

The Flutterbys



The Amazing Stick Insect

By Nita Lesley

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MEET THE FLUTTERBYS

The Flutterbys are four friendly Butterflies who live in Flutterby Meadow. They love to explore, play and help their meadow friends. Bringing kindness, curiosity and a sprinkle of fluttery fun to every day.

Bold Red Ruby is full of energy and always ready to take the lead.

Sweet Pink Rosie is full of big ideas and endless excitement.

Thoughtful Bue Benny loves to figure things out.

Playful Orange Ollie, a mischief-maker, keeps everyone laughing with his playful ways.

Together the Flutterbys make the meadow a brighter, happier place, one flutter at a time.





One bright afternoon in Flutterby meadow, the Flutterbys flitted through the flowers, playing a game of chase.

The warm breeze carried their laughter as they darted around leaves and petals.

Suddenly...

THUMP!



Ollie bounced off something long and brown.
"Ow! Who put a twig in the middle of the air?"
The others landed beside him.

"Ollie, that's not a twig." Benny said, squinting.

"It's ... it's... moving?"

Sure enough, the twig wiggled and stretched, revealing two tiny legs, two long antennae, and big curious eyes!

"Hello!" the twig said. "My name is Twiggle, and I'm a stick insect."



The Flutterbys gasped in surprise.

"You're an insect? But you look like part of a tree!" Rosie said. Twiggle grinned. "That's exactly the point! Stick insects are masters of disguise. We blend in with twigs and leafs so that hungry birds don't eat us!"

Ruby's wings twitched with excitement. "That's amazing! Can you show us?"

Twiggle climbed on to a nearby branch, tucked in his legs, and...

POOF!

He disappeared!



"Where did he go?" Ollie spun in circles, searching.
Twiggle giggled. "I'm still here! You just have to look very
carefully."

Then he said. " Oh! Oh! Let's play a game! My whole family is
right here in this tree. Can you find them?"

The Flutterbys blinked. "Your family? But we only see
branches!"

Benny said. Twiggle chuckled. "Look closer!"



The Flutterbys peered at the tree.
At first, it looked like just a bunch of twigs and leaves...but
then Ruby gasped. "Wait! That twig wiggled!"
One by one the hidden stick insects revealed themselves.
Twiggle's mother was swaying gently like a leaf.
Twiggle's father, hanging still like a thin branch.
His mischievous baby siblings, dangling upside down like tiny
twigs. "That's incredible! Rosie squeaked.
Twiggle beamed. "Yep! We're the best at playing hide-and-
seek!" Ollie flapped excitedly. "I love hide-and-seek. Let's
play."



"I want to try blending in too."

Rosie fluttered to a pink flower and pressed herself against
the petals.

"Hmm..." Twiggle's mother squinted.

"Not bad! But you still look very much like a butterfly."



"Let me try." Ollie zoomed behind a big green leaf. "Can you see me now?"

Ruby giggled. "Ollie, your orange wings are sticking out!"

Twiggle smiled. "Hiding isn't easy. It takes patience, stillness and knowing where to blend in."

"That sounds hard." Ollie flopped on to a leaf. "I think I'd rather fly fast than hide."

Twiggle chuckled. "That's why every creature is special in its own way. You Flutterbys are great at flying, and we stick insects are great at disappearing!"



As the sun began to set, the Flutterbys thanked Twiggle and his family for teaching them about stick insects.

"We learned lots today." Rosie said.

"You really are amazing." Benny added.

Twiggle bowed. "Thank you. But don't forget, if you ever see a twig that moves, it might just be one of us!"

With a final flutter of their wings, the Flutterbys waved goodbye, soaring into the golden sky, excited to share their new knowledge with the whole meadow.

THE END

FUN FACTS about Stick Insects

1. 🪲 Stick insects are camouflage champions—they sway like twigs in the wind to hide.
2. 🪲 They can regrow lost legs, especially when they're young!
3. 🪲 Some can play dead to trick predators.
4. 🪲 The longest stick insect ever found was over 60 cm long—that's taller than most cats!
5. 🪲 They are herbivores, which means they only eat plants and leaves.

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Happy Fluttering

Nita Lesley

