

Ronald the Rhino

Ronald the Rhino is 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, a smile creeps up his face,
And he wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

“I’ll be a leopard... with beautiful spots,
With 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 his work,
But high in the trees, Leopard does lurk.
“What are you doing?” Leopard says with a grin,
“With 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, doesn’t know what to do,
He lets out a sigh, he’s feeling so blue.

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“All of the animals have a grand trait,
Leopard has spots that make him just great.
I’ve got it!” he cries, a smile creeps up his face,
And he wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

“I’ll be a python, with a body so strong,
With beautiful patterns; 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, 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 see 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,
Like Python who slides, that 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 says quick,
His eyes shining bright as his feet do a kick.
So off through the forest they set off to find,
This mystery animal that might change his mind.

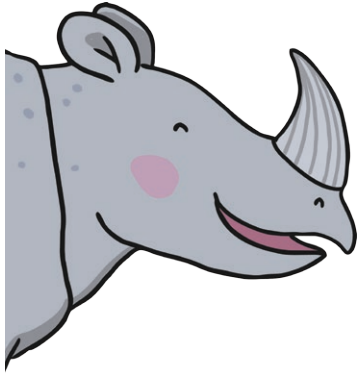
They come to a clearing, with few trees around,
With a beautiful stream; no one to be found.
Leopard says with a smile “He lives just down there”,
Across the wet ground, he approaches with care.

Ronald moves closer to look at this beast,
His heart all a flutter, 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.
For the wondrous animal that he can see,
"By golly, it's amazing, it's wonderfully... ME!"

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*Please read the Twinkl story '[Ronald the Rhino](#)' before completing this comprehension.



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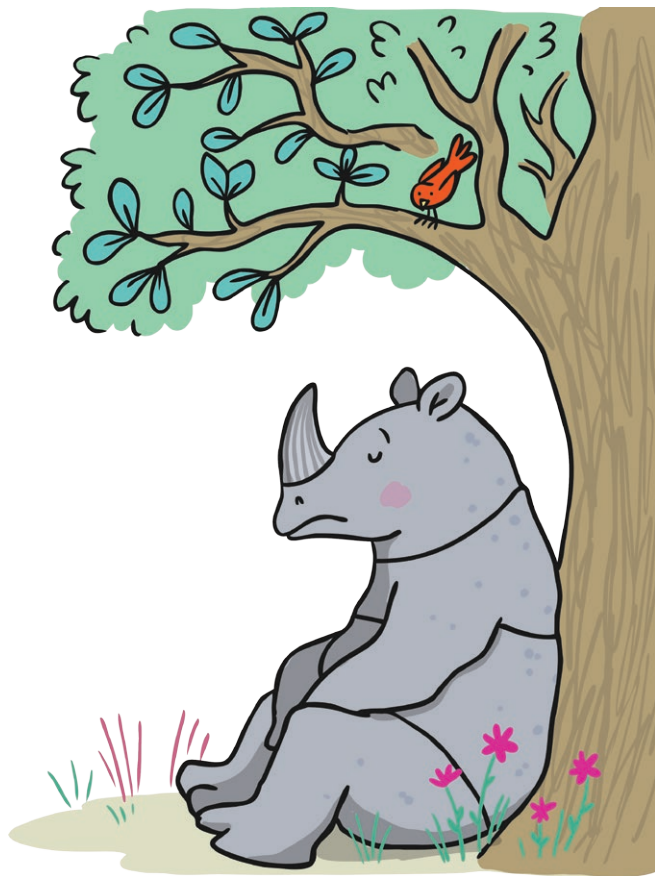
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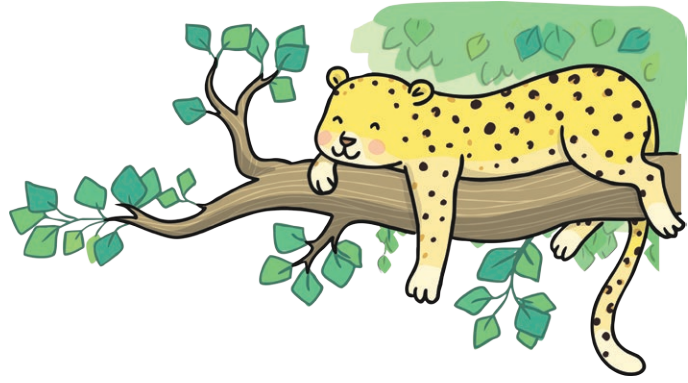


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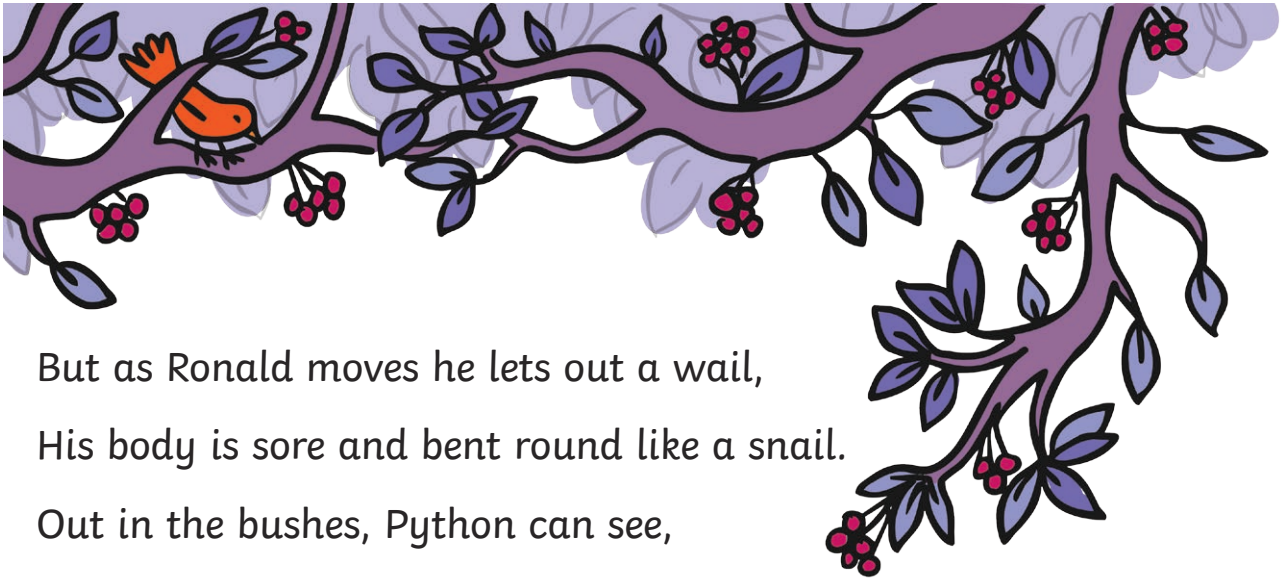
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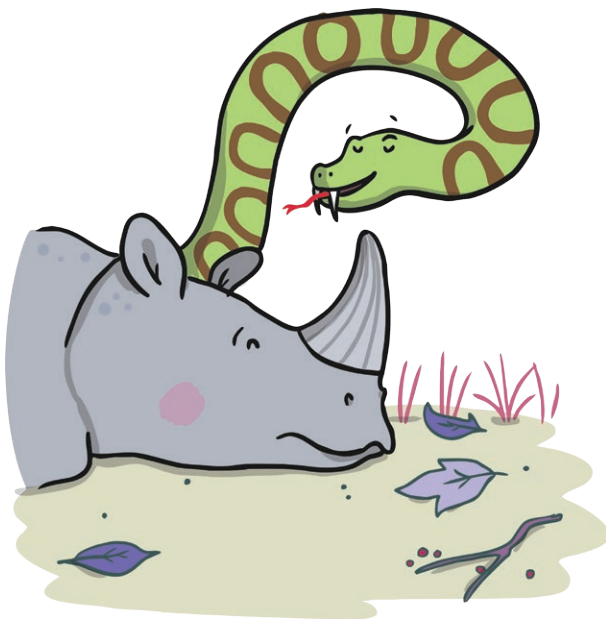
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Questions

You will need to read pages 3-4 to answer these questions.

1. Which “grand trait” does Leopard have?

2. What does ‘feeling blue’ mean?

3. What does Ronald do when he is happy? Name two things.

4. How does Ronald try to be like Python?

5. “As Ronald moves he lets out a wail,” how do you think Ronald is feeling?

6. Do you think Python and Leopard are Ronald’s friends? Why?

7. Name two things that Ronald is upset about.

8. What does Python compare Ronald’s skin to?

Answers

1. Which “grand trait” does Leopard have?
Leopard has spots which make him just great.
2. What does ‘feeling blue mean’?
‘Feeling blue’ means feeling sad.
3. What does Ronald do when he is happy? Name two things.
When he is happy, Ronald smiles and wriggles and jiggles all over the place.
4. How does Ronald try to be like Python?
He gets down on the ground and slides through the mud.
5. “As Ronald moves he lets out a wail,” how do you think Ronald is feeling?
Ronald probably “lets out a wail” because it hurts sliding along the floor, and he is sad he is not like Python.
6. Do you think Python and Leopard are Ronald’s friends? Why?
Children’s own answers.
7. Name two things that Ronald is upset about.
Two answers from the following: Ronald doesn’t know why he is special. He thinks he has no friends and he lives by himself.
8. What other animal do you think Ronald could have pretended to be like? Why?
Children to suggest another animal and give their reasons for picking it.