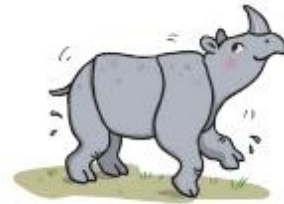


Ronald the Rhino

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.

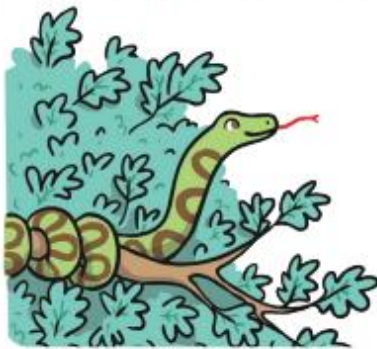
"I'll be a python, my body so strong,
With smooth patterned skin and a tongue nice and long!"

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.

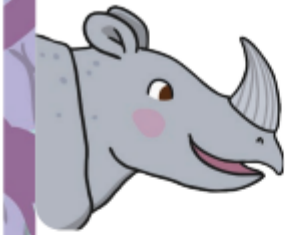
"We've got it!" they say, looking down at his face.
Ronald wiggles and jiggles all over the place.

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. Which word is closest in meaning to sad? Tick one.

- cheery
- cross
- glum

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

3. How do you think Ronald feels when he wiggles and jiggles?
Explain your answer.

4. Fill in the missing words.

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

5. Find and copy an adjective to describe the jungle ground.

6. Number the events **1-4** 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