. The kid argues that ants steal from people, and the ant protests that they only take a little. The kid says that his friends expect him to squish the ant, and the ant asks the kid to exchange places in his mind. "If you were me and I were you,/What would you want me to do?" The book ends with "What do you think that kid should do?" This question is a nice set-up for a thoughtful discussion with your child. Unlike many books that proclaim the correct judgment, this one certainly suggests that the ant not be squished but leaves the question open.

You can ask how your child's answer might change if other creatures are involved (a mosquito, a worm, a caterpillar, a butterfly, and so forth). The rhyming scheme in the book is also set to music in the back, so you can also play and sing the book together. Phillip Hoose is on the staff of the Nature Conservancy. His daughter and co-author, Hannah, was 9 when they wrote this book together. So another pleasure of changing perspectives here is to realize that parents and children can write books and songs together! The illustrations are very wonderful. In several sequences, the two page spreads are developed vertically rather than horizontally. Ms. Tilley does this very well to portray the giant kid looming over the ant, and later the imaginary giant ant dominating the kid.

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