

# The Flutterbys



## The Spot Detectives

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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.





It was a bright, cheerful morning in Flutterby Meadow.

The Flutterbys were playing their favorite game of flutter-tag.

Rosie twirled past Ruby, who was zooming after Benny, who was trying to dodge Ollie's playful dive.

"Got you!" Ollie giggled as he accidentally tumbled onto a soft leaf.





But their fun was interrupted by a tiny, sniffly voice. "Oh dear... Oh dear, oh dear..."

The Flutterbys looked down to see a very sad ladybird perched on a dandelion.

"Are you okay?" Benny asked gently.

"No, I am most certainly NOT okay!" the ladybird replied with a squeaky snuffle. "I'm Dotty, and I've lost my spots!"





"Lost your spots?" Rosie gasped. "All of them?"

Dotty nodded miserably.

"All seven of them! I was cleaning my wings this morning when a gust of wind blew them away. Now I look like a plain old red beetle!"

Ollie looked horrified.

"A ladybird without spots?! That's like a butterfly without wings! A bee without buzz! A sandwich without... um... sand!"



Ruby stepped forward with determination.

"Don't worry, Dotty. You've just met the  
Flutterby Detectives!"

"The who?" Dotty sniffled.

"The Flutterby Detectives!"

Ruby repeated with a grin.

"We solve mysteries and find things! And we  
will... starting now!"

The other Flutterbys nodded eagerly





Ollie swooped down and declared, "I am  
Detective Ollie! Super Spot Finder  
Extraordinaire!"

Rosie giggled. "And I am Detective Rosie!  
Expert Spot Spotter!"

Benny adjusted his wings like a proper  
detective. "Detective Benny—Professional Clue  
Collector!"

Ruby spread her wings proudly. "And I am  
Detective Ruby! Chief of the Spot Squad!"

Dotty sniffled, but her smile began to return.

"Oh, thank you! Thank you so much!"





The Flutterby Detectives fluttered off in all directions, using their "detective tools".

They called out,  
"Spots! Where are you?"  
as they searched high and low.

They soon discovered that the spots were scattered all over the meadow.



## Spot One: The Sunflower Petal

Ruby spotted something shiny and round stuck  
to a bright yellow sunflower petal.

"Gotcha!" Ruby grinned, carefully peeling the  
spot free.

"That's one!" Dotty cheered.





## Spot Two: The Frog's Nose

Rosie flew over the pond and saw a grumpy frog rubbing his nose.

"What's wrong?" Rosie asked.

"There's a black dot stuck to my nose, and it's making me itch!" the frog grumbled.

Rosie giggled as she plucked the spot away.

"That's two!" Dotty cheered.





## Spot Three: The Cobweb

Benny hovered by a glimmering cobweb and saw a spot tangled in the threads.

"Excuse me, Mr. Spider, can I please take that spot?" Benny asked politely.

The spider nodded. "Of course! It's just been making my web wobbly!"

Benny freed the spot.

"That's three!" Dotty cheered.



## Spot Four: The Dewdrop

Ollie was trying to do a loop-the-loop when he bumped into a dewdrop hanging from a leaf.

Inside the dewdrop was a black spot!

"Oops! Sorry, dewdrop!" Ollie laughed as he fished the spot out.

"That's four!" Dotty cheered.



## Spot Five: The Feather

Ruby spotted a black dot stuck to a fluffy white feather floating in the breeze.

She caught the feather just in time. "Gotcha!"

"That's five!" Dotty cheered.





## Spot Six: The Busy Bee

Benny was chatting with a bee collecting nectar.

"Excuse me, but is that a spot on your leg?"  
Benny asked.

"Oh! I thought it was a pollen clump!" the bee buzzed, shaking the spot loose.

"That's six!" Dotty cheered.



## Spot Seven: The Mud Puddle Mishap

Ollie, excited by their progress, zoomed over the meadow, but didn't see the mud puddle until—SPLAT!

Covered in mud, Ollie groaned. "Well, that was a messy landing."

But Ruby's eyes widened. "Ollie! There's a spot stuck to your wing!"

Ollie flapped his wing until the spot drifted down.

"That's seven!" Dotty cheered.





The Flutterby Detectives carefully placed each spot back on Dotty's shiny red shell, counting them as they went.

"One... Two... Three... Four... Five... Six... Seven!"  
Rosie grinned. "All spots accounted for!"

Dotty beamed, her spots sparkling in the sunlight. "Thank you, Flutterbys! I feel like myself again!"

Ollie puffed out his chest. "Another mystery solved by the Flutterby Detectives!"

Dotty giggled. "I hope I don't lose my spots again... but if I do, I know who to call!"





The Flutterbys fluttered off into the sky,  
their wings shimmering in the sun.

"That was a lot of fun!" Benny said. "But I hope  
we never have to find that many spots again!"

"Especially in a mud puddle!" Ollie added,  
shaking off the last bit of mud.

Everyone laughed as they flew home, ready for  
their next big adventure.

**The End.**

## **FUN FACTS about Ladybirds**

### **They aren't all ladies!**

Despite the name, ladybirds can be male or female. The name comes from "Our Lady's beetle" in reference to the Virgin Mary.

### **Spots tell a story—but not their age!**

People often think ladybirds' spots show their age, but that's not true. The spots help warn predators that they taste bad!

### **They come in many colors!**

Not just red with black spots—ladybirds can also be yellow, orange, black, or even pink, with all kinds of spot patterns (or none at all!).

### **They love a good aphid snack!**

A single ladybird can eat up to 5,000 aphids in its lifetime. They're tiny garden superheroes!

### **They hibernate in winter**

When it gets cold, ladybirds snuggle up in groups in **nooks, bark, window frames**, or even inside houses!

### **They wear armor!**

Ladybirds have a **hard shell called elytra** that protects their delicate wings underneath—like a built-in suit of armor!

### **They can play dead**

If they're scared, ladybirds sometimes **pretend to be dead** and release a stinky yellow fluid to keep predators away.  
Sneaky!



### **They've been considered lucky for centuries**

In many cultures, ladybirds are **symbols of good luck**, love, and even wish-granters!



### **They can fly super fast**

Some ladybirds can flap their wings **up to 85 times per second**, making them zippy little flyers.

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Happy Fluttering

Nita Lesley

