

Waterbugs and Dragonflies

by Doris Stickney



Down
below the
surface of
a quiet
pond lived
a little
colony of
waterbugs



They were all happy living under the water



For many months they were busy scurrying over the soft mud on the bottom of the pond.



They did seem to notice that every once in a while one of their colony seemed to lose interest in going about with its friends.

Clinging to the stem of a pond lily it gradually moved out of sight and was seen no more



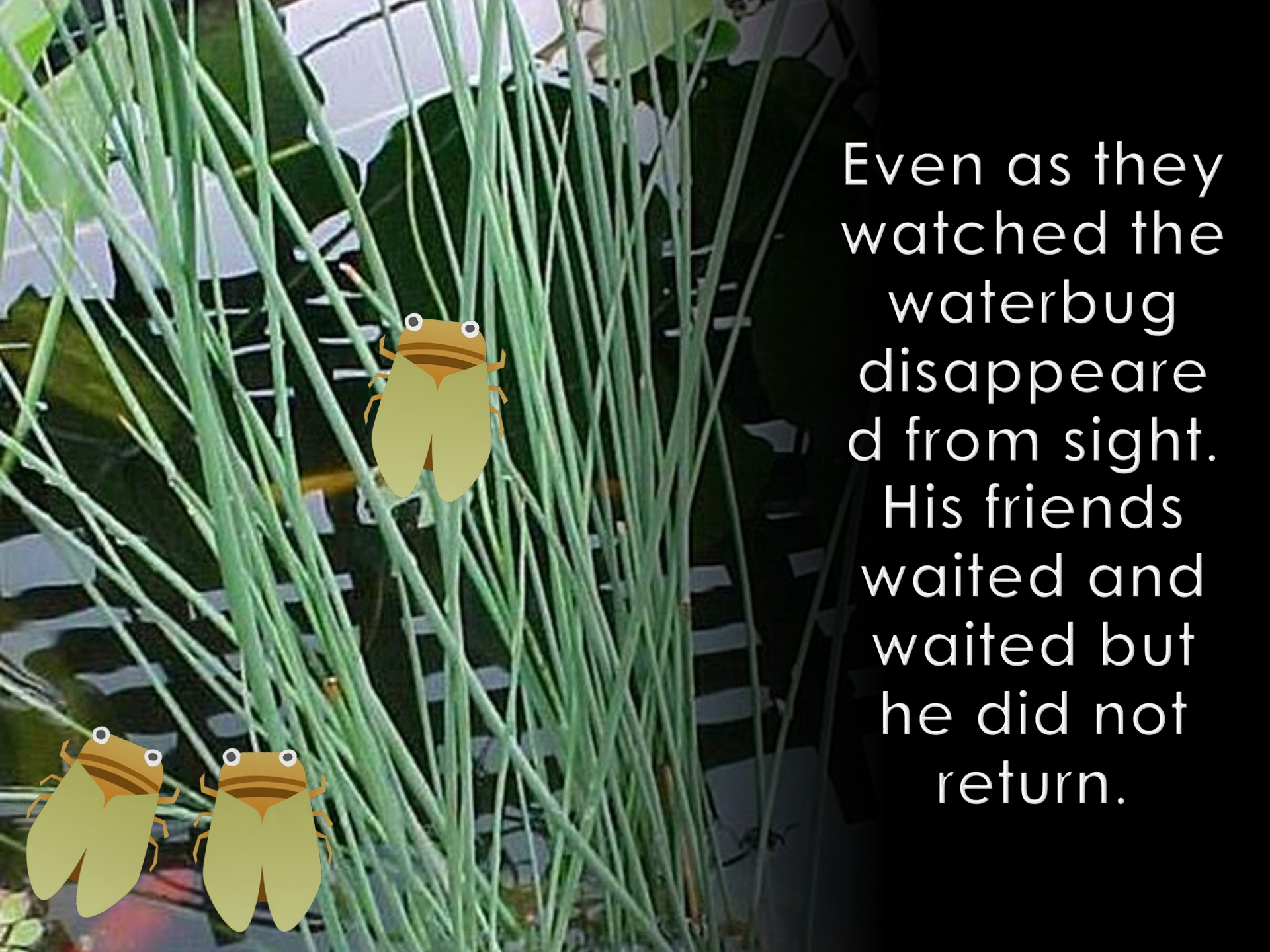


Look said
one of the
waterbugs.
One of our
colony is
climbing up
the lily stalk.
Where do
you think he
is going?

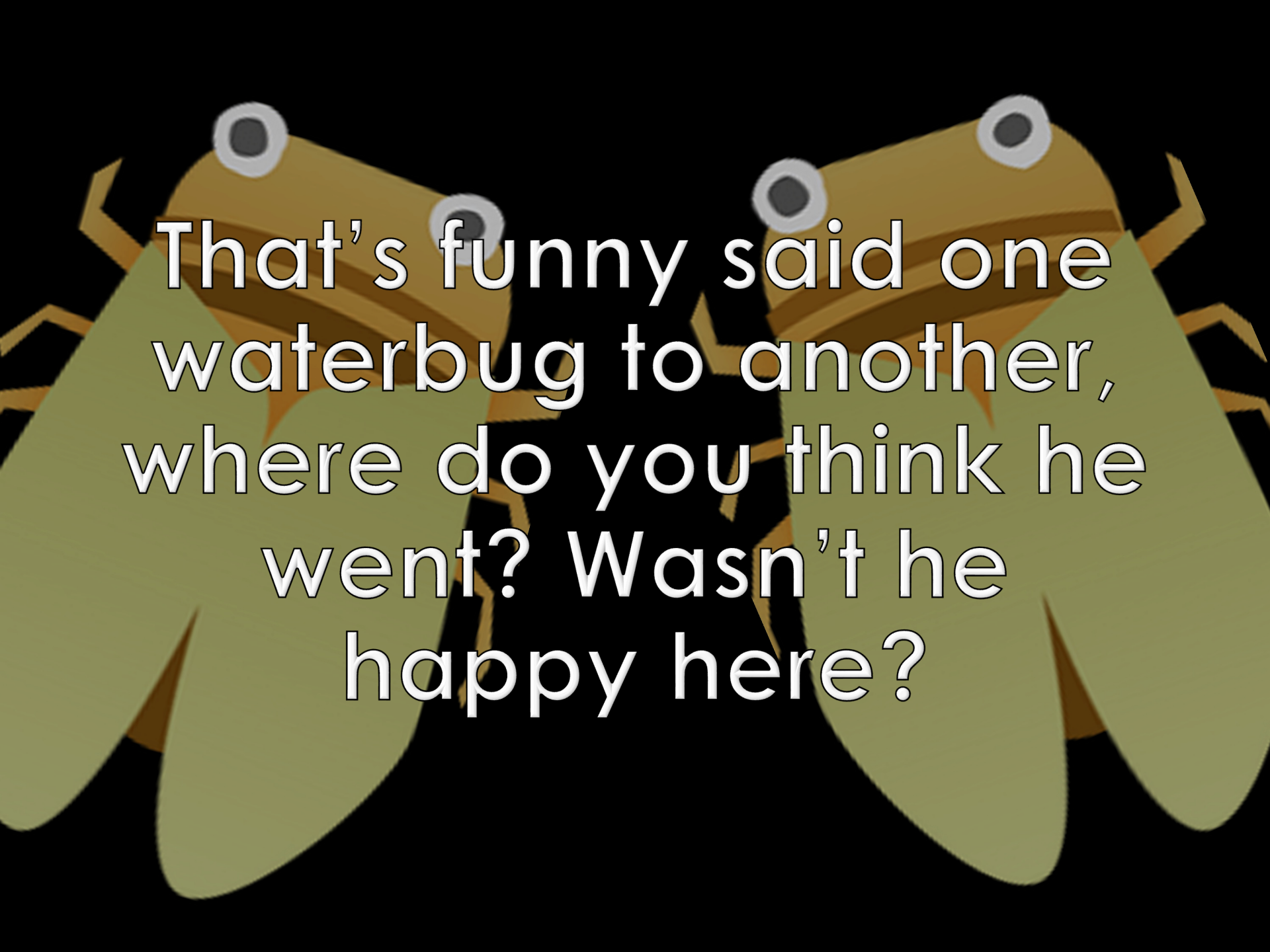


**Up Up Up
he went
slowly**



A pond with tall green grasses and three cartoon waterbugs. One waterbug is in the center, and two are in the bottom left corner. The water is dark and reflects the grass. The text is on the right side of the image.

Even as they
watched the
waterbug
disappeared
from sight.
His friends
waited and
waited but
he did not
return.

The image features two cartoon waterbugs against a black background. The waterbugs are positioned on either side of the text, facing each other. They have large, light green wings with darker green veins, and brown bodies with three pairs of legs. Each waterbug has two large, circular eyes on its head. The text is centered between them in a white, outlined font.

That's funny said one
waterbug to another,
where do you think he
went? Wasn't he
happy here?



Finally one of the bugs had an idea.



The next one
who climbs
up the lily
stalk must
promise to
come back
and tell us
where he
went and
why.



**Not long after, the very bug who had suggested
the plan found himself climbing the stalk**



**Up Up Up
he went**



Before he knew
what had
happened he
had broken
through the
surface of the
water and fell
asleep on a
green lily pad.





When he awoke he couldn't believe what had happened to his body.



He had 4 silver wings and a long tail.

He moved his wings and found
himself above the water.
He had become a dragonfly.



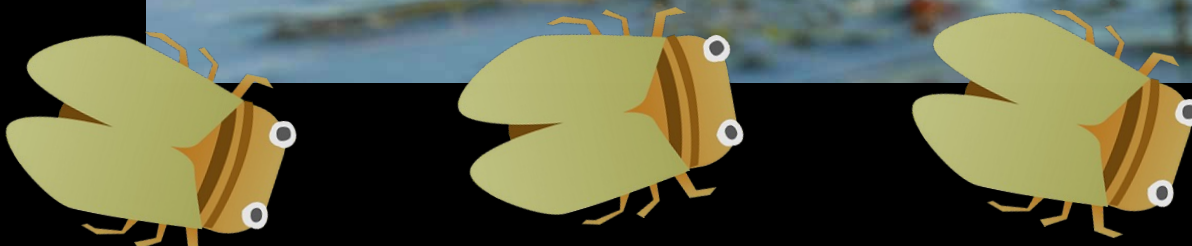


He flew through the air.
He felt wonderful.



Then the dragonfly landed on the lily stalk to rest. He looked at the bottom of the pond.

He was right above his old friends.
They were scurrying about as before.



The dragonfly remembered his promise: the next one of us who climbs up the lily stalk will come back and tell us where he went.



**He darted
down.
Suddenly he
hit the surface
of the water
and bounced
back.
Now that he
was a
dragonfly he
could not go
into the
water.**





**I can't return,
I've tried but I
can't keep my
promise. Even
if I did the
waterbugs
wouldn't know
me in my new
body.**



I'll have to wait until they become dragonflies too. Then they will understand where I went.



And the
dragonfly
winged off
happily into
its wonderful
new world
of sun and
air.



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