

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

“Jack! Chatter! Please come downstairs!” called Mamma Bird to her sons.

Chatter, the little grey bird, flew down the stairs. He was very excited. Jack, the more colorful and older brother, flew after him.

“Is it my turn to fly out Mamma? Is it? Is it?” Chatter asked while jumping around.

“No, you’re still too small for it, it’s not safe out there,” said Mamma Bird.

After hearing Mamma Bird, Chatter's tail went down and he stared at the ground. *“Jack is so selfish! He always goes outside to pick nuts without me. He’s so mean!”* Chatter thought. He grabbed a pillow from the couch and threw it at Jack.

Jack caught the pillow and stuck his tongue out at Chatter. He was upset too and was sick of getting nuts *every single day*. *“Chatter is so spoiled! He never does anything! He should be the one flying out today!”* Jack thought.

Both brothers were upset with each other, blaming one another for their anger.

[Have you ever felt like Jack or Chatter?]

Later, Jack left to collect nuts and soon after he returned with his little bag full. Mamma Bird flew over to him and looked into the bag.

“These nuts are perfect! Jack, you’re great at this!” Mamma Bird smiled.

Chatter watched from across the room and said to himself, *“I could be even better at collecting nuts if only Jack didn’t always take the job.”*

The next morning, Mamma Bird woke Jack up while Chatter was still asleep.

“I’m going to visit Mrs. Squirrel. I will be back in a few hours. I need you to look after Chatter until I’m home.”

Jack was not happy at all. He wanted to go back to sleep but now he had to look after his brother.

[Do you think it is fair that Jack has to look after his younger brother? Would little Chatter be safe without Jack?]

Mamma Bird soon left and Jack flew over to Chatter's room to wake him up. He bent down close to Chatter’s sleeping face and screamed as loud as he could.

“WAKE UP!”

Chatter jumped out of bed in surprise but fell on his butt with a big BANG!

“I was awake! I wasn’t sleeping!” Chatter yawned very loudly and laid back on the floor,
“Wait a minute, where’s Mamma?!”

“Mamma is gone for a while so I have to take care of you. You better not act like a baby!”

[How do you think Chatter felt when his older brother talked to him that way?]

Chatter stood up while stretching his wings.

“I am NOT a baby. I don’t need you to take care of me, I can take care of myself.”

“You are the baby! You never do anything, and I always have to clean up after you!” Jack rolled his eyes at Chatter as he flew back into his own room and shut the door.

Chatter was so angry, he knew what he wanted to do. He flew out of his room and all the way out of the nest.

The trees by the nest looked MUCH bigger now that he was actually outside. Chatter was a little scared but he wanted to prove to Jack that he wasn’t a baby.

[Do you think Chatter made the right choice by leaving the nest alone? How do you think Jack would feel if he knew Chatter left the nest without him?]

Chatter flew to the very top of a tree and looked around. He saw a glowing twig sitting on a rock below! “*This is perfect! It’s so cool and if I bring this home to Jack, he won’t call me a baby anymore!*”

Chatter picked up the twig and flew back into their nest.

“JACK! JACK! Come look at what I’ve found! Who’s the baby now?!”

Jack flew into the kitchen and froze. His eyes popped out of his head and he yelled

“WHAT IS THAT DOING HERE?! DID YOU GO OUTSIDE?!”

Before Chatter could answer, the twig floated up in the air, growing a pair of legs and arms and a big mouth on top of it. The twig began to sing.

“I’m gonna make a mess,
I’ll never leave your nest!

I’m gonna make a mess,
I’ll never leave your nest!

Yahoo!”

The twig flipped once in the air, and began to fly this way and that way! It crashed into the dinner table and began to ballet dance on top of it.

The twig pointed to the kitchen drawers and they all slammed open at once. All of the plates began to roll out and they flew over to the twig.

He grabbed one plate at a time and started to throw them around.

“HA! Catch me if you can!”

Chatter rolled under the dinner table and covered his head with his wings. The twig danced around the kitchen, throwing plates and singing.

“I’m gonna make a mess,
I’ll never leave your nest! ”

Jack chased the twig around the kitchen, trying to trap it under a big bowl.

“Get back here you crazy twig!”

[How would you get rid of the naughty twig?]

Suddenly the twig landed on the ground in front of Chatter and started tap dancing. Jack snuck up behind the twig with the bowl in his wings. He jumped and slammed the bowl over the twig.

“Gotcha!” yelled Jack.

The twig inside was screaming and banging on the bowl so Jack sat on it, trying to catch his breath.

Chatter came out from under the table and sat beside Jack.

“I’m so sorry Jack. I didn’t know that wasn’t a normal twig.”

Jack looked at Chatter’s eyes and felt a little bit sorry for him.

[Why do you think Jack felt bad for Chatter? Do you think that Chatter sharing his feelings helped Jack understand him better?]

Jack put his wing on Chatter’s shoulder.

“That’s why you aren’t supposed to go out yet. You need more time to learn and practice before you can leave the nest. It took me a really long time to find out everything. I was ready when I grew older and got my colorful feathers, just like you will one day!”

Chatter felt a lot better after talking to Jack. He realized that Jack wasn’t as mean as he thought.

Jack realized that Chatter wasn't actually spoiled, he was just too young to do the things that he could do himself.

"We should have talked sooner, then we wouldn't have had to deal with this silly twig," Jack smiled.

[Why do you think Jack and Chatter are friends again? Do you think sharing their feelings was what helped them stop fighting?]

They then slid a book under the bowl and quickly took it to the window. They released the twig and it flew away, singing.

"Fine you've got me to leave
I'll never be back, you better believe!"

For the rest of the day, the two played together and drew twigs wearing tutus and tiaras.

When Mamma Bird came home, Jack got ready to leave to collect nuts again.

Chatter lifted his wing to wave goodbye to Jack but he saw a little rainbow feather on the bottom of his right-wing, hidden under the other grey feathers.

"Jack wait! Look! I'm colorful, just like you!!!"

Jack flew back to Chatter and looked at the colorful feather.

"I guess that means you're growing up! Maybe then, you can come with me and help me collect nuts and I can teach you things about the outside world!"

Chatter was so excited he did a full flip in the air, "WAHOOOOOOO!!!!"

Soon after, the two brothers were flying around the trees. Chatter flew into a few branches on the way but Jack was always there to help. **They collected nuts together and every time they saw a glowing twig, they threw nuts at it until the twig ran away screaming.**

[What would you do if you were the next one to find the glowing twig?]