



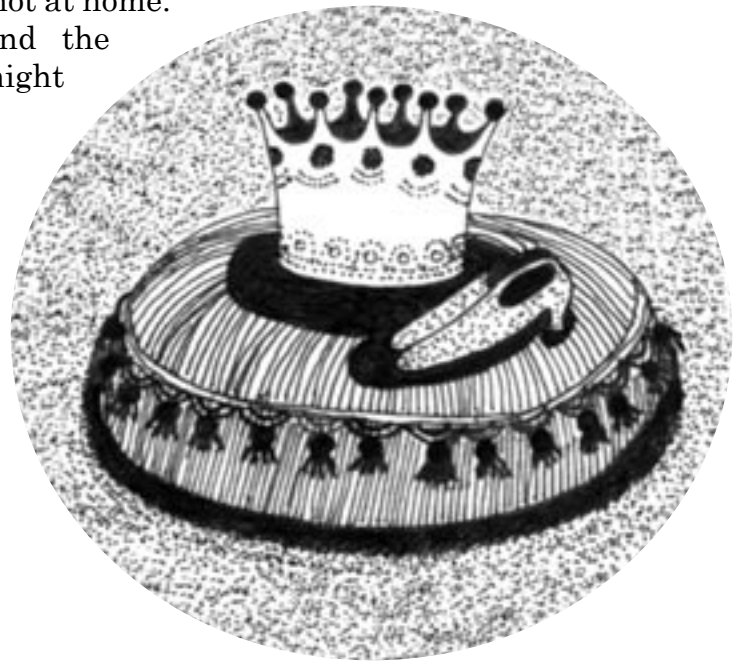
Prince Destiny, meanwhile, thundered on in his carriage to the **neighbouring** kingdom where Princess Iris lived. He had hardly ever seen her; not once had he spoken to her, because the Princess was very shy. She would never come downstairs into the state room; and when a Page was sent to fetch her, she would **vanish** down one of the castle's gloomy corridors and not be seen again all day.

Prince Destiny had heard **rumours**, too, that Princess Iris did not like to wear her crown. She complained that it was awkward and just a bit too tight. She could not run very fast without it **toppling** into the grass. Her **brocade** ball gowns hung, unworn, inside her closet. Her diamond-studded slippers sat on velvet cushions, gathering dust. Whenever she could, she slipped away into the forest. Some mornings, the **cowherds** would whisper to one another that they'd seen Her Highness wandering along the riverbank with a **circlet** of dewdrops clinging to her hair.

But such **preposterous** tales of Princess Iris made Prince Destiny laugh **in scorn**. The time had come for him to marry and, since her christening day, the Princess had been promised to him by her father. She *must* accept my hand today, he thought. Today without delay.

However, when Prince Destiny arrived at her castle, Princess Iris was not at home. Restlessly he **paced** around the courtyard, wondering what might be keeping her so long.

"Pray, when will I see the Princess?" he asked.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Prince Chameleon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (rumours) whispered stories

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
rich cloth, woven with gold or silver thread

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
falling

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
walked quickly back and forth

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
nearby

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
silly, ridiculous

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
a small simple crown

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
in a mocking way

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
disappear

10. \_\_\_\_\_  
farm workers who take care of cows

## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 6

- Do you believe the rumours about Princess Iris?
- Is it possible for a Princess to wear a crown of dew?
- Why is Prince Destiny in such a hurry?



Can you draw a picture of Princess Iris vanishing like a rainbow?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





The King **beckoned** him into the hall. “I believe the Princess is still out walking in the forest.”

“She’s gathering mushrooms,” remarked the Queen. “She does love to wander in the woods.”

“But she will return before sundown,” promised the King.

Now Prince Destiny thought that this was rather strange. A Princess gathering mushrooms? he thought to himself. Doesn’t she have servants for that? I think she should be at home, instead, receiving her suitors! But, being a well-brought-up Prince, he said nothing. However, he was anxious not to get his new boots wet, and the **sombre** sky seemed to be threatening rain.

“I do hate to leave before meeting the Princess,” he said.

“Wait, Prince Destiny!” cried the King. “We’ll see if that **idle rogue** of a painter has finished his work.”

“Page, bring us the portrait of Princess Iris,” said the Queen.

“Your pardon, Sire!” cried the Page, hurrying back into the hall. “The artist refuses!”

“Refuses? How dare he!” said the King.

“He says he can’t **unveil** the portrait because he hasn’t finished yet.”

“I really can’t wait,” said Prince Destiny. He grasped his **mantle** impatiently, and his riding whip.

“Just a moment, Prince Destiny! Look, in a few days my **Ambassador** will bring you a **miniature portrait** of Princess Iris,” said the King. “You’ll see that our daughter is truly beautiful.”

“And **virtuous**,” put in the Queen.

The King tugged anxiously at his drooping moustache. “She will make you a very fine wife—very fine, indeed.”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Prince Chameleon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( **Ambassador** ) someone who brings messages from another land.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
show, display, uncover

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
called by a gesture of the hand

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
a cloak

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
small picture or painting

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
good, well behaved

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
dark and gloomy

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
a lazy rascal

## Prince Chameleon




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 7


a. Do you think Prince Destiny is only worried about the rain, or is there some other reason for hurrying back to the castle?

b. What does this incident tell us about Prince Destiny's character?

c. Why is Princess Iris's father, the King, so worried about her?

d. Do you think Prince Destiny should have waited to meet Princess Iris?

 Can you draw a picture of Princess Iris gathering mushrooms in the woods?

 Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





Prince Destiny arrived home that night to find the Palace in an **uproar**. He hurried upstairs to Chameleon's bedchamber. The old King looked very gloomy. The Queen would not stop weeping. She drew aside the bed-curtain where Chameleon lay in bed, **clasp**ing his head in pain. He had a huge bruise on his forehead, which was already changing from purple to pink to sickly yellow.

"Look at what you've done," she cried to Prince Destiny. "You almost killed your brother beneath your carriage wheels today!"

"Well, that's not my fault. I didn't see him! Where was he hiding this time?"

"Among the little forest mushrooms," wept the Queen.

When Prince Destiny heard this, he stormed from the room. His sword, hanging by his side in its **scabbard**, **clanked** loudly all the way down the stone steps. "Mushrooms!" he roared, in an ugly temper.

"MUSH-R-O-O-O-O-M-S," echoed the deep, **dungeon vaults**.



After a night of raging fever, Chameleon got up from his bed. He **staggered** down the spiral staircase into the hall. But he was pale and still very weak. A raised scar was drawn, like a **ridge**, between his eyes. And something very strange had happened. It seemed as though, while he slept, a fine mist had stretched itself across his eyes. Shapes were no longer clear; their edges were not firm and hard. The **entire** kingdom **glimmered** around him, **luminous** and **hazy** and soft.

Why, this must be just like stepping into the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes, thought Chameleon, rubbing his eyes. Perhaps I shall soon meet the Rainbow Fairy, the Keeper of Souls.



Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Prince Chameleon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( glimmered ) glowed softly
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
holding
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
excitement, panic, upset
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
full of light
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
made a loud metallic sound
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
whole
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
a raised edge
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
walked unsteadily
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
misty, vague, unclear
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
underground chambers of a castle
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
a long, protective case for a sword

## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 8

- a. Do you think Prince Destiny is right to be so furious when he sees his wounded brother?
- b. How often do mushrooms cause problems for Prince Destiny in one day?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon with a bruised forehead and a raging fever?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





**B**ut instead, Chameleon appeared more lost than ever. As he walked into the **banquet chamber** he fell over a footstool and spilled a crystal **goblet** of **honey mead**. A few of the courtiers screamed with laughter at him, for being so clumsy. I shall not stay here and be **mocked!** thought Chameleon, and he slipped away.

He hurried across the drawbridge of the castle and stumbled over a rusty cage. It was wrapped in sacks, and almost hidden in the shadow of the arches. Inside the cage was Prince Destiny's baby hunting **falcon**. Chameleon **unfastened** its training hood, and the bird blinked at him with fierce, frightened eyes. The young Prince slipped inside the falcon's feathers. Then he winged himself into the sky.

"At last!" **exulted** Chameleon, **soaring** above the turrets, "I am a falcon. I have found my soul at last."

The landscape swirled into a misty patchwork of fields and streams. Far below he could see the church **spires** and the tips of the castle turrets. He could follow the red coats of the hunters as they raced, on horseback, to the tops of the hills and thundered down into the woods. Proudly Chameleon stretched his wings. He would not stumble here, nor bump into a cloud. The sky was so clear—and he was so free. And then, the sharp point of a hunting arrow **pierced** his foot. It made him sway off balance in the wind. His wings **crumpled**. Down he soared. As he struck the ground, he burst out of his feathered skin. The wounded falcon crashed to the earth beside him.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Prince Chameleon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( **falcon** ) a bird of the hawk family, trained to hunt and kill smaller birds
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
a fermented drink made from honey
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
cried out loud with happiness
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
lost its shape like crushed paper
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
tall thin towers on top of a church
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
loosened
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
flying like a bird
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
made fun of
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
cut through or stabbed
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
a large dining room
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
a glass for drinking



## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 9

- a. Why do you think Prince Chameleon's eyesight changes after his accident in the forest?
- b. If you wear glasses, take them off for a moment and look around. Do you think it's like this in the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes?
- c. Do you think the courtiers would dare to laugh at Prince Chameleon in front of the King and Queen? In front of Prince Destiny?
- d. How do you know that Prince Chameleon hates being laughed at?
- e. Is it foolish of Prince Chameleon to fly over the turrets? Is it brave? Is it something Prince Destiny would do?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon flying up in the sky?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





The old Queen **wept** again as she bathed Chameleon's foot. Tears splashed on his wound. "Why can't you be more careful?" she cried to Prince Destiny.

"How was I supposed to know it was Prince Jester **frolicking** up in the sky!" shouted Prince Destiny. "He looked like a wild duck flying over the turrets!"

"Your brother may never walk again," said the Queen.

"Nobody cares about my baby falcon!" retorted Prince Destiny. "I was training it especially for Princess Iris and now it's **lame**. Not only that—but that silly fool of a brother of mine has bent the tip of my best arrow!"

"Perhaps this will bring the boy back down to earth," remarked the old King grimly. "You are much too old to play such childish games, my son. No more changing shapes! No more flying up in the sky! From now on, you must behave like a real Prince!"

And so poor Chameleon **limped** his way upstairs. He tossed his **plumed hat** out of the attic window. It floated downwards and got caught upon a slender **minaret** of stone. He loosened the silver **tassels** of his rainbow cloak and tossed that into the **cedar chest**. In its place, he chose a black cloak which suited his mood. From now on, wherever he walked, his lame foot would trace a deep, unbroken heel print in the dust.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Prince Chameleon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( **plumed hat** ) a hat decorated with a brightly coloured feather
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
a scented box carved from cedar wood
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
a high, slender tower
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
walked clumsily with a hurt foot
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
cords, or drawstrings
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
playing, having fun
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
not able to walk
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
cried



## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 10

- a. Why do you think Prince Chameleon is so curious about everything?
- b. Is it a good or a bad thing to be curious?
- c. Why does Prince Chameleon's curiosity get him into trouble all the time?
- d. Why is Prince Destiny so upset about his lamed baby falcon?
- e. Whose fault is it that the bird was lamed?
- f. Why does Prince Chameleon wear a black cloak now? Take a magnifying glass and hold it very close to the bold black print on this page. What colours can you see around the edges of the black?
- g. Do you think Prince Chameleon will ever be able to race after the scarlet tails of fox fire again? Why or why not?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon wearing his black cloak?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.