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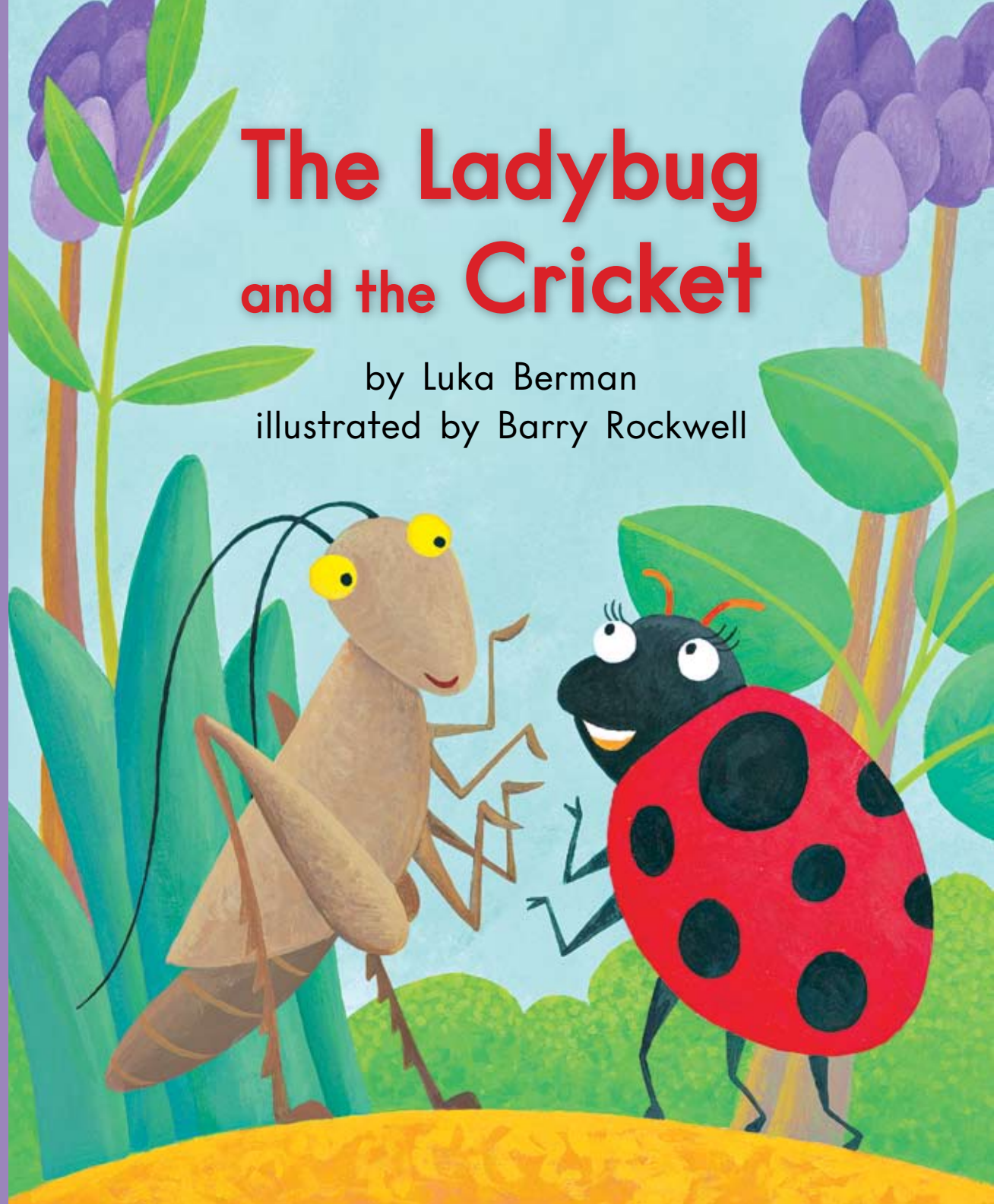


Book 100

Level J

The Ladybug and the Cricket

by Luka Berman
illustrated by Barry Rockwell



The Ladybug and the Cricket

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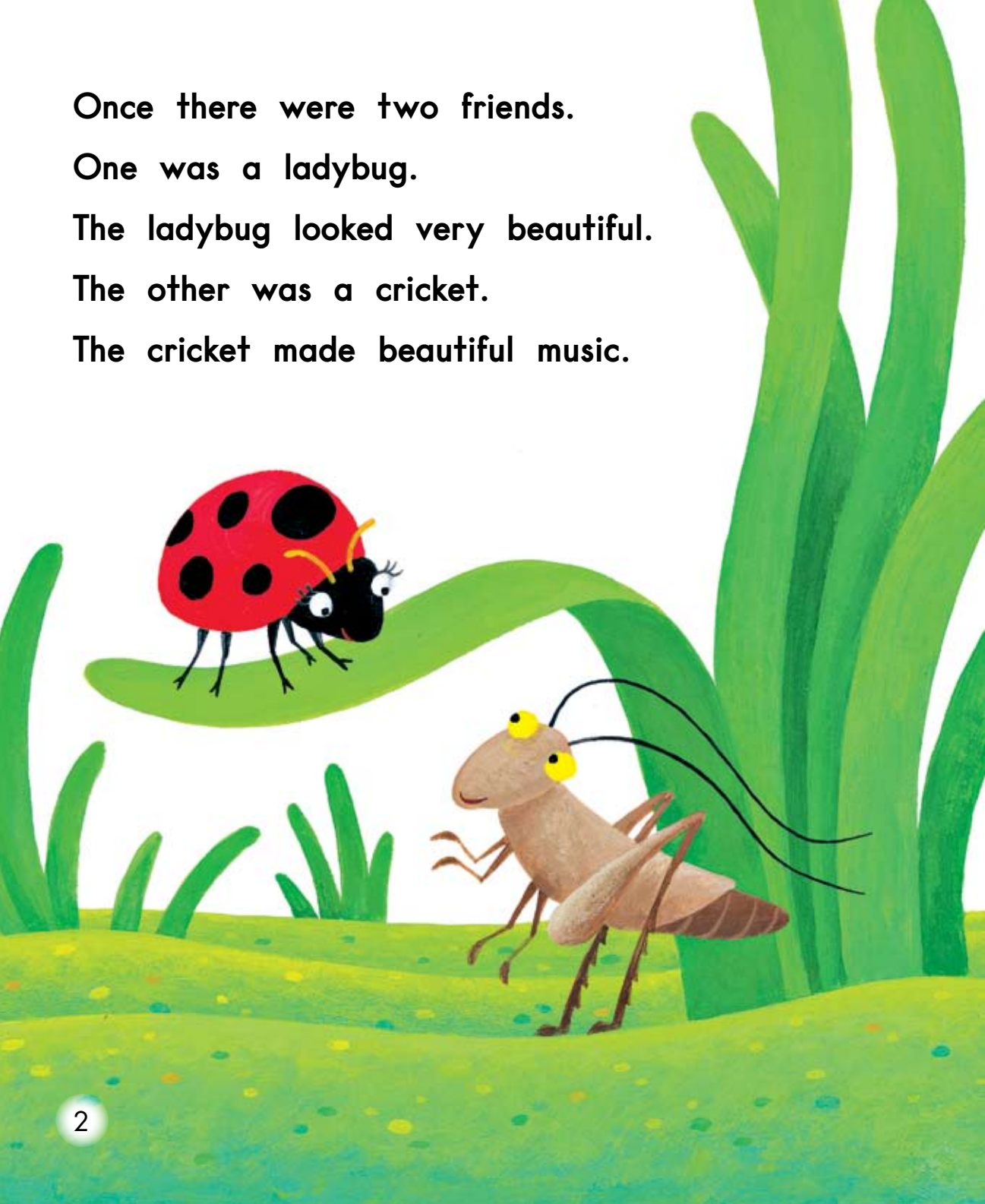
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The Ladybug and the Cricket

by Luka Berman
illustrated by Barry Rockwell



Once there were two friends.
One was a ladybug.
The ladybug looked very beautiful.
The other was a cricket.
The cricket made beautiful music.



The two friends liked each other
very much.
Each friend had one thing
that the other wished for.



“You make the most wonderful music!”
said the ladybug to the cricket.
“I wish I could make beautiful music
like you do.”

It was true.

On warm summer evenings,
the cricket rubbed his wings together.
Out came a sweet chirpy sound.

The ladybug had wings,
but they made no music at all.



“You are so beautiful,”
said the cricket to the ladybug.
“I wish I looked as beautiful
as you do. You’re as lovely
as any flower!”

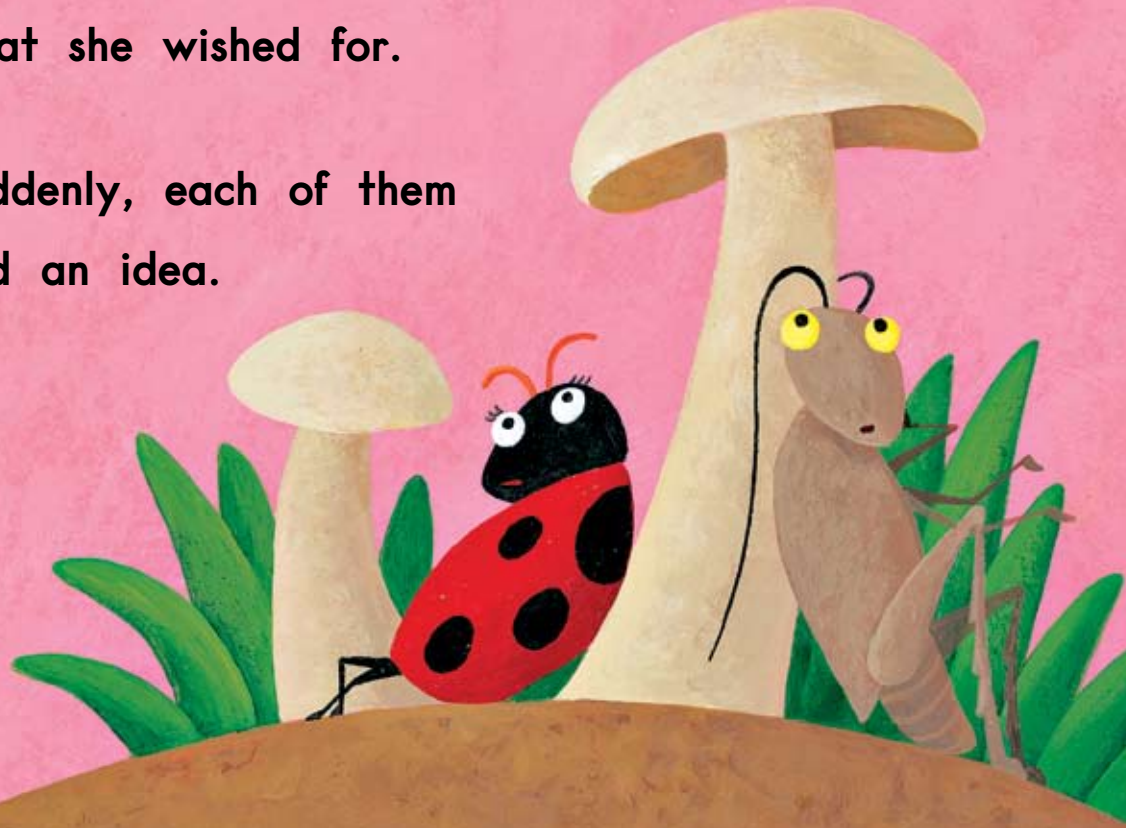
It was true. The ladybug’s body
was shiny and red,
with deep black dots.
It shone in the sun
like colored glass.

The cricket’s body was
a dull, plain, brown color.

The ladybug sighed
because her friend was sad.
She wished she could help him
have what he wished for.

The cricket sighed
because his friend was sad.
He wished he could help her have
what she wished for.

Suddenly, each of them
had an idea.



“I must run!
I’m late for dinner!”
cried the ladybug.

“Oh, my! It’s getting late!
See you tomorrow!”
cried the cricket.

The two friends rushed off.

That night, the ladybug
stayed up long after the sun
went to bed.

She lined up pots and jars and
brushes. She mixed flower dust
and dew.

Then she smiled a ladybug smile.





The cricket stayed up late, too.

He got some sticks and
a nut shell. He took apart
an old spider web.

Then he smiled a cricket smile.

The next morning, the ladybug and the cricket met in the field.

“I have a surprise for you!” said the ladybug.

She pulled out a coat of red and black. It was just the right size for a cricket.

“I made you a shiny new coat!”



“I have a surprise for you, too!” said the cricket.

He pulled out a tiny violin. It was just the right size for a ladybug.

“I will teach you how to play music!”





The cricket had beautiful colors
like the ladybug.

The ladybug played beautiful
music like the cricket.

They each had
what they wished for.
And they had each other.