



You can listen to an audio version of the story here.

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/bob/s-r4f63gDrqYb>

## Bob, the bubble who wanted to be useful

Once upon a time, there was a bubble called Bob who lived with his bubble family on the top shelf of the toy cupboard.

Bob was a beautiful bubble. He glistened and sparkled – sometimes blue, sometimes yellow, sometimes pink, but always beautiful. In the softest breeze, he bobbed this way and that, twisting, turning and twirling.

One morning, Bob's mum found him sitting all alone in the corner of the cupboard. "What's the matter, Bob?" she asked.

"I'm not useful," he sighed.

Mum smiled. "Oh, Bob, you are such a beautiful bubble!" she said.

"But I'm not **USEFUL**," Bob moaned.

"Come on," encouraged Mum, giving Bob a gentle push.

Down, down, down Bob floated, bobbing this way and that until he got to the front porch. At that moment, he spotted a flash of the brightest orange he had ever seen. It was a beautiful painted lady butterfly. She fluttered her delicate wings and looked at Bob with sad eyes.

"What's wrong?" asked Bob.

The painted lady pointed to the flower garden. "I need to get back to my butterfly family," she explained, "but it is starting to rain and my wings must not get wet. I just don't know what to do."

Bob thought for a minute and then had the most brilliant idea.

"Come on in," he said. "I'll help you." So, the painted lady flew right into the middle of Bob and off they went, bobbing this way and that through the drizzle. Soon, they arrived at the flower garden.

"Oh, Bob," said the painted lady, "thank you for keeping me safe. What would I have done without you?"

Bob stretched his smooth, shimmering bubble sides and proudly drifted away. Up, up, up he floated, bobbing this way and that until he came to the garden gate. All of a sudden, he spotted a flash of the brightest green he had ever seen. It was a young pool frog. He hopped from one leg to the other and looked nervously up at Bob.

"What's wrong?" asked Bob.

The pool frog pointed to the pond in the garden across the road. "I need to get back to my frog family," he explained, "but this road is so busy and I daren't go across. I just don't know what to do."

Bob thought for a minute and then had another brilliant idea.

"Come on in," he said. "I'll help you." So, the pool frog hopped right into the middle of Bob and off they went, bobbing this way and that above the cars and bicycles. Soon, they arrived at the pond.

"Oh, Bob," said the pool frog, "thank you for keeping me safe. What would I have done without you?"

Bob stretched his smooth, shimmering bubble sides and proudly drifted back to the top of the toy cupboard.

"You look happier," said Mum. "What have you been up to?"

Bob told Mum all about how he had helped the painted lady butterfly and the pool frog.

"Well," said Mum, "it sounds to me like you have been a really useful bubble. Keeping everyone safe is just about the most useful thing anyone can do!"

That night, Bob snuggled down with his bubble family. "I am a beautiful, useful bubble," he sighed happily.