

# The Flutterbys



## The Ant Parade

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 morning in Flutterby meadow, Ruby, Rosie, Benny and Ollie fluttered happily above the flowers, enjoying the warm sunshine.

The meadow buzzed with life; bees collecting nectar, ladybirds crawling along leaves, and a soft breeze making the petals dance.







As they played, Rosie suddenly gasped. "Look! A parade!"

The Flutterbys looked down to see a long trail of ants marching in a perfect line, each carrying something small on its back.

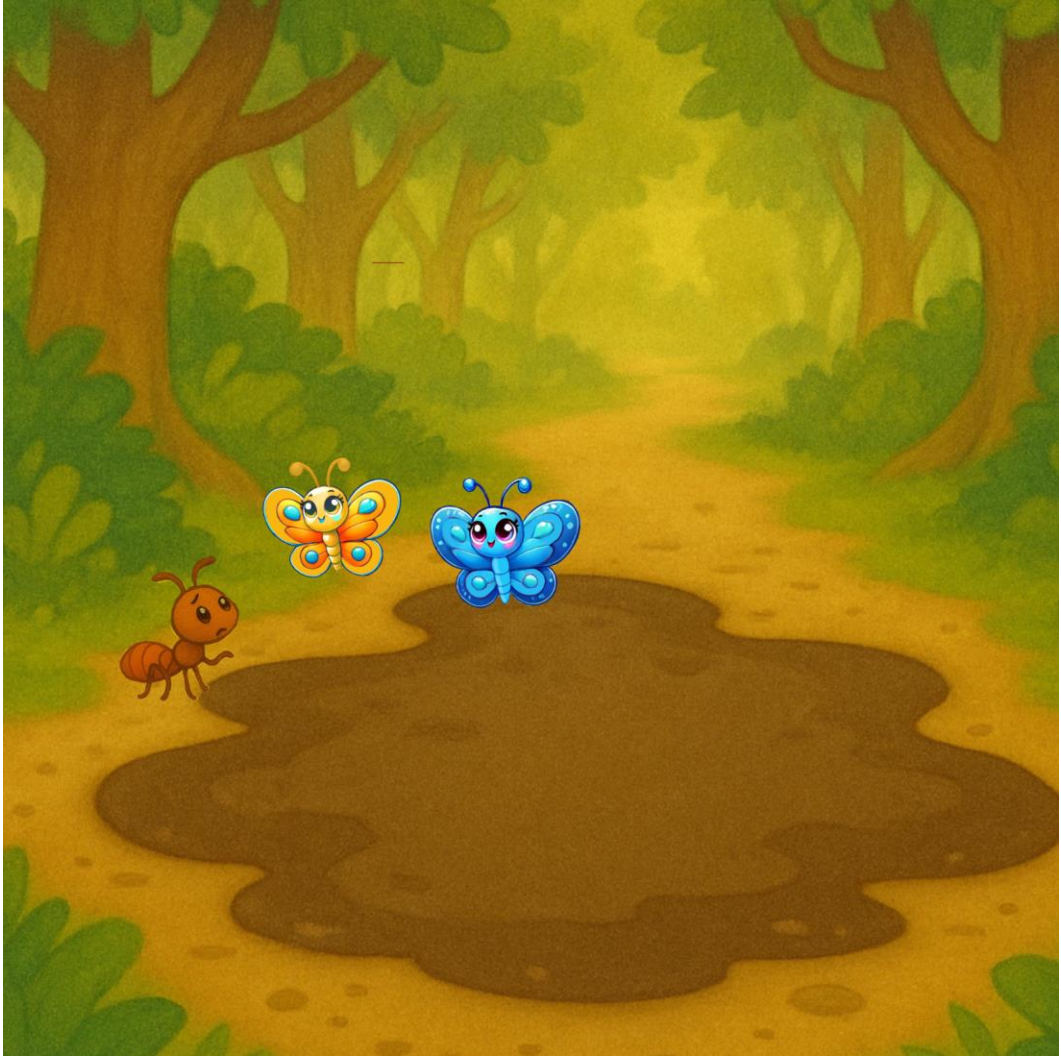
They hurried down for a closer look.

"Hello, little ants!" Ruby called. "Where are you all going?"

The ants didn't stop marching.

They were very busy and very serious.

Benny scratched his head. "They must have an important job to do."



Just then, a tiny ant near the front of the line turned to them and signed.

"Oh, it is an important job. The Ant Queen has ordered us to gather food for the Big Ant Picnic, but we have a problem."

"What's wrong?" Rosie asked, tilting her head.

A big gust of wind blew away some of our food," the ant explained. "And worse still, the path we need to take is blocked by a muddy puddle and we can't carry our food across."



"Oh, no!" Olle gasped dramatically. "This is a picnic  
emergency!"

Ruby puffed up her wings. "Don't worry little ants. We will  
help you get your food back AND cross that puddle."

The ants cheered, their tiny antennae wiggling with  
excitement.

The Flutterbys flitted into action.







Ruby zipped ahead, organising the ants into teams so they could carry the food more easily.

Benny examined the muddy puddle. "We'll need a bridge," he said thoughtfully.

He and the ants gathered twigs, leaves and tiny pebbles, stacking them into a small, sturdy crossing.

"Test it!" Ollie announced, bouncing excitedly.

One brave ant stepped on to the bridge. It held its breath...then crossed safely.

"Success!" Benny cheered.



"But, what about the food that blew away?" Rosie asked.

"We need to find it."

Rosie and Ollie flew ahead, scanning the meadow.

They searched under flower petals, between blades of grass, and even near a sleeping snail.

"There!" Rosie pointed. "Some crumbs are stuck on that buttercup."

Ollie swooped in, flapping hard...too hard! The crumbs flew into the air, and so did a tiny ant who had climbed on to the flower.



"Ahh! I'm flying!" the ant squeaked as it tumbled on to a dandelion puff.

The Flutterbys gasped, then....

**POOF!**

The dandelion puff gently floated down, landing the ant safely on the ground.

"Best ride ever!" the ant giggled.

Ollie blushed. "Oops! But I guess that worked."

The Flutterbys and the ants gathered the last bits of food and hurried back to the line.







With the bridge built and the food collected, the ants  
marched proudly back to their hill.  
The Queen Ant stood at the entrance, watching in delight.  
"You did it!" she exclaimed. "The picnic is saved!"  
She turned to the Flutterbys. "As a thank you, I would like  
to invite you to join the Big Ant Picnic!"  
Ollie's eyes sparkled. "A Flutterby and Ant feast? Count me  
in!"



And so, the Flutterbys spent the afternoon sharing tiny treats, laughing with their new ant friends, and celebrating under the golden sun.

"That was fun!" Rosie said, stretching her wings.

"And delicious!" Ollie added, licking a bit of honey off his leg.

Benny smiled. "And it just goes to show that when friends work together, no problem is too big."

The ants cheered, and the Flutterbys flitted happily into the sky, ready for their next adventure.

**THE END**

## FUN FACTS about Ants

1. 🐜 Ants can lift 20 times their own weight—they're tiny but mighty!
2. 🐜 They live in big colonies with queens, workers, and sometimes soldiers.
3. 🐜 Ants communicate using smells, leaving scent trails to guide each other.
4. 🐜 Some ants farm tiny insects like aphids for honeydew (a sweet drink!).
5. 🐜 There are over 12,000 kinds of ants around the world—each with their own jobs!

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Happy Fluttering

*Nita Lesley*

