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.
“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, 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.

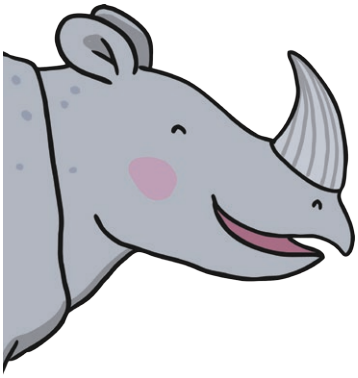
They come to a clearing, with few trees around,
With a beautiful stream; no one to be found.
Leopard says with a smile “He lives just down there”,
Across the wet ground, he approaches with care.

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!"

Ronald the Rhino

*Please read the Twinkl story 'Ronald the Rhino' before completing this comprehension.



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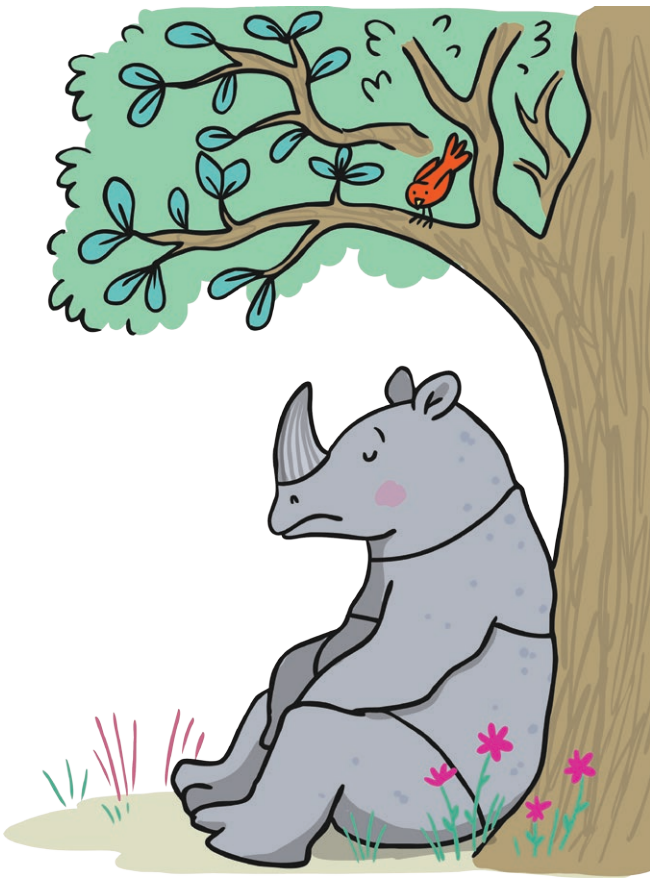

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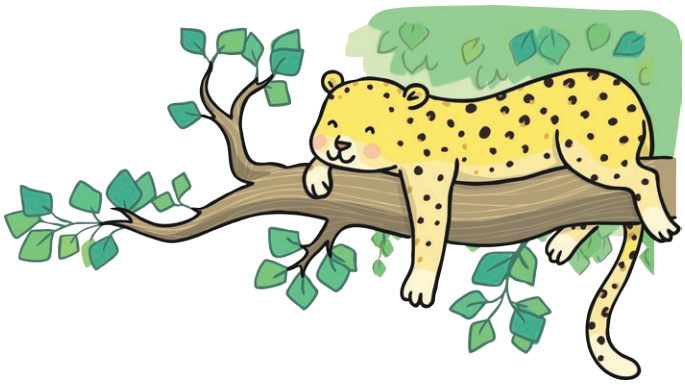

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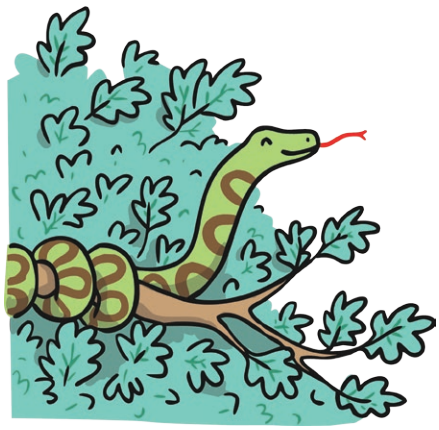

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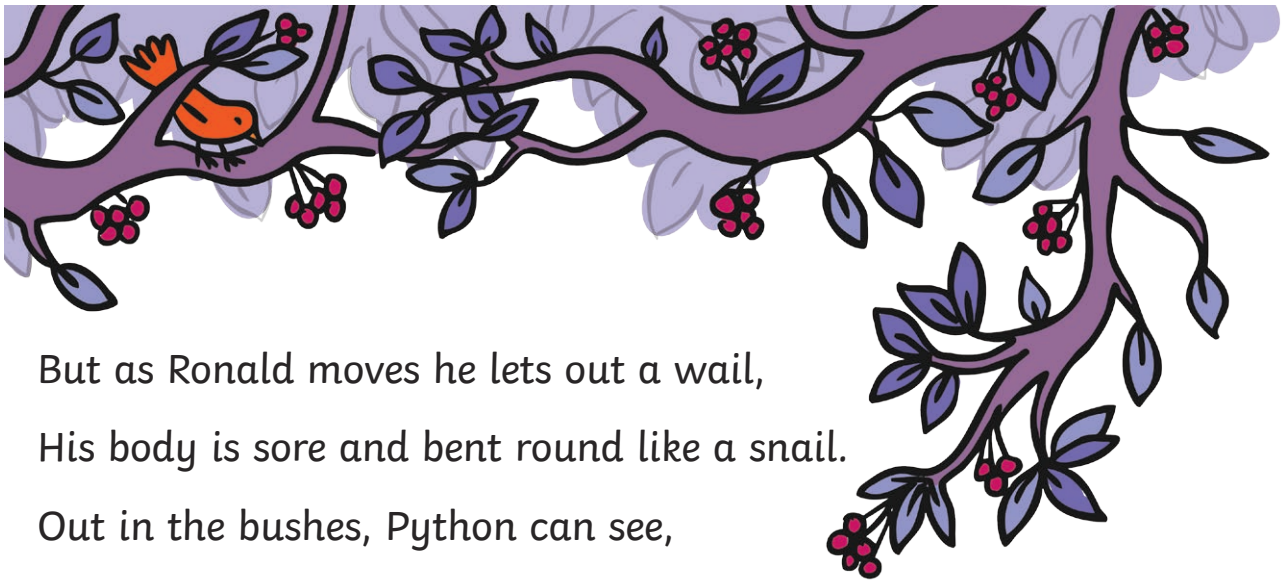

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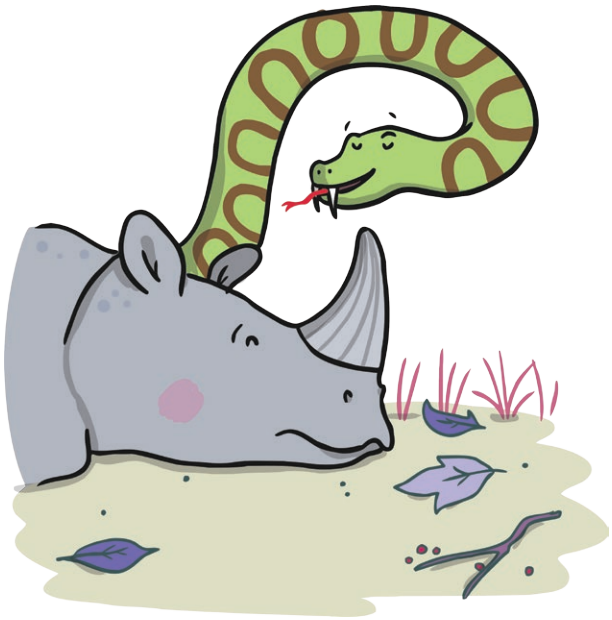

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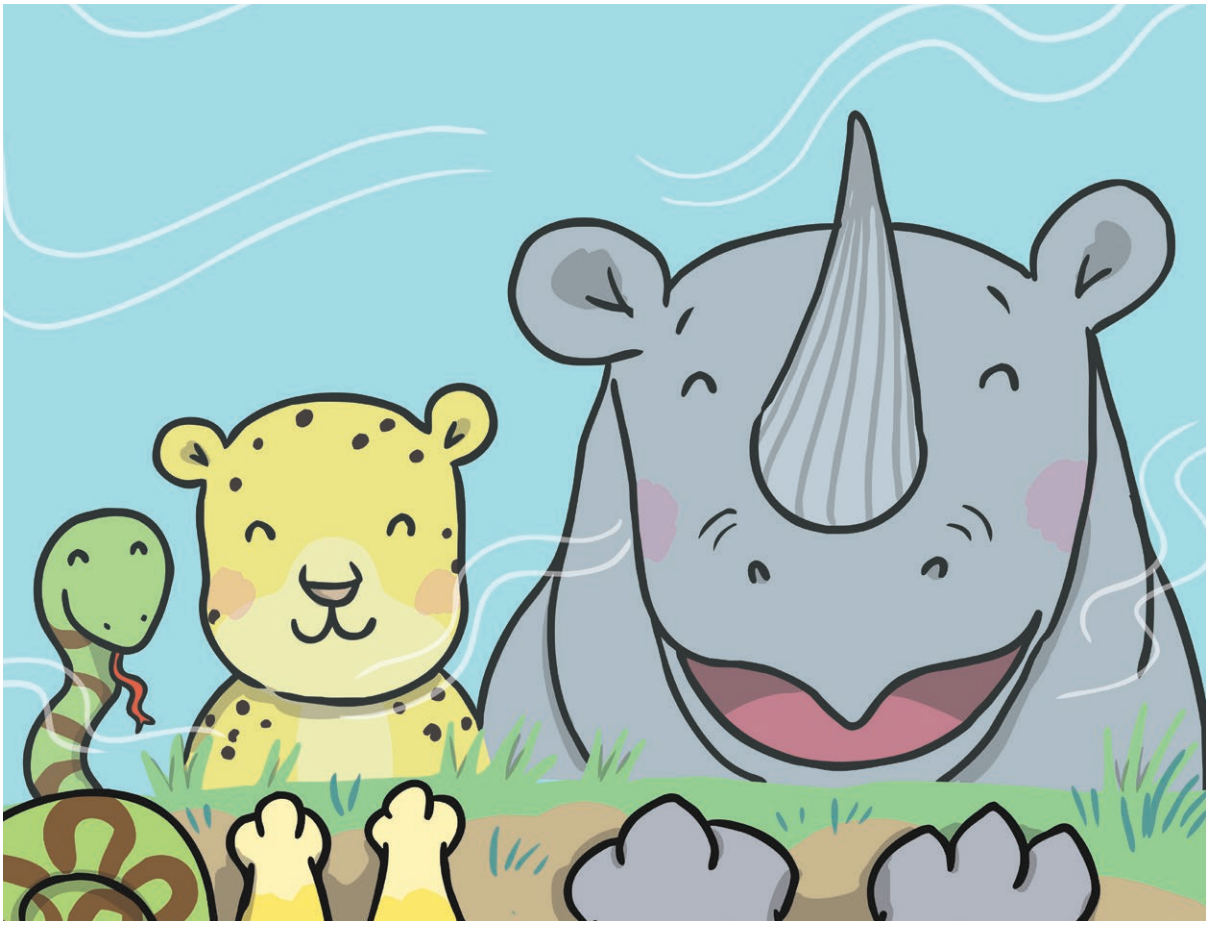

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Questions

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

1. Finish this sentence: “His skin is tough and looks like....”

_____

2. What “sparkles brightly”?

_____

3. Who is the mystery animal that Leopard and Python are describing?

_____

4. Why did Leopard and Python feel like crying?

_____

5. How did Ronald feel when he saw himself in the water?

_____

6. Which animal would you like to be like out of the story? Why?

_____

_____

_____

Answers

1. Finish this sentence: "His skin is tough and looks like...."
   His skin is tough and looks like great armour.
2. What "sparkles brightly"?
   His eyes sparkle brightly.
3. Who is the mystery animal that Leopard and Python are describing?
   Leopard and Python are describing Ronald the rhino.
4. Why did Leopard and Python feel like crying?
   Leopard and Python are really proud of Ronald.
5. How did Ronald feel when he saw himself in the water?
   Ronald felt happy because he realised he was special.
6. Which animal would you like to be like from the story? Why?
   Children to select an animal and give a reason. For example, I would like to be a leopard because I love to climb trees.