



As time passed, the old King entrusted many of his powers to his eldest son. Before retiring for his afternoon nap, for example, he always handed the castle keys to Prince Destiny.

“It’s not fair,” whispered Prince Destiny to the Queen. “My brother never does anything. He never helps me. I was awake till midnight, **settling the accounts** in the treasury. Please make sure that Prince Jester keeps out of mischief while I take my nap. Oh, and do send for me at once if the Ambassador arrives.”



Later that afternoon, Chameleon wandered into Prince Destiny’s bedchamber. He stared down at his sleeping brother. What does it feel like to be the Crown Prince Destiny? he thought. I’d really like to know. Perhaps I could take over the affairs of the kingdom.

And so Chameleon slipped into his brother’s skin. Tossing off Prince Destiny’s nightcap, he took his crown from its resting place. It felt so heavy. He had to stand very straight to keep it on his head. Prince Destiny’s **stately robes** were draped in gold silk tassels and weighted down with medals. Even his jewel-buttoned boots with their silver **spurs** were stiff and new and hard to walk in.

It’s most uncomfortable to be Crown Prince, thought Chameleon. Then remembering, with a **shudder**, what had happened to the baby falcon and the pretty mushroom, he tiptoed quietly toward the door. I must be careful not to wake him, he thought, as he left the shadow of Prince Destiny **huddled** on the bed.



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. (settling the accounts) adding up money and paying bills
2. _____
lying in a heap
3. _____
a shiver
4. _____
sharp metal attachments to a riding boot, used to make a horse gallop faster
5. _____
fine clothes for special occasions

Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 11

- a. Is Prince Chameleon allowed to do any real, serious tasks in the kingdom? Why or why not?
- b. Why does Prince Chameleon think he can manage the affairs of the kingdom?
- c. Does Prince Destiny let Prince Chameleon help him? Why or why not?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon dressing up in Prince Destiny's royal robes?



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





Goodness, what a restless Prince he is, thought the old Queen, glancing down from the casement. *Mmm*, perhaps he hasn't finished counting the servants' wages in the treasury. As she watched Chameleon **stride** across the courtyard and climb the steep, **nail-studded** steps to the counting house, she quite **mistook him for** Prince Destiny.

Once inside the treasury, Chameleon searched his brother's pockets. He discovered his father's bunch of keys. The very largest one unlocked the royal treasure chest. Stacked in straight, neat rows were hundreds of gold and silver coins. Twinkling in the sunlight, they **dazzled** him.

Let me see, thought Chameleon, rubbing his eyes, today I must count them. Yes, surely this is what Prince Destiny would do.

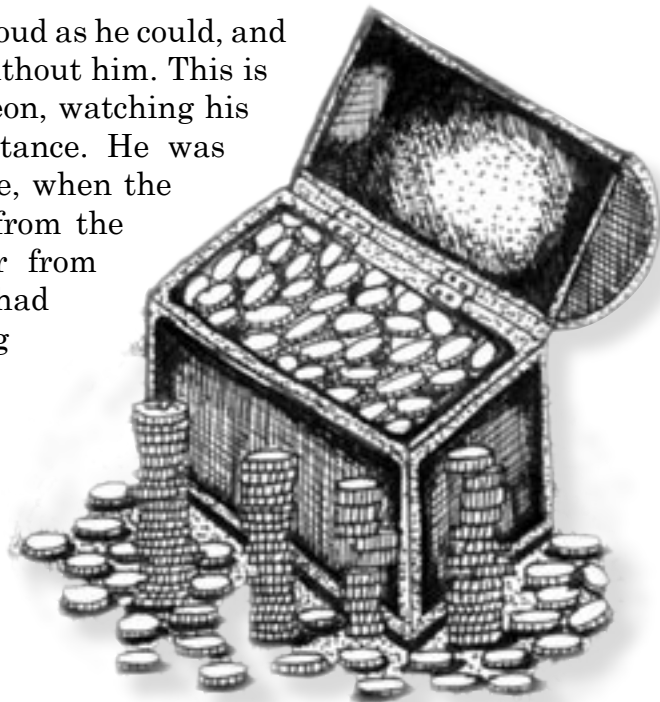
But he soon grew tired of that task. Leaving the treasure chest wide open, he stumbled downstairs, tripped on the last step, and **soiled** Prince Destiny's robes in the mud.

"May I help, Your Highness?" said the **sentinel, concealing a snicker** behind his fist.

"Not at all, pray guard the treasury until sundown!" commanded Chameleon in his brother's tone of voice. Then he walked away to inspect the Palace Guard.

"Forward!" he bellowed as loud as he could, and the entire troop marched off without him. This is no fun at all, thought Chameleon, watching his troops disappear into the distance. He was about to toss away his disguise, when the **fanfare** of trumpets boomed from the battlements. The Ambassador from the neighbouring kingdom had just arrived and was stepping out of his coach.

Oh, no! What shall I do now? thought Chameleon, glancing guiltily over his shoulder; then he marched as fast as he could into the throne room.





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. (**stride**) take long, determined steps
2. _____
hiding a quiet giggle
3. _____
watchman or guard
4. _____
to be almost blinded by a bright light
5. _____
made dirty or muddy
6. _____
reinforced, hammered through with nails
7. _____
(she) thought he was (Prince Destiny)
8. _____
the loud salute of trumpets to welcome a special guest



Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 12

- a. How does Chameleon know he must count the gold coins in the treasury?
- b. Why does he get tired of counting the money?
- c. Why does Chameleon trip and fall in the mud?
- d. What must the sentinel be thinking at the sight of "Prince Destiny" falling downstairs?
- e. What does Chameleon discover about being the Crown Prince?
- f. Is it responsible to run away, or give up, every time things become difficult? What does this tell you about Prince Chameleon's character?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Destiny falling down the steps of the royal treasury?



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



Do have a seat, dear Sir,” said Chameleon, as he sat upon his father’s padded throne. It was awfully high, and far too big for him. “My father is resting in his chambers; but I am the Crown Prince. What brings you to my castle?”

“Dear Crown Prince,” exclaimed the Ambassador, “have you forgotten so soon! I have brought you the portrait of Princess Iris.”

“A-a-h-h-h, yes, of course,” mumbled Chameleon, “Princess Iris!”

Now, inside his brother’s secret pocket was a plain gold ring. It was the wedding ring Prince Destiny had chosen for Princess Iris. Without thinking, Chameleon slipped it onto his finger. Meanwhile, the Ambassador unfastened the silver ribbons of a tiny parcel, which he handed to Chameleon.

“Is she not the most beautiful Princess you have ever seen?” he said.

“Beautiful?” echoed the Prince. As he glanced at the miniature portrait in his palm, its glass case began to fill with mist. He stared. He rubbed his eyes. It was truly astonishing. He could see nothing. Nothing was there at all, except perhaps the faintest haze of a rainbow trapped under a tiny glass **dome**.

“Well, she certainly looks rather—rather...”

Chameleon **paused** and **racked his brains**. What would Prince Destiny say? He knew Prince Destiny didn’t care much for rainbows because he could never be called away from the counting house to admire one after a rainstorm.

“...she looks rather plain,” remarked Chameleon and, although he did not mean to, his lip curled itself into an ugly **sneer**.

“Plain!” exclaimed the Ambassador, in some surprise. His powdered wig slipped a little over one eye.

“No matter,” declared Chameleon, as grandly as he could. “I need a sensible wife, someone to help me rule my kingdom, share in my **labours**. My Queen need not be beautiful, but she must be **wise** and she must be strong.”

“I shall **convey** your—message—to His Majesty at once,” said the Ambassador, somewhat frostily. He snatched away the portrait of Princess Iris. A moment later he was gone.





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. (paused) stopped doing something for a moment
2. _____
a cover, shaped like half a globe
3. _____
a look of disgust
4. _____
bring or deliver
5. _____
works, tasks, or responsibilities
6. _____
having good sense or good judgment
7. _____
tried very hard to think, or remember



Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 13

- a. How do you explain the disappearance of Princess Iris's portrait from its frame? Does Princess Iris really disappear, or is Prince Chameleon unable to see her?
- b. What happens when Prince Chameleon tries to be something or someone he isn't?
- c. Do you think the real Prince Destiny would have said Princess Iris was plain, if he had seen her portrait?
- d. What must the Ambassador be thinking of the "Crown Prince Destiny?"



Draw what you think Prince Chameleon saw in the tiny portrait.



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



It was later that evening that the church bell awoke Prince Destiny from a horrible **nightmare**. He noticed his crown **askew** on its cushion and his robe and boots tossed carelessly on the floor. Dressing in them **hastily**, he thundered down the staircase.

“Has the Ambassador not arrived yet?” he cried, as he strode through the hall.

But nobody answered. It had become very dark by now. The castle was **eerily** quiet. Only a few dim **rushlights** flickered above the stairwell.

“The Ambassador came while you were sleeping and left again,” mumbled Chameleon, lifting his head from a cushion beside the fireplace.

“Came and left again!” echoed Prince Destiny in dismay. “Royal Chamberlain! Why wasn’t I summoned to receive the Ambassador when he arrived?”

“But, Your Highness, you did receive the Ambassador—in the throne room this afternoon! Surely Your Highness remembers?”

Prince Destiny stared at Chameleon again. Suddenly he guessed what his brother had done, and his eyes grew bright with rage. “How dare you wear my robes while I was sleeping?” he roared. “How dare you steal my crown?”

“But I only borrowed them for a while,” said Chameleon.

Prince Destiny then thundered from chamber to chamber, calling for his servants and for his guardsmen.

“They—they’re all out **reveling** in the tavern, Your Highness,” said a footman. “Some **scoundrel** broke into the treasury today. All your gold and silver coins are gone!”

“This time my brother has gone too far!” **fumed** Prince Destiny. “First he pretended to be that silly mushroom—then my falcon; now he’s playing at being me!” He rushed away, at once, to tell the King and Queen.

Very late that night, Chameleon was **summoned** into the council chamber. The Queen was wiping her eyes. The old King’s face was as dark as a thundercloud.

“Your behaviour today has caused **chaos** in the kingdom,” he said.

“I’m sorry, Father.”

The thieves who robbed the treasury must be caught tomorrow and put in chains. What is worse, I tremble to think what foolish things you may have babbled to the Ambassador. My son, you must promise me solemnly this day never again to change your shape.”

“But, Father,” cried Chameleon, “how can I promise such a thing!”

The King sighed. He felt older than ever—older than ever before. “You leave us no choice then,” he said. “You must be **banished** from the kingdom at dawn.”





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. (**askew**) placed crookedly

2. _____
having wild fun; laughing,
dancing and singing

3. _____
gave off smoke as from a fire;
spoke furiously

4. _____
a frightening dream

5. _____
dried river rushes, which are
lit like a torch

6. _____
sent away

7. _____
quickly

8. _____
great disorder

9. _____
strangely

10. _____
a rogue, a rascal

11. _____
called, sent for

Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 14

- Why do you think Prince Destiny has a nightmare?
- Who do you think stole the gold coins?
- Does Prince Chamelon deserve to be banished from the kingdom?
- Why can't Prince Chameleon promise never again to change his shape?



Draw Prince Chameleon in the council chamber with the King and Queen.



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





So next morning, when one star still twinkled on the **horizon**, Chameleon saddled his **mare**. Slowly she clip-clopped beneath the **portcullis**, across the **drawbridge**, and into the meadow mists. The sun traveled close behind them. By noon, it was burning down on Chameleon's head and **scorching** him through his black cloak. When his mare stopped, at last, to drink at a stream, the Prince could bear it no longer. He slipped from her back and slid below the surface of the water.

Chameleon's body, covered in fish **scales**, flashed like rainbows between the rocks. Deep river murmurs hummed inside his head. His lame foot **glided**, swift as a rainbow **fin**. Even his fuzzy gaze began to clear. After a while, the shadow-bars across the water told him he had reached the forest.

Perhaps this is what I truly am, thought Chameleon, swishing his delicate tail. A beautiful **rainbow trout!**

"What a marvelous fish!" cried Princess Iris.

Chameleon had not seen her perched on a **mossy boulder** high above the water. As she cast her line, the tiny fishhook pierced his throat and Chameleon was pulled, gasping, out of the water. Princess Iris watched him tumble out of his rainbow scales. The beautiful fish she had caught fluttered its **gills** for the last time; then it died. Chameleon lay beside it, fighting desperately for his breath.





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. (scales) tough, protective covering over the body of a fish
2. _____
breathing passages of a fish
3. _____
a clear, fan-like organ that helps a fish to swim
4. _____
burning or singeing
5. _____
the imaginary curved line between earth and sky
6. _____
a wooden bridge, lowered by chains, across a moat
7. _____
a heavy iron grate hung over the gateway of a castle
8. _____
a female horse
9. _____
moved easily through the air, or under water
10. _____
a huge stone, covered in green moss
11. _____
a fish with rainbow-coloured scales

Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 15

- a. What is the first thing Chameleon does when his mare reaches the stream?
- b. How can Chameleon really believe he is a rainbow trout?
- c. How does Princess Iris know that Chameleon is a Prince?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon swimming underwater in the shape of a rainbow trout?



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

