

Auntie Freeze - female ant

Anna and Otto looked down and saw a bright-red maple leaf. On it, there was an ant sitting in a rocking chair. The ant was knitting with tiny needles and wispy yellow yarn.

"A talking ant," Otto said.

"Please, address me by my proper name," the ant said.

"And what is that?" Anna asked.

"I am called Auntie Freeze," the ant said.

"That's what you put in a car," Anna told the ant.

"What is?" the ant said, as she knitted away.

"Antifreeze," Anna said. "You put it in a radiator."

"Not antifreeze," the ant said. "Auntie Freeze," she said, pronouncing Auntie as "ahntie."

"Oh," said Otto, "so you're an ant who's an Aunt." He pronounced Aunt as "ahnt."

"Correct, man cur," the ant said.

"Are you French?" Anna asked the ant.

"Why would you think that?"

"Well, you just said 'mon coeur,' which means 'my heart' in French."

"I didn't say 'mon coeur,' I said 'man cur,'" the ant said, "meaning your little dog here is a cross between a man and a dog. Cur, if you didn't know it, is a word for a dog from no particular breed. Your dog is a 'man cur' because he speaks like a man, but he walks like a dog."