



**W**eeks, months, perhaps even years passed. Chameleon pulled up the feathery weeds which were growing between the flagstones. With shiny river pebbles he **chinked** up the crumbling walls. He polished the windows until they shone like diamonds in the sun. Then he found a long woolly broom, and he beat the dust from the **tapestries**. He swept the cobwebs from the corners, and rolled out the silk carpets in the hall.

In the courtyard, a **swallow-tailed** shadow swooped down to sprinkle its wings. But the fountain was dry. So Chameleon had to **scrub** away the thick green moss from its stone **basin**; then the **spring** bubbled up again, strong and clear.



With spring water and a sackful of rose petals he **brewed** the exact shade to wash over the walls of the Rose Room. From the **seed pods** of a rare autumn flower, he collected a **saffron-gold paste** for the Harvest Chamber. The glass arches of the Ocean Gallery he **tinted** a pale silvery-jade green, while on the **vaulted** ceiling of the Sky Room he spread the crushed blossoms of cornflower.

Sometimes, if Chameleon glanced up from his work, he could see the shadow of the old crone perched at the top of the lantern tower. He thought she might smile, or weep, or call his name. But she never once spoke to him. Her fierce falcon eyes watched the sand drifting through the neck of the huge hourglass on her **window sill**.





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. ( vaulted ) the curved inside ceiling of a church or a chapel
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
to wipe clean
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
a sink or font to collect water
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
a wet powdery mixture to spread on walls
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
like the long forked tail of a swallow
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
water that rushes upward from underground
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
a yellow dye (made from the saffron plant)
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
hard wooden seed cases to protect seeds
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
embroidered wall coverings
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
(he) cooked, mixed, simmered
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
(he) filled up holes
12. \_\_\_\_\_  
(he) coloured
13. \_\_\_\_\_  
horizontal lower frame of a window

## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 21

- a. Can you tell three things that Prince Chameleon did in order to make his castle more beautiful?
- b. Why was the fountain dry?
- c. Why do you think the old crone is watching the hourglass on her window sill?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon restoring his castle?



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





And all this time, Chameleon's kingdom here in the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes was **deserted** and dimly silent. He would wander through its **labyrinth** of painted corridors, peeping into the empty chambers and searching for the shadows and echoes of people who once lived here.

"Watch me, young Prince," teased the shadowy **harlequin**, who liked spinning ghostly cartwheels across the marble floor. "Now catch me—if you can!"

"Why doesn't anyone listen to my **ballads**?" sighed the misty-robed **minstrel**, who came and went, playing his **lute** along the corridor of the Ocean Gallery.

Then one day, Chameleon began to hear the servants clattering from banquet hall to kitchen with their serving platters. It made him smile to hear the parlour maid whispering secrets to the footman. Then came the miller carrying his sack of flour from the mill. To the sewing table came the royal seamstress winding her spools of gold and silver thread.



Soon, even the flowers sleeping in their earthy beds began to bloom. Archways, lanes and towers came alive. Iron horseshoes clattered over the cobblestones. Market carts and high graceful carriages rumbled to and fro. The Palace Guard, in red coats and shiny helmets, marched across the horizon. Noisily they **tramped** into the courtyard, then formed their perfect ranks at his command.

The time had come at last. Chameleon surveyed his kingdom proudly. He called up to the old crone who was still watching him from her tower window. "Look, I have finished the task. I have rebuilt my castle, and brought back the shadows out of the mist. But I must go now."

The old hag appeared suddenly beside him at the fountain. She straightened her bent shoulders and looked sternly around. **Grudgingly** she smiled. "I am satisfied; but one last task remains."

"What is that?"

"Marry me," she said.



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. ( **deserted** ) empty, abandoned
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
an instrument that looks like a small guitar
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
a maze of connecting passages
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
not wanting to do something, unwillingly
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
a ballad-singer
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
a court jester
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
marched noisily
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
songs



## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 22

- a. How many years pass while Chameleon rebuilds his castle?
- b. What do you think Chameleon means when he says, "I have brought back the shadows out of the mist..." ?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon chasing the ghostly harlequin?



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





**M**arry you!” echoed the Prince. He staggered backward, feeling faint at this horrible thought. “But Princess Iris is still waiting for me, as she promised.”

“It’s too late, Chameleon. You left Princess Iris long ago beside the riverbank.”

“No!” cried Chameleon. “That can’t be true! Just give me my soul, old woman. It is mine!”

“First you must promise to **cherish** me forever.”

“Never!” wept the Prince. “I could never, never love you.”

“No matter,” smiled the old woman as she unfastened the waxen seal. The faintest haze of a rainbow drifted from the misty jar. “Promise what I ask, Chameleon, and you shall have your soul,” she said.

The Prince sobbed as he slipped the plain gold ring on her bony finger. Through his tears he watched the rainbows tumbling madly out of the jar, **cascading** around him like a waterfall. The ancient Rainbow Fairy smiled. The **pouches** under her falcon eyes had gone.

“Who are you?” cried the Prince.

He watched the old hag’s **wrinkles rippling** back in time. The rainbows washed the silver from her hair. For a moment, Chameleon saw that she was young and beautiful again. Her ragged black robe dropped to the ground. Suddenly, she vanished in a swirl of rainbow ribbons. In her place, Princess Iris stepped delicately from the mist.

For a moment, she seemed lost and confused. She glanced at Chameleon doubtfully, as though she had just traveled back from the Land-of-Far-Away-and-Long-Ago. “Who are you, Sir?” she asked.

“Don’t you know me?” cried Chameleon.

“Not at all!”

“But surely you remember that day you cast your fishing line and caught—”

“A rainbow trout that changed into a Prince!”

“Yes—yes,” cried Chameleon, with a little sob of gratitude. “You do remember.”

“But that was such a long time ago!” said Princess Iris. “I waited and waited as long as I could, but it’s too late now. I’m going to be married tomorrow to the Crown Prince Destiny.”

“But, look at me, can’t you see I am the young Prince!” cried Chameleon, searching anxiously for his reflection in the fountain. At the bottom of its curved stone basin twinkled the gold ring. He picked it up and offered it to Princess Iris in the palm of his hand. “I have come back,” he said, “just as I promised.”





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. ( **cherish** ) to love dearly
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
tumbling, like a waterfall
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
deep lines in the skin
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
dark swollen flesh (under the eyes)
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
circling outwards, like waves,  
when a stone is thrown into water



## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 23

- a. Why does the Rainbow Fairy ask Chameleon to cherish her forever?
- b. What is Prince Chameleon's true soul?
- c. How can the old Rainbow Fairy become young and beautiful again? Does Chameleon make her young again? How?
- d. Have you ever been to the Land-of-Far-Away-and-Long-Ago?
- e. Why doesn't Princess Iris recognize Prince Chameleon?
- f. Why is the plain gold ring twinkling at the bottom of the stone basin?
- g. Did Princess Iris really name Prince Chameleon many years ago, or did she merely remind him of his name?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon receiving his own soul?



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



**Y**ou do have that old scar on your forehead,” said Princess Iris. “You remind me a little of the Prince, but your hair is **threaded with silver**, and your eyes look so sad.”

“But I’m not sad!” cried Chameleon. “Not any more. I’m—”

“Everything, yet nothing, nothing, nothing,” babbled the fountain.

“That’s not true! My name is Prince—”

“Who?” said Princess Iris, smiling at him in her kind, puzzled way. She shook her head. “Prince Who?”

“—CHAMELEON,” cried the Prince, flinging open his arms.

“Chameleon, Chameleon, Chameleon,” twittered the tiny nesting swallows, circling round and around the fountain.

PRINCE CHAMELEON. He’d said it. He’d said his name at last and was astonished to discover how noble, how dignified, how **regal** it sounded to his ears. “Chameleon is the name you called me only yesterday, remember?”

“Well, perhaps it seems like only yesterday.”

“Have I grown old then?” said Chameleon sadly. “Did my whole life **drift by** in a day?”

“No, of course not,” smiled the Princess. “But tell me, is it true, are you really the Prince?”

“I am Chameleon. I’m Prince of **Shade** and Prince of Colour.”

He took Princess Iris’s hand and together they walked through the shiny castle gates into the majestic Royal Forest of pines and firs and silvergreens.

“I’m Prince Chameleon,” he said again.

And sure enough, just as he spoke, a sunbeam broke through the mist. It seemed to wake up all the sleeping colours in the woods. Chameleon’s hair was **glossy** brown again. His eyes smiled. He stood very tall under the trees.

“Here is my kingdom,” he said. “In the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes, at last I have found my soul.”





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. (regal) royal, majestic

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
darkness or gloom

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
shining

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
grown silvery

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
to pass away, to end



## Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 24

- a. Is Prince Chameleon a foolish or a noble name?
- b. Where is Chameleon's true kingdom? What is Chameleon's true kingdom?
- c. Does Prince Chameleon grow old? Does he really become younger again at the end of the story? What do you think?
- d. Every name means something. What does the name of Princess Iris really mean? What does your name mean?
- e. What do you think will happen now to Princess Iris and Prince Chameleon?



Can you draw a picture of Princess Iris and Prince Chameleon traveling back from the Land-of-Far-Away-and-Long-Ago?



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