

Monologue for Level 4 (ages 17-21, Male or Female)

Ants

By: Chuck Goodin

A young adult speaks before a class and shares their extensive knowledge of the insect kingdom and comes to a profound discovery.

Scripture themes: 1 John 3:16

Suggested costume: The actor could wear a lab coat and glasses (but not required).

Props: A covered glass jar with dirt inside would be helpful and perhaps a notebook with a lot of loose papers that are scribbled with scientific notes.

Stage directions and actor notes are written in parenthesis.

A quirky young adult stumbles to center stage carrying a glass jar of dirt with a lid. He/She is a total nerd and knows it.

Andy:

Hi... uh ok, this is awkward – the new kid going first –well here goes.

(Looking toward the teacher stage right.)

So, my name and something that interests me?

Ok. Uh, I'm Andy. First of all, NERD ALERT! You all need to know that I am really into ants.

Yes, you heard that right, ants. No, I mean REALLY. Call me weird but ants have become an Ob-session.

(A revelation.)

OH!!! That's why the kids at my last school call me Anty instead of Andy ...hmm, ...well hey, sorry not sorry, I am completely fascinated by ants and I know just about everything there is to know about them.

(Growing with excitement while recalling the following facts-)

Did you know ants are officially the smartest insect? And ants teach each other! They are the only non-mammals who can learn via interaction. In fact, a swarm of Fire Ants,

--by the way, "swarm" is the correct collective term for a group of ants,

a **swarm** of Fire Ants in the Amazon Rainforest will link their legs together to create a 'raft'. This allows them to float down rivers and travel through the forest --Together! --AS ONE! It's absolutely amazing.

(Looking around at the other students, confused as to why there is not an enthusiastic response to these incredible facts)

Ok, how about this? Did you know,

(Getting excited again.)

that scientists believe there are some 10 quadrillion ants on Earth and yet there are only 7 billion humans. That is one million ants for every human!!! In fact, if you added up the mass of all the humans in the world and then added up the mass of all the ants, THEY WOULD BE EQUAL! THAT. IS. SO. MANY. ANTS!!

And you know what? Now this is really going to blow your mind --some ants practice a primitive form of slavery, really, oh yeah, they may seem simple, but ants actually have very complex societies and they --

(Suddenly stopping.)

Ok, maybe I shouldn't go into all that.

(Again looking at the teacher stage right.)

My sister Jane says not everyone is as into ants as I am. Hard to believe but, ok.

(Slowing down and recomposing.)

Anyway, as you can see, I do know a lot about ants.

(Thinking)

But you know what?

(Looking at the glass jar)

I don't think they know much about me. They may have some ideas about me, but they are probably mostly wrong. I don't think they can comprehend me. I'm just ...too big.

Take these ants here,

(Holding up the glass jar)

I rescued them from a new development going up in my neighborhood. They would have been crushed. So I dug up their colony and now I take care of them.

(Staring at the ants in the jar)

Most of them are under the dirt right now. If I put my hand in there, they will attack me. Isn't that strange? I just want to help them. But they are really smart and strong and fiercely independent so they probably think they are the masters of their world, but in an instant, I could CRUSH THEM – of course, I wouldn't, ...but I could. Someone even said I must be like a god to them.

(Stopping. Contemplating this idea for the first time.)

Huh.

(Thinking it through.)

Sure, there are a few parallels ...my being is beyond their comprehension ...and they can't understand me ...of course I do look after them ...but in reality, me compared to ants and me compared God ...that's not a good analogy at all. Well think about it, me to an ant is just ...comparing one creature, me, to another creature, ants. But between me and God ...I mean, come on, there is no comparison at all. Because God is not a creature. He is not even on the spectrum with us ...since he was never created. He is thē (*long e*) creator!

Doesn't that just blow your mind? Wow, I can't even wrap my brain around that.

(Growing with excitement as he expounds on the majesty of God)

Ants are cool but God is ... like ...whoaawesome! I mean really awesome!

In fact, God is probably the only one who could truly be called awe-some. You know, because it's really hard to imagine or describe something that: ...has all power, ...was never created, ...knows all things, ...sees all, ...is everywhere, ...and has always existed ...and will always exist! I mean if He's not any of those things then He can't be called God right? ...and that is just... ..awesome!

(Awestruck. Beat. Then leaning down and looking over the ants. Getting quiet.)

So yeah, ants are amazing, and I really like them, ...but I'm not like God, I would never want to enter their world and become one of them, --much less sacrifice my life for them.

(Quiet long beat. Then suddenly-)

...And that could happen because the bite of a bulldog ant can kill a human in 15 minutes! And did you know that Bullet Ants have been known to eat humans?

(Looking up to the teacher.)

Oh, I'm out of time? But I have more facts. I could go on if you like?

(Listening to teacher.)

Later? Ok later.

(Putting head down and exiting.)