

# The Dragonfly

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water  
under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle  
in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple  
and comfortable life in the pond with few  
disturbances and interruptions.

Once in a while, sadness would come to the community  
when one of their fellow beetles would climb  
the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again.  
They knew when this happened; their friend was dead,  
gone forever.

Then, one day, one little water beetle felt  
an irresistible urge to climb up that stem.  
However, he was determined that he would not leave forever.  
He would come back and tell his friends  
what he had found at the top.  
When he reached the top and climbed out of the water  
onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired,  
and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap.

As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up,  
he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly  
with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying.

So, fly he did! And, as he soared he saw the beauty  
of a whole new world and a far superior way of life  
to what he had never known existed.  
Then he remembered his beetle friends  
and how they were thinking by now he was dead.  
He wanted to go back to tell them,  
and explain to them that he was now more alive  
than he had ever been before.  
His life had been fulfilled rather than ended.

But, his new body would not go down into the water.  
He could not get back to tell his friends the good news.  
Then he understood that their time would come,  
when they, too, would know what he now knew.  
So, he raised his wings and flew off  
into his joyous new life!

~Author Unknown~  
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