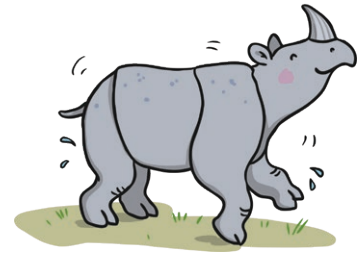


Ronald the Rhino

Ronald the Rhino is so big and strong.
In the Javan Forest is where he belongs.

His dusky grey skin is very well worn.
At the front of his head is a beautiful horn.



He eats fallen fruits from the damp forest floor,
But Ronald is sad; he longs for much more.

“Why am I special?” he says with a tear.
“I live by myself, I have no friends here.”

“All of the animals have a grand trait,
Something unique that makes them just great.”

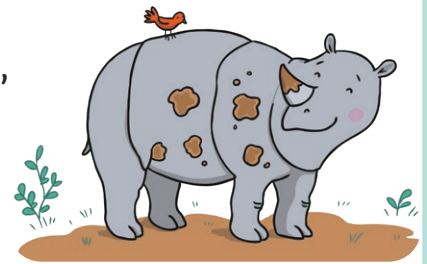
“I’ve got it!” he cries, with a smile on his face,
And he wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

“I’ll be a leopard with beautiful spots,
All yellowish fur and dark brownish dots.”

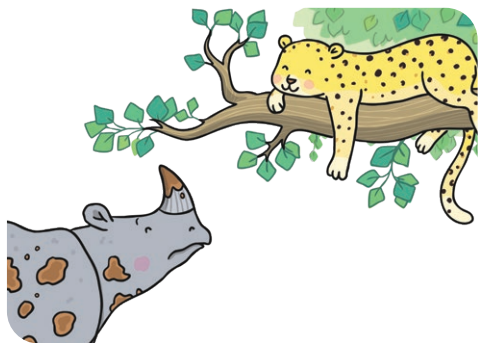
Ronald sets off to hatch out his plan,
And through the dense forest his eyes start to scan.

He soon finds some mud, all sticky and wet.
“Great!” Ronald says, “I’ll have my spots yet!”

He starts right away, painting on patches,
Using his horn to scoop mud up in batches.



As soon as he’s finished, he admires work,
But high in the trees, Leopard does lurk.



“What are you doing?” Leopard asks
with a grin.
“You’ve mud in great patches all over
your skin!”

“I want to be like you, with spots on my face,
To sleep in a tree; to run, leap and race!”

“You can’t be a leopard, you’re too big and grey.
You’re a Javan rhino in every way!”



Ronald looks sad, unsure what to do.
He lets out a sigh, he’s feeling so blue.

“Why am I special?” he says with a tear.
“I live by myself, I have no friends here.”

“All of the animals have a grand trait.
Leopard has spots that make him just great.”

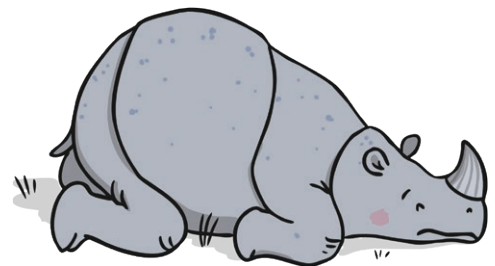
“I’ve got it!” he cries, with a smile on his face,
And he wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

“I’ll be a python, my body so strong,
With smooth patterned skin and a tongue nice and long!”

He starts right away and gets down on
the ground.

He slides through the mud with a
terrible sound.

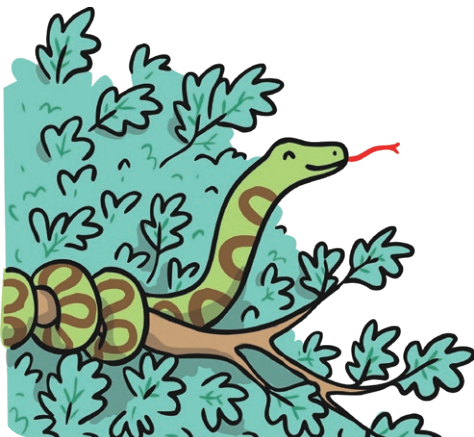
But as Ronald moves, he lets out a wail;
His body is sore and bent round like a snail.

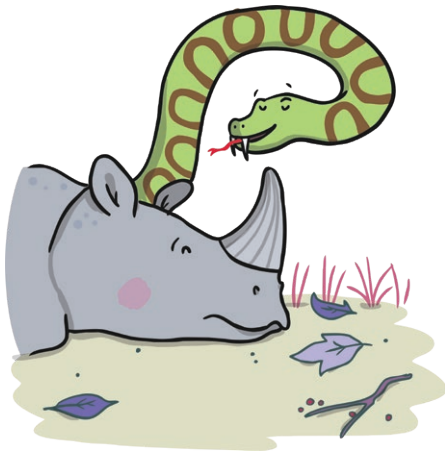


Out in the bushes, now Python can see
What the young rhino is trying to be.

“Why are you moving around like a
snake?”

Your back is all bent; I saw your
legs shake!”





“I want to be like you, on the rough
jungle ground,
Slowly and smoothly sliding around.”

“You can’t be a python, your skin is
too rough,
Your horn is too hard and your feet
are too tough.”

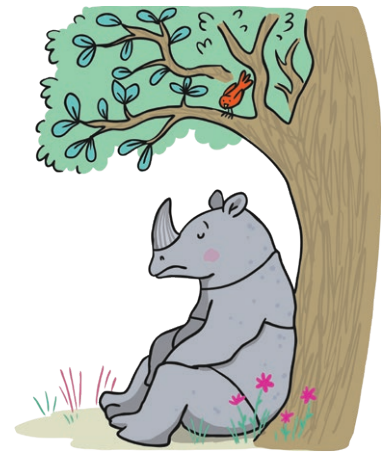
Ronald sits down, his head hanging low.
What could he be? He just doesn’t know.

“Why am I special?” he says with a tear.
“I live by myself, I have no friends here.

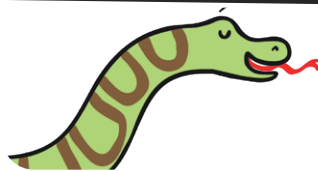
All of the animals have a grand trait.
Python slides smoothly, which makes him
just great.”

Leopard and Python see Ronald so glum,
So they cook up a plan to cheer up their chum.

“We’ve got it!” they say, looking down at his face.
Ronald wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

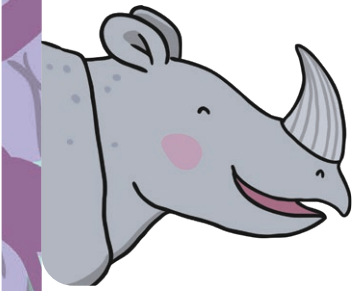


His skin is tough and looks like great armour,
His eyes sparkle brightly – he’s a real charmer!



His legs are so strong and his horn is the best.
The animals love him, as you may have guessed.





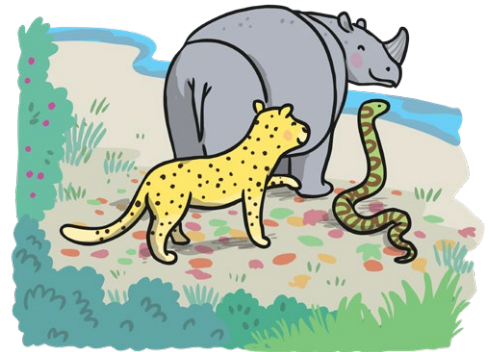
“I want to be like him!” Ronald cries out,
His eyes shining bright as his feet dance about.

So into the forest they set off to find
This mystery animal that might change his mind.

They come to a clearing, with few trees
around,
With a beautiful stream; no one to be
found.

Leopard says with a smile, “He lives just
down there.”

Across the wet ground, he approaches
with care.



Ronald moves closer to look at the beast,
His heart all aflutter, his brow lined and creased.

He looks hard for a moment, his eyes flashing fast.
The water is silty with mud flowing past.

He stops as he sees it and then gasps out loud.
Leopard and Python could cry, they’re so proud.

He grins at the animal that he can see,

“By golly,

It’s amazing,

It’s wonderfully...



Me!”

Questions

1. What kind of animal is Ronald? **Tick one.**

- a snake
 a leopard
 a rhino

2. How does Ronald feel at the start of the story? **Tick one.**

- angry
 sad
 bored

3. What does Ronald use to paint spots on his body? **Tick one.**

- berries
 water
 mud

4. Who is the mystery animal that Ronald finds in the water? **Tick one.**

- an elephant
 a bird
 himself

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

Ronald crawls on the floor like a python.	
Ronald's friends take him to a stream.	
Ronald sees himself in the water.	
Ronald paints spots on his body to look like a leopard.	1

Answers

1. What kind of animal is Ronald? **Tick one.**

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Ronald crawls on the floor like a python.	2
Ronald's friends take him to a stream.	3
Ronald sees himself in the water.	4
Ronald paints spots on his body to look like a leopard.	1

Questions

1. Why is Ronald sad.

- Because he is hungry.
- Because he wants to be special.
- Because he is lost.

2. Which animal does Ronald try to be like first?

3. How does Ronald feel when he wiggles and jiggles.

- sad
- angry
- excited

4. Fill in the missing word.

You can't be a python, your skin is too _____.

5. Why do Ronald's friends take him to the stream?

- So that Leopard can swim.
- So that Python can have a drink.
- So that Ronald can see himself in the water.

Answers

1. Why is Ronald sad.

- Because he is hungry.
- Because he wants to be special.**
- Because he is lost.

2. Which animal does Ronald try to be like first?

Leopard / a leopard

3. How does Ronald feel when he wiggles and jiggles.

- sad
- angry
- excited**

4. Fill in the missing word.

You can't be a python, your skin is too **rough**.

5. Why do Ronald's friends take him to the stream?

- So that Leopard can swim.
- So that Python can have a drink.
- So that Ronald can see himself in the water.**

Questions

1. Describe how Ronald feels at the start of the story.

2. Which of these words is another word for 'special'?

- unique
- beautiful
- trait

3. Which two animals does Ronald try to copy?

4. Draw lines to complete the sentences below.

You can't be a leopard, you're too ●

● horn is the best.

You can't be a python, your skin ●

● big and grey.

His legs are so strong and his ●

● is too tough.

5. Find and write three adjectives from the story.

6. Why is Ronald happy when he sees himself in the water?

Answers

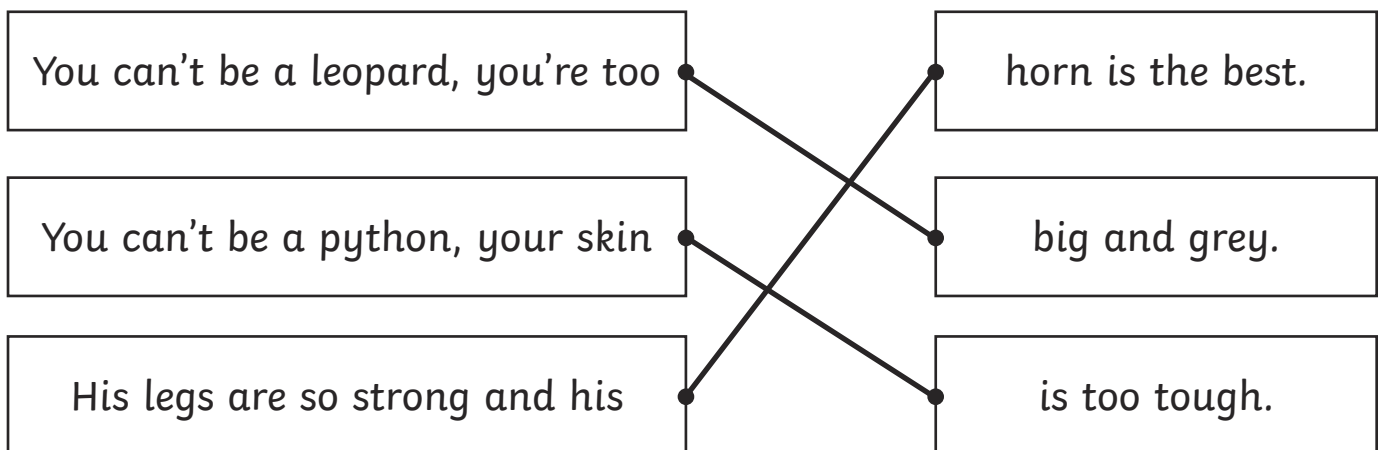
1. Describe how Ronald feels at the start of the story.
sad, lonely, upset, or similar.

2. Which of these words is another word for 'special'?

- unique**
 beautiful
 trait

3. Which two animals does Ronald try to copy?
Leopard / a leopard and Python / a python

4. Draw lines to complete the sentences below.



5. Find and write three adjectives from the story.

Accept any three from: big, strong, dusky, grey, well worn, beautiful, damp, sad, special, grand, unique, great, yellowish, dark brownish, dense, sticky, wet, high, unsure, blue, smooth, patterned, nice, long, terrible, sore, bent, young, rough, hard, tough, low, glum, best, bright, lined, creased, silty, proud, amazing.

6. Why is Ronald happy when he sees himself in the water?

Accept answers about Ronald being happy that the amazing creature that Python and Leopard described is Ronald himself!