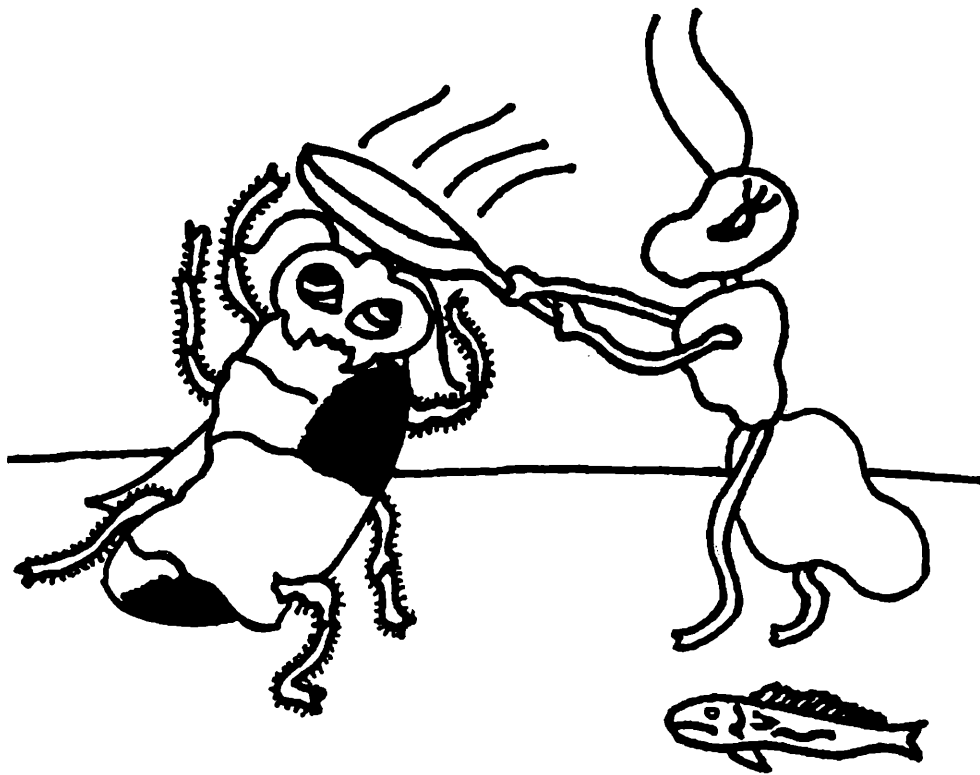


Faiyaants
Teech Kakroach
Wahn Lesn



Adapted from a narration by Adelia Dixon
Illustrations by Leon Hemsley

[An English translation appears in the back of the book]

**Narrative taken from
CREOLE FOLK TALES FROM BELIZE, VOL. II
Collected and Edited by Ervin Beck
Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526.
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**Belize Kriol Project
P.O. Box 2120
Belize City, Belize**

In the Kriol writing system each letter represents just one sound. There are no silent letters. Following is a brief guide to reading some of the more unfamiliar symbols:

- 'long a' = 'ay' as in 'wayt' (wait)**
- 'long i' = 'ai' as in 'bwai' (boy)**
- 'long e' = 'ee' as in 'teech' (teach)**
- 'long o' = 'oa' as in 'bloa' (blow)**
- 'long u' = 'oo' as in 'hoo' (who)**
- 'double short a' = 'aa' as in 'yaad' (yard)**
- 'nasalization' – 'hn' nasalizes the vowel as in 'kohn' (come)**
- 'tr' – 'chr' as in 'chrai' (try)**

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Faiyaants Teech Kakroach Wahn Lesn

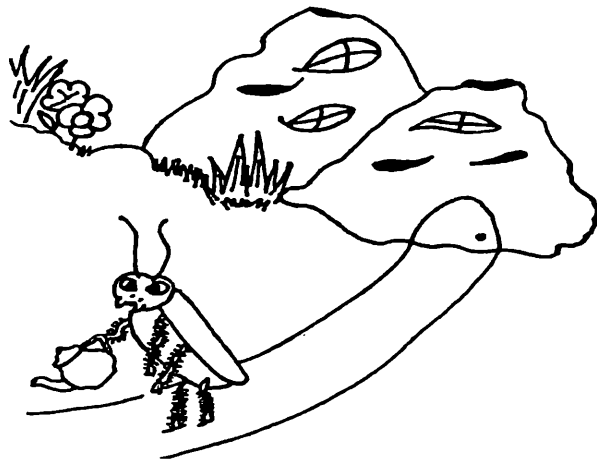
Dis da di taim wen taim da-mi taim.
Kakroach ahn Faiyaants ahn aal di res a dehn
yoostu taak laik mee ahn yoo.

Bot Sista Kakroach shee da-mi wahn foni
kain a uman, kaa ih yoostu waahn evriting, bot
ih noh waahn bai notn. Ih bara evriting ahn weh
ih kud teef, ih teef. (Eena dehn dayz deh,
dehn yoostu kaal wan anada Breda and Sista,
noh laik now how wi oanli rof tu wan anada.)

Soh az weh Ah mi-di tel yu bowt Sista
Kakroach, if ih noh bara broom, ih bara baysn.

Ih bara soap.

Ih bara kitl.

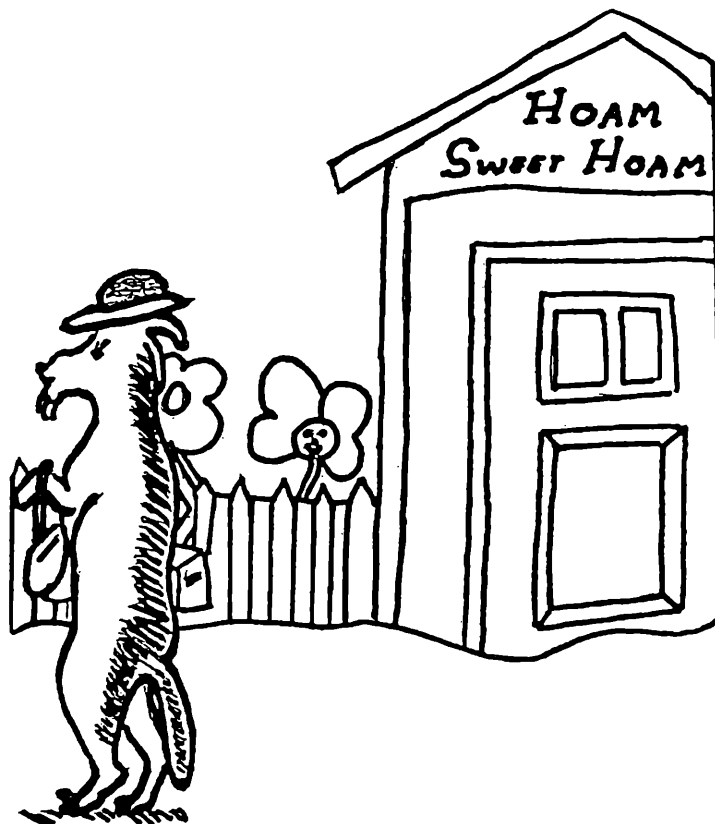


Ih bara wash bowl.

Ih eevn waahn bara chemba pat! Soh di
nayba dehn geh taiyad a ahn.

Wel eena dehn taim deh, Sista Kakroach
yoostu liv kloas tu Sista Nani Goat. Soh Sista
Nani Goat tel di res a nayba dehn, ih seh,
"Unu luk ya, mee wahn moov fahn dis hows,
man, kaa mee taiyad a Sista Kakroach. Ih anai
mi tu moch."

Ahn soh Sista Nani Goat moov.



Wahn lee wail layta, Sista Faiyaants gaahn
liv said a Sista Kakroach. Ahn wen ih moov
deh, di fos persn weh hayl ahn da Sista Bog.

Sista Bog seh, "Gud maanin."

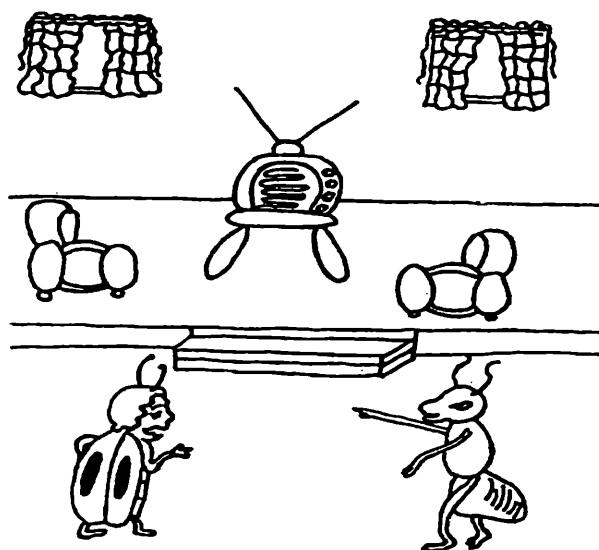
Sista Faiyaants ansa, "Gud maanin."

Sista Bog seh, "Mee da yu nayba."

Sista Faiyaants seh, "Wel, Ah laik how yu
ak, kaa yoo da di fos persn weh kohn hayl mi."

Ih seh, "Yes. Ah chrai fi mek fren wid
evribadi."

Den Sista Faiyaants seh, "Yu ku tel mi hoo
liv oava deh?"



Sista Bog noh waahn bee di fos wan fi taak bad bowt ih nayba. Soh ih seh, "Dat da Sista Kakroach hows. Da wahn frenli laydi, yu noa, bot ih gah wan faalt."

"Hm!" Sista Faiyaants seh, "Weh da di faalt?"

Ih seh, "Ah noh waahn tel yu, bot yu wahn fain owt."

Soh di neks maanin Sista Faiyaants yehr, "Kung! Kung! Kung!" da di doa. Wen ih oapm di doa, ih si Sista Kakroach weh seh, "Maanin, nayba."



Sista Faiyaants seh, "Maanin."

Sista Kakroach seh, "Bifoa yu aks mi eniting, Ah wahn tel yu hoo mee. Ai da Sista Kakroach."

"Oa," Sista Faiyaants seh. "Yoo da di laydi weh dehn tel mi bowt weh soh frenli."

Sista Kakroach seh, "Yes, da mee."

Ih seh, "Wel, ih luk laik yu frenli fi chroo." Ahn soh dehn begin tu taak.



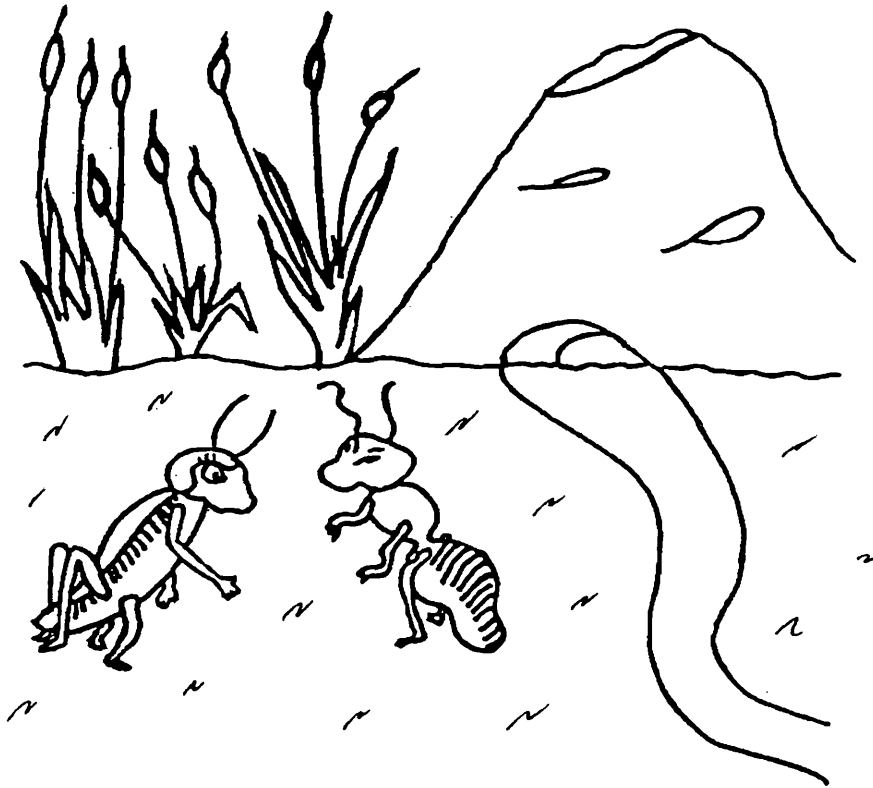
Afta wahn lee wail, Sista Kakroach seh, "Yu mosn lisn tu aal dehn ting weh di res a nayba tel yu, yu noa, kaa dehn oanli laiudad."

Sista Faiyaants seh, "Laik wat?"

Sista Kakroach seh, "Dehn oanli laik taak bowt mi."

Sista Faiyaants tel ahn seh, "Noh wori, kaa mee noh lisen tu pipl." Dehn taak lee moa ahn Sista Kakroach gaan.

Lee bit afta dat, wahn neks nayba kom op. Dis wan now da Sista Krikit. Ih seh, "Gud maanin, Sista Faiyaants."

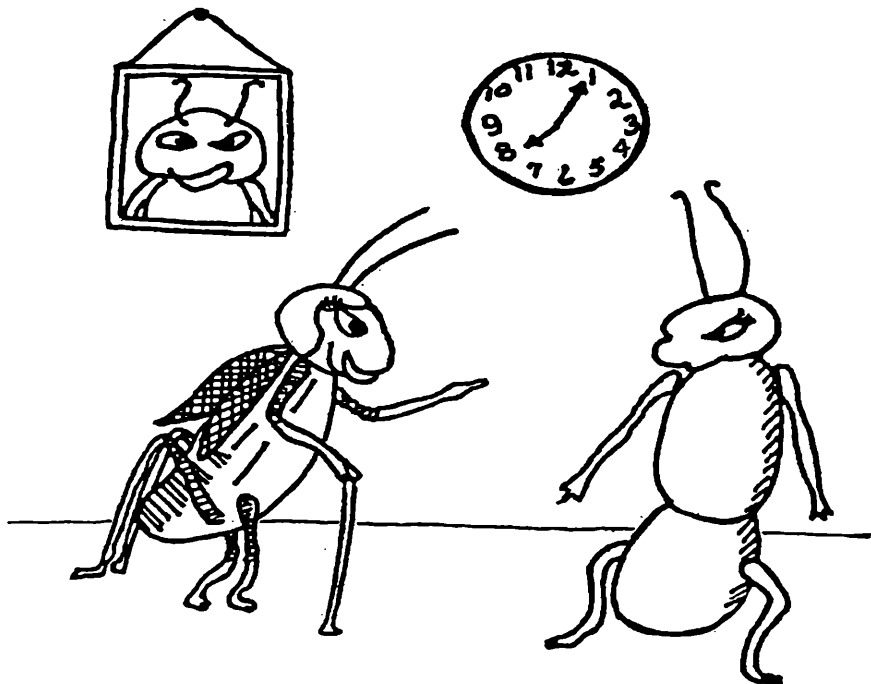


Sista Faiyaants seh, "Helo. Soh yu noa mai naym?"

Ih seh, "Yes. Sista Kakroach don tel mi weh yu naym. Ai da Sista Krikit."

Den Sista Krikit seh, "Luk ya. Wi aal frenli eena dis tong, bot Sista Kakroach gah difrant wayz fahn wee. Ih oanli laik bara wi tingz an ih noh gi wi dehn bak."

Sista Faiyaants seh, "Wel, ih noh wahn bara fahn mee, kaa mee noh bara an mee noh len."



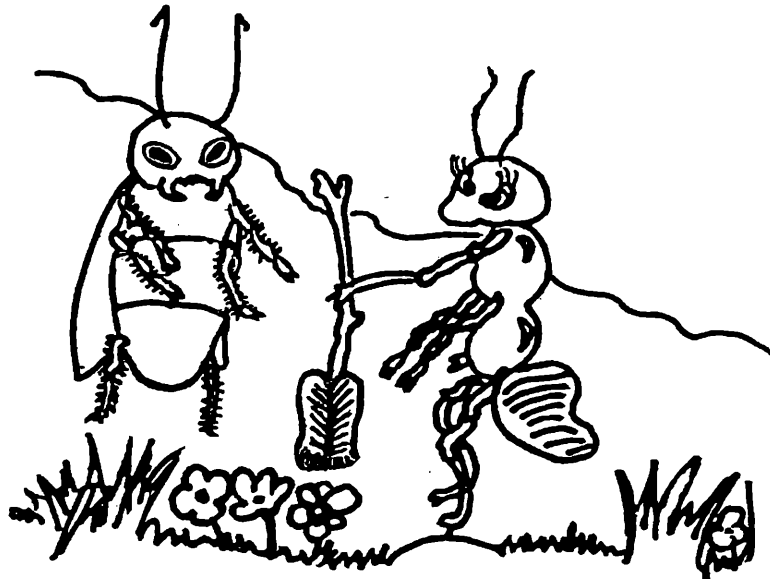
Sista Krikit seh, "No man, dat da noh di way wee liv rong ya. Wee len wan anada tingz, ahn wi kehr dehn bak, yu si? Bot Sista Kakroach shee noh du dat. Wen ih bara, ih noh kehr ahn bak. Ih aalwayz seh ih figit. Weh yu noh memba, yu noh geh bak."

Faiyaants seh, "Wel, noh wori. Ai da di rait wan fi ahn. Ah wahn fiks ahn."

Ahn soh Sista Kakroach begin tu bara.

Ih kohn fi bara pat. Sista Faiyaants haftu sen fi ih pat.

Ih kohn fi bara broom. Ih haftu sen fi ih broom.

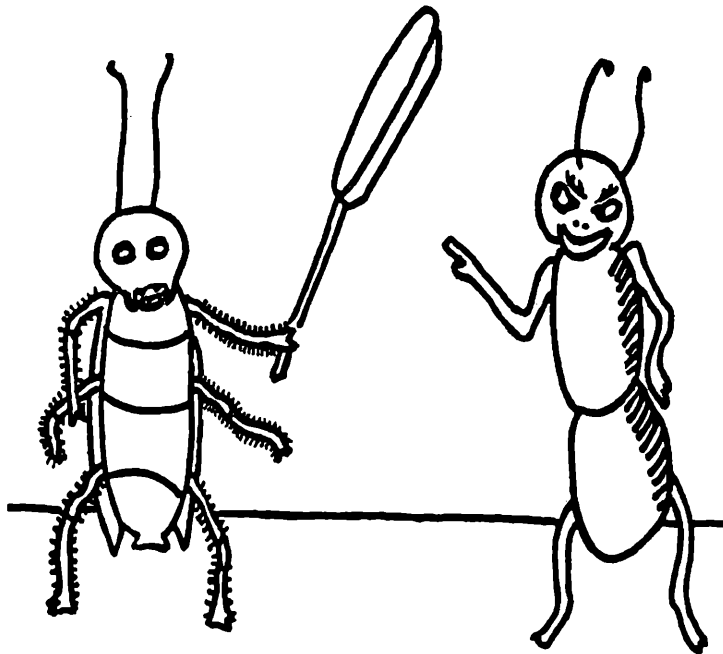


Ih kohn fi bara kloazpin. Ih haftu sen fi ih kloazpin bak.

Sista Faiyaants geh taiyad a it. Ih seh, "Mee, Ah wahn fiks Roach."

Soh di day, Sista Kakroach gaan an ih bara Sista Faiyaants fraiyin pan. Sista Faiyaants tel ahn, "Luk ya. Ah waahn yu bring bak dis fraiyin pan dis eevnin, yu hyaa."

Roach seh, "Shoar, shoar, nayba, shoar!"

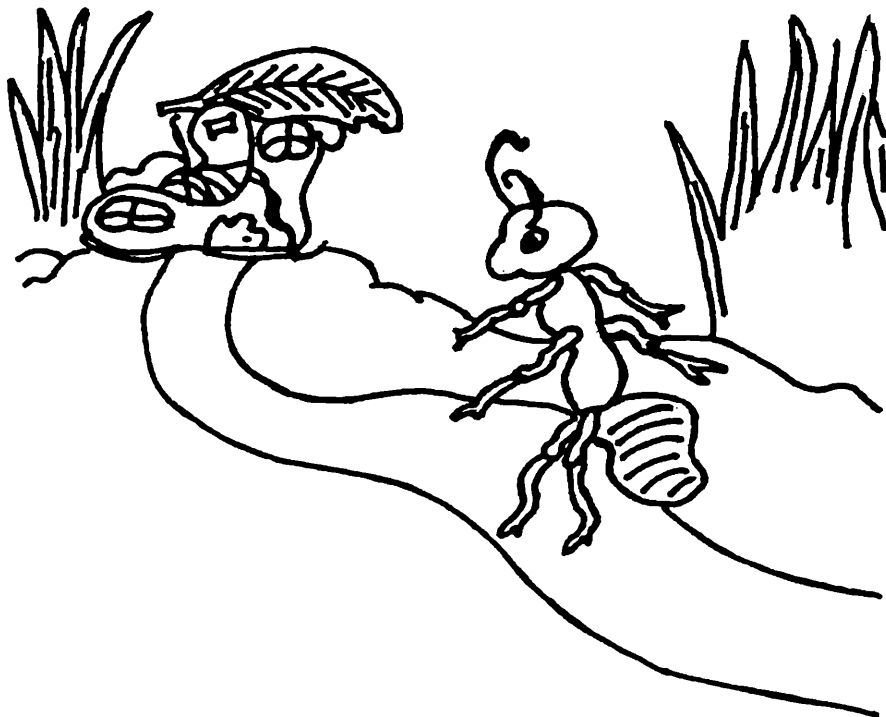


Soh eevnin kohn. No fraiyin pan.

Neks day, no fraiyin pan.

Soh di neks ada day, Sista Faiyaants sen wahn lee bwai fi it. Bot Sista Kakroach oanli faysi. Ih tel ahn ih kyaahn sen di fraiyin pan bak, kaa ih di frai fish.

Wen Sista Faiyaants yehr dat, ih seh, "Ah gwain rait now fi mi fraiyin pan!" An ih maach schrayt eena Sista Kakroach kichn.

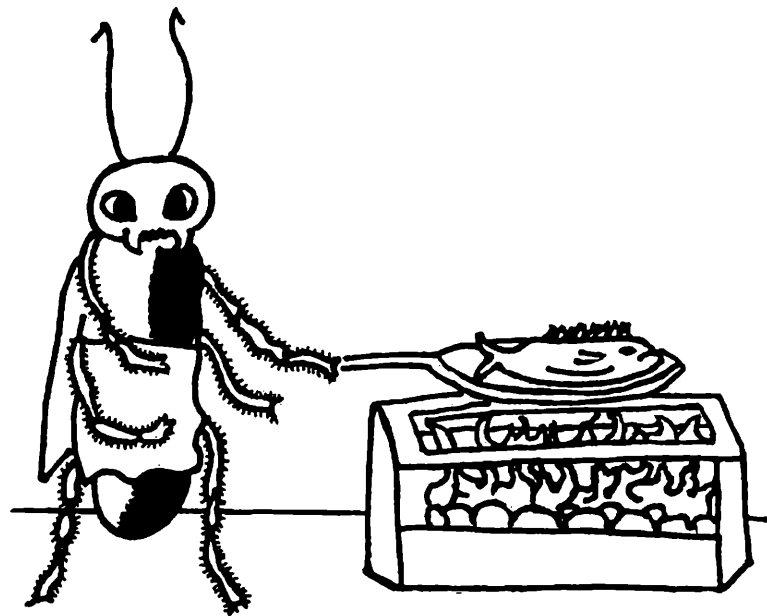


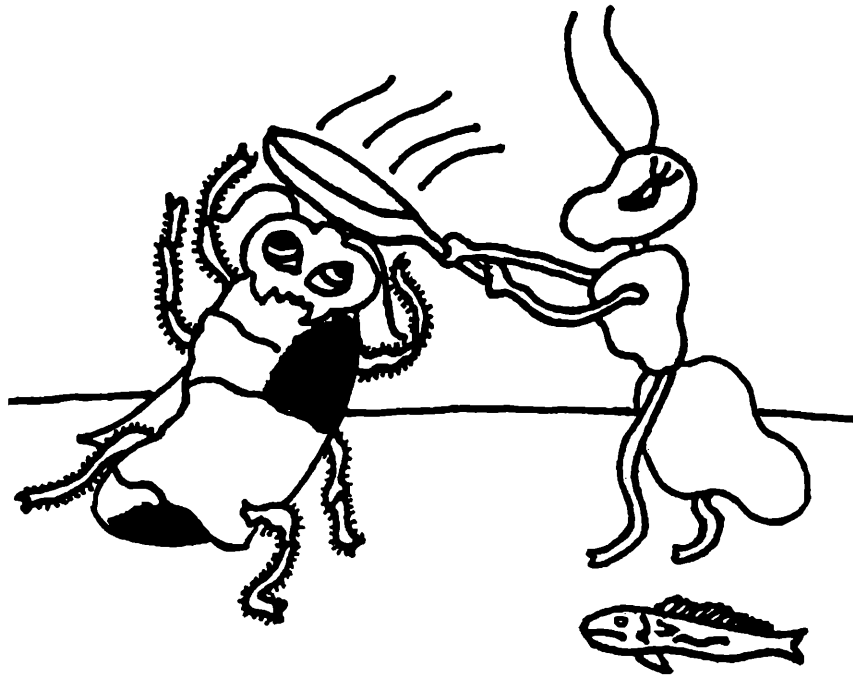
Ih seh, "Luk ya, Sista Kakroach. Mee kohn fi mi fraiyin pan now."

Sista Kakroach seh, "Bot Ah neva sen tel yu Ah di yooz it?"

Ih seh, "Tek owt yu fish rait now, ahn gi mi mi fraiyin pan!"

Sista Kakroach seh, "No Sista Faiyaants, da noh soh nayba fi liv. At lees wayt til Ah don frai mi fish."





Bot Sista Faiyaants beks beks. Ih grab ih fraiyin pan, dash di fish owt, ahn wap Sista Kakroach schrayt eena ih hed, bas!

Ih seh, "Dis da fi mek yu memba fi kehr bak pipl ting!"

An fahn dat day, aal di kakroach dehn weh baan, baan wid wahn rong maak pahn dehn hed.

Afta Sista Faiyaants don wap ahn, ih ron hoam. An wen ih di ron, ih step pahn wahn pin. If di pin neva ben, dis stoari neva mi wahn en.

Fire Ant Teaches Cockroach a Lesson

This was the time when time was time. Cockroach and Fire Ant and all the rest of [the insects] used to talk like you and me.

But Sister Cockroach was a strange kind of woman, because she used to want everything but she didn't want to buy anything. She borrowed everything, and whatever she could steal, she stole. (In those days, people used to call each other Brother and Sister - quite different from these days, when we are so rough to one another.)

Anyway, as I was saying about Sister Cockroach, if she didn't borrow a broom, she borrowed a basin.

She borrowed soap.

She borrowed a kettle.

She borrowed a wash bowl.

She even wanted to borrow a chamber pot! So the neighbors got tired of it.

In those days, Sister Cockroach used to live close to Sister Nanny Goat. So Sister Nanny Goat said to the rest of the neighbors, "Listen here. I'm going to move from this house, because I'm tired of Sister Cockroach. She annoys me too much!"

And so Sister Nanny Goat moved away.

A little while later, Sister Fire Ant came to live alongside of Sister Cockroach. After she arrived, the first person who came to greet her was Sister Bug.

Sister Bug said, "Good morning!"

Sister Fire Ant answered, "Good morning!"

Sister Bug said, "I'm your neighbor."

Sister Fire Ant said, "Well, I like the way you act, because you are the first person who came to greet me."

Then Sister Fire Ant asked, "Could you tell me who lives over there?"

Sister Bug didn't want to be the first one to talk against her neighbor, so she said, "That's Sister Cockroach's house. She is a friendly lady, but she has one fault."

"Hm!" said Sister Fire Ant. "What is that?"

"I don't want to tell you," said Sister Fire Ant. "But you will find out."

The next morning Sister Fire Ant heard "Knock, knock, knock!" at the door. When she opened the door, she saw Sister Cockroach who said, "Good morning, neighbor!"

"Good morning," answered Sister Fire Ant.

Sister Cockroach said, "Before you ask me anything, I want to tell you who I am. I am Sister Cockroach."

"Oh," said Sister Fire Ant. "You are the lady they told me about who is so friendly."

Sister Cockroach said, "Yes, that's me."

"Well," said Sister Fire Ant. "It looks like you really are friendly." And so they began to talk.

After a little while, Sister Cockroach said, "You mustn't listen to all of the things that the other neighbors tell you, you know, because they're only lying."

"Like what?" asked Sister Fire Ant.

Sister Cockroach said, "They just like to talk about me."

Sister Fire Ant answered. "Don't worry. I don't listen to what people say." They talked a little more, and then Sister Cockroach left.

A little while after that, another neighbor came up. This one was Sister Cricket. She said, "Good morning, Sister Fire Ant."

"Hello," answered Sister Fire Ant. "So you know my name?"

"Yes," said Sister Cricket. "Sister Cockroach told me your name. I am Sister Cricket."

Then Sister Cricket said, "Listen here. We are all friendly in this town, but Sister Cockroach has different ways from the rest of us. She really likes to borrow things, and she doesn't give them back."

Sister Fire Ant said, "Well, she won't borrow from me, because I don't borrow and I don't lend."

Sister Cricket said, "No friend, that isn't the way we live around here. We lend each other things and we bring them back, you see. But Sister Cockroach doesn't do that. When she borrows something, she doesn't bring it back. She always says that she forgot. If you don't remember what you have lent her, you don't get it back."

Fire Ant said, "Well, don't worry. I am the right one for her. I will fix her good."

And so Sister Cockroach began to borrow.

She sent to borrow a pot. Sister Fire Ant had to send for her pot.

She sent to borrow a broom. Fire Ant had to send for her broom.
Sister Cockroach sent to borrow clothespins. Fire Ant had send someone to get her clothespins back.

Sister Fire Ant got tired of it. She said, "I am going to fix Roach."

That day, Sister Cockroach came and borrowed Sister Fire Ant's frying pan. Sister Fire Ant told her, "Look here. I want you to bring this frying pan back this evening, you hear!"

Roach said, "Sure, neighbor, sure!"

When evening came there was no frying pan.

Next day, still no frying pan.

The day after that, Sister Fire Ant sent a little boy to get it. But Sister Cockroach was really impudent. She said that she couldn't send back the frying pan because she was using it to fry fish.

When Sister Fire Ant heard that, she said, "I'm going right now for my frying pan!" And she marched straight into Sister Cockroach's kitchen.

She said, "Look here, Sister Cockroach. I've come for my frying pan now!"

Sister Cockroach said, "Didn't you get my message that I was using it?"

Sister Fire Ant said, "Take your fish out right now and give me my frying pan!"

Sister Cockroach said, "No Sister Fire Ant, that's not the way neighbors should live. At least wait until I have finished frying my fish."

But Sister Fire Ant was furious. She grabbed her frying pan, dashed out the fish, and hit Sister Cockroach hard right on the head. Bam!

"This is to make you remember to bring back people's things!" she said.

And from that day, all cockroaches are born with a round mark on their head.

After Sister Fire Ant hit Sister Cockroach, she ran home. While she was running, she stepped on a pin. If the pin had never bent, this story would never have ended.

Yu mi reed di ada buk dehn eena Kriol?

Anansi ton wahn oal man

Anansi an di domplin chree

Layzi Saiman

Stoariz frahn Crooked Tree Villij

**Di chree chreez dehn (wahn lee Krismos
stoari)**

Ada Kriol tingz:

Di Birt a Jeezas (tayp ahn lee buk)

**You Can Read and Write Kriol (wahn buk fi
help yu laan fi reed ahn rait Kriol)**

