

## Willy the super - ant

*Margaret Adams, the contributor, explains ...*

I created this cartoon story for a dyslexic student who had difficulty distinguishing between "what" and "want" (to try and give him a visual "link" to want).

The idea is that you read the first part of the story with the student – he then has to go on and create the cartoon by drawing pictures in the boxes provided – these relate to the numbers in the story (see pages 6 and 7).

Every time he has to sign the hero's name, he signs w ant (want). At the same time he says it (very important) – w(double u), ant, want. My student really enjoyed it and an hour later, he could still spell "want".

The whole process gave the student visual, auditory and kinaesthetic experience of the word, and a connection (almost a mnemonic) he can make later. And it was fun. (I loved writing the story and do plan to reinforce this with a "Part Two").

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[maggie@skillsworkshop.org](mailto:maggie@skillsworkshop.org)

**THANK YOU**

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Let me tell you a bit about antland. The first thing you may notice is that it doesn't begin with a capital letter. In antland there are no capital letters! In fact in antland they don't have full stops or commas or even question marks. It's a very strange place. In antland ants go to work, have children and have fun – all the things that we do.

Sometimes there is danger in antland – when the spiders come, for example. They just want to eat the ants and so do birds and ladybirds. This is when Willy stops being an ordinary ant and becomes a super hero. He is always there to protect and save the other ants from danger. You may be asking yourself why does Willy do this? What does Willy want from this? Well, I'll tell you. It is a bit strange – but what Willy wants most in the world is to sign his name. That's what Willy wants. Whenever he does a brave deed – saving another ant from danger – the ant will ask for his autograph. Willy loves it. He just wants to sign his name. Here is what he writes:



want

When Willy signs his name, it looks like the word “want” because there are no capital letters or dots – that’s what Willy wants!

On the next page is a story of one of Willy’s adventures. Read the story first and then draw pictures in the boxes to make a cartoon of this story. The boxes and the bits of the story have the same numbers. When it comes to signing Willy’s name, he wants you to sign it for him. Say “W – ant” as you do.

Remember **w a n t** spells *want*.

1. One day Willy was working in the factory as usual. He was making engine parts for a car that ants like to drive – it is called a beetle.



2. Suddenly his antennae started to twitch – there was danger somewhere in antland.

3. Very quickly he got up and hid behind a box so that he could change into **willy the super-ant**.

4. He signed his name on the back of the box because he wanted to practise for later. Sign it for him. That's what he wants.

5. **willy the super-ant** flew out of the window and headed towards his anty's house. His anty (we would call her aunty) was his mother's sister. He knew that she was in danger, along with his little cousins, Anthony and Antonia.

6. As he got near to the house, he saw a big spider poking his long legs through the window of the house. He could hear his little cousins screaming, "Willy! Willy! Help us!".

7. Now what Willy knew about spiders was that the one thing they are really afraid of is the **World Wide Web**.



They had heard of this and they knew that people said it was taking over the world – some people call it the **Internet**. Willy got out his laptop computer.

8. He turned it on and showed it to the spider. The spider knew that the **World Wide Web** came through the computer.

9. Willy typed his name on the computer – you do it for him. That's what Willy wants.

10. The spider was so frightened that it ran away. It didn't want the **World Wide Web** to get him.

11. Anthony, Antonia and Willy's anty were so pleased. "Thank you. Willy," they said, "Will you sign our autograph books?" Willy was so happy. He could sign his name three times!

12. You do **want** to sign them for him in this last box, don't you?