MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

# The Ant Highway



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# A Small Wonder

This morning, the leaf-map glowed ruby red, and its brightest vein pointed... down. Down at the ground. "Today's wonder is a small one," said Uncle Bo, and he gave Sami a magnifying glass.






# Snip-Snip

They listened. Snip-snip. Crunch. Snip-snip. The sound was everywhere, but they couldn't see anything. Sami looked up. Lina looked behind a fern. "What is going snip-snip?" said Sami.

# The Leaves Are Walking

Lina lay down on her tummy. "Sami! The leaves are walking!" Across the ground went a long, wobbly line of green: tiny pieces of leaf, each one carried high by an ant. "Look with your eyes, not your hands," said Uncle Bo.






# Where Are They Going?

They followed the ant highway: over a log, under a fern, round a root. Each ant carried a piece bigger than itself. "They're going to eat ALL the leaves," said Sami. "They must be SO hungry."

# A Puddle in the Way

Then the ants stopped. Last night's rain had left a puddle right across their highway. The ants bunched up at the edge, waving their little green sails. They could not get across.






# Tuki Helps (Sort Of)

Tuki wanted to help. He picked up a leaf, just like the ants. But Tuki's leaf was a whole giant leaf! He wobbled, he tottered, and he toppled backwards into a fern. Lina laughed so hard she had to hold her hat on.

# Sami's Bridge

Sami had an idea. He found a long, thin twig. Slowly, very slowly, he lowered it across the puddle, right beside the ants, without touching a single one. His hands were steady. He held his breath.






# Across!

One ant stepped onto the twig. It wiggled its feelers. Then it marched across! Another followed, and another, until the whole green highway was flowing over Sami's bridge. "Yes!" whispered Sami, and Lina gave him a silent high five.

# Tiny Farmers

They followed the highway to a big earth mound, where the ants carried every leaf piece down into the dark. "Are they eating them now?" asked Sami. Uncle Bo smiled. "No! Leaf-cutter ants don't eat leaves. They use them to grow a fungus garden underground, and they eat the fungus." Sami's mouth fell open. "They're farmers!"





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# A Half-Moon Leaf

On the path home, Lina found a leaf with a perfect half-moon bite cut out of its edge. At the station, she put it on the wonder shelf. Sami looked at it through his magnifying glass. "Tiny farmers," he said, "and a twig bridge. Best small day ever."

THE END

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