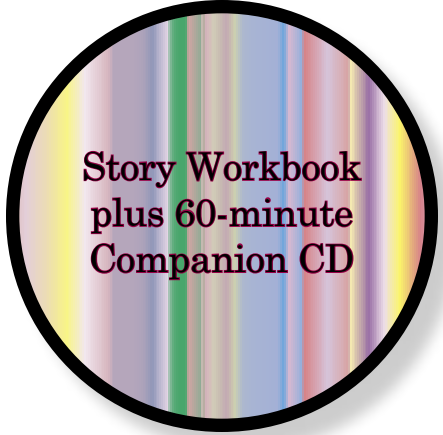


Prince Chameleon Story and Workbook

Prince Chameleon

tells the story of a young prince who is searching for his soul. He tries on many magical disguises, but gets deeper and deeper into trouble until he meets the ancient Rainbow Fairy who holds the secret to his quest.



Story Workbook
plus 60-minute
Companion CD

Prince Chameleon

There once lived a King and Queen who had waited many years for a child. They had waited so long that the King's hair grew white, and the Queen sent the cradle up into the attic so she wouldn't have to look at it any more.

But at last, after they had lost all hope, a son was born.

So the cradle was carried back downstairs. Its covering of cobwebs was carefully brushed away. All the lords and ladies of the kingdom were invited to the **christening**. Late into the evening they laughed, they chattered and danced together. Servants clattered in and out with their dishes. The Prince cried loudly in his cradle. Dogs barked. It was the noisiest, the happiest feast day the kingdom had ever seen.

Then the stroke of midnight sounded. The curtains **billowed**. A sharp wind blew through the hall. Draped in the mist of rainbows, a tall majestic fairy floated into the state room and **stooped** over the cradle.

"A gift of riches," hoped the Queen.

"Of power," muttered the King.

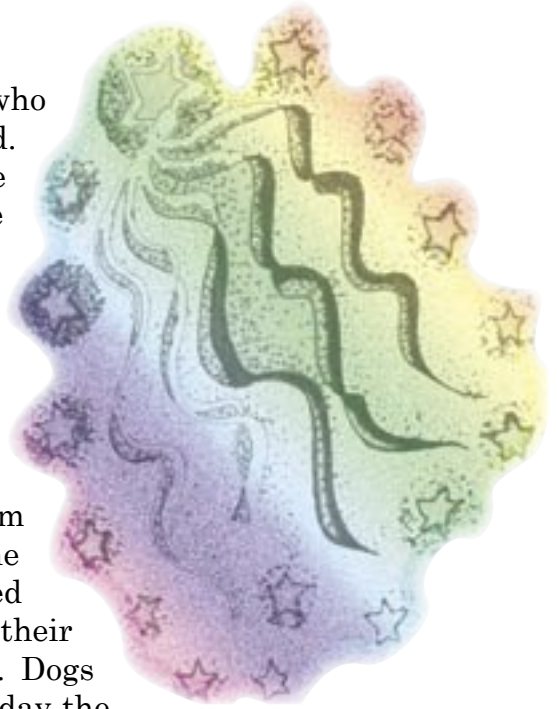
"Destiny," said the Rainbow Fairy, with a graceful nod of her head. "I **bestow** on the Prince the gift of Destiny."

"Prince Destiny—Destiny—Destiny. A royal name indeed," mumbled the guests. Of course, the old King and Queen were overjoyed; but the royal baby **scrunched up** his tiny, red face and let out a most unprincely **howl**.

Prince Destiny grew older. Quickly he stepped into his father's shoes. Almost as soon as he learned to count, he climbed up the steps to the treasury. He spent hours **stacking** the coins into tidy rows, studying the **ledgers**, balancing the accounts. He rarely smiled. He spent no time at play. The old King and Queen watched over him anxiously, but with pride.

"He will soon take over the affairs of the kingdom," declared his father.

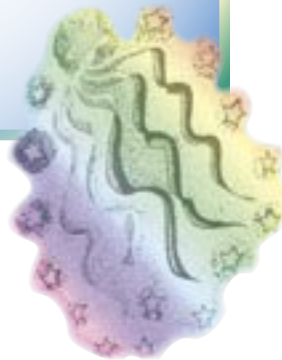
"He worries too much," fussed his mother.





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. (howl) a loud unhappy cry
2. _____
ruled books for keeping accounts
3. _____
the naming of a newborn baby
4. _____
blew open in the wind
5. _____
(she) bent her body low
6. _____
making a pile
7. _____
give
8. _____
twisted



Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 1

- a. What is a symbol? It is something that stands in place of, or makes us think of something else.
- b. So then, what do these things make you think of? An old-fashioned water clock? An hourglass? A sundial? Do they make you think of Time passing? You decide.
- c. What do you think it means to receive the gift of Destiny?
- d. Why are the old King and Queen worried about Prince Destiny?
- e. Why do you think Prince Destiny doesn't smile very often?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Destiny's christening?



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

When Prince Destiny was seven years old, a second son was born to the Queen. Once more, the lords and ladies of the kingdom came to the christening. They stood around the cradle. They whispered to one another. Just before the stroke of midnight they looked **expectantly** about, hoping that the beautiful Rainbow Fairy would appear. But she never came.



The guests began to yawn. They drifted toward the doors, putting on their cloaks, saying goodnight.

“*Halt!*” shouted the footman. An old woman was climbing up the grand staircase. “*Halt!*” he roared again.

But as she straightened her humped back, he saw how very tall she was. Her hair looked like a tangled web of **wiry** silver. Her eyes were as fierce as a **falcon’s** gaze. She turned on him with such a **withering glance** that he tumbled to the very bottom of the **stairwell**.

The Queen shuddered as the hag’s shadow fell over the cradle—a twilight shadow. Was this the Rainbow Fairy of Royal Christenings? Why did she look so old? Why was her face so grey? And why were her rainbow robes drained of all their colours?

“Do you not know me?” demanded the ancient fairy. “I bring a gift for the royal child.”

“Beauty?” whispered the Queen, **shrouding** the child’s eyes with his christening veil.

“Courage,” muttered the King, although without much hope, to be sure.

“Too late,” croaked the fairy harshly. “I have grown old and my rich store of gifts has **dwindled**. I have one last to spare. It is the gift of the **Chameleon**.” She whispered this, and so quietly that only the Queen could hear.

“Chameleon?” Her Highness echoed to the King.

“He’s christened *Chameleon*, *Chameleon*, *Chameleon*,” chattered the serving maidens, running down the stairwell into the **scullery**.

“Chameleon!” echoed the bootboy, with a grin.

“But that’s a lizard!” frowned the cook. “A lizard that changes the colour of its skin. *Prince Lizard!* What the devil of a gift is that?”



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. (**withering glance**) a fierce look that makes you afraid
2. _____
twisted like wire
3. _____
circular staircase
4. _____
looking forward to something
5. _____
covering up
6. _____
a back kitchen where pots and pans are washed
7. _____
have become lesser or fewer
8. _____
a ferocious looking bird of the hawk family
9. _____
a sort of lizard that changes the colour of its skin.

Prince Chameleon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 2

- a. Why doesn't anyone recognize the Rainbow Fairy at Prince Chameleon's christening?
- b. Why does the Rainbow Fairy have only one last gift to spare?
- c. Why do you think that only the Queen can hear Prince Chameleon's whispered name?



Can you draw a picture of Prince Chameleon's christening?



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

