 This text is from *Only a Show* by Anne Fine.

Only a Show

Miss Henry said, “On Monday, I want every single person in the class to give a little show.”

“Everyone?”

“Give a little show?”

“What sort of show?”

“Any sort of show,” said Miss Henry. “I’m sure everyone in this room can do something.”

She picked up the chalk. “I’m going to write everyone’s name on the blackboard,” she said. “When you have given us your little show, I’ll rub it out.” Anna watched as Miss Henry’s stick of chalk squeaked its way across the blackboard, writing up names: Philip, Asha, Laura, James, Stephen, Talitha, Anna!

There it was, then. In black and white. No chance of getting out of giving a show unless she crept back into the classroom after school, and rubbed it off herself.

Anna walked home in a daze. She had just one weekend – just two whole days – to think of a good show.

It was hopeless. And asking her mother didn’t help much. Each time her mother thought of something she could do, Anna was sure she couldn’t.

“Sing a song,” Mum suggested.

“I can’t sing.”

“Recite a poem.”

“I’d be so scared, I’d get the words mixed up.”

Her little brother tried to help as well. “Tell a joke.”

“No one would laugh at it. They’d laugh at *me*.”

“Take Scruff, then. Do a puppet show.”

Simon was crazy about puppet shows. He’d always loved them, ever since he was a baby. Every single night he made Anna slip Scruff, their rabbit puppet, on her hand and give him a private show over the edge of their bunk beds.

“Good evening,” Anna would say in Scruff’s funny little rabbit voice.

“Good evening!” Simon would chant back enthusiastically.

And then, while Simon giggled, Anna would make Scruff sing a little song, or do a magic trick. And whatever it was, Simon loved it. So maybe her brother was right. Maybe she *could* do something after all.





This text is adapted from the original text on the Natural History Museum website (www.nhm.ac.uk).

Life in Disguise

It's a tough world for a lot of animals. Surviving is not always easy. Some clever creatures have learned that being sneaky can be better than being big or strong. Here, we meet two of these creatures.

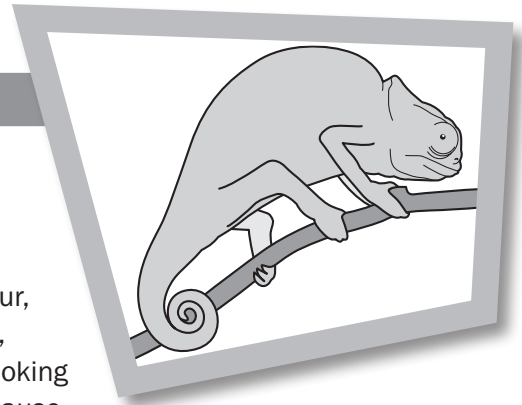
The Chameleon

Chameleons are famous for being able to change colour. But there is more to them than most people think ...

Everyone knows that chameleons change colour to match their surroundings, right? Wrong. Some chameleons *can* change colour, but they do it for other reasons. If a panther chameleon is angry, it turns reddish or yellowish. This warns other chameleons it's looking for a fight! If a chameleon is feeling cold, it becomes darker, because dark colours absorb more heat. But when a chameleon is ill, it will stay pale because it doesn't have the energy to change colour.

Chameleons do lots of other weird and wonderful things that help them survive in the wild:

- They can whip out their long tongues faster than our eyes can follow.
- Some can talk to each other using vibrations that travel through solid things like branches.
- They can look at two different things at once and see all around, thanks to their swivelling eyes.



Did you know?

There are lots of different types of chameleon. Some are only 3 cm long, while others grow up to about 70 cm.

The Mimic Octopus

The mimic octopus has an amazing talent that comes in very handy in the deep sea. It can twist and fold its body to look like all sorts of other sea creatures. This is a sneaky octopus – it pretends to be sea creatures that taste horrible or are poisonous, to scare off predators.

The mimic octopus can pretend to be more than one other creature:

- a poisonous lion fish – the octopus spreads out its arms to mimic the fish's poisonous fins.
- a deadly sea snake – the octopus buries its whole body in the sand, apart from two tentacles. Predators think these are a couple of dangerous snakes wiggling about.



Did you know?

The mimic octopus is almost 50 cm long. It has brown and white stripes or spots all over its body.

What does it mean?

.....
mimic means to copy
a predator is an animal that hunts other animals

Name:	Class:	Date:
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Only a Show

1 What did Miss Henry want the class to do?

1 mark 2b

2 Look at the paragraph beginning: *She picked up the chalk...*

Find and **copy one word** to describe the sound that the chalk made on the blackboard.

1 mark 2b

3 How did Anna feel when she saw her name on the blackboard? Tick **one**.

angry

worried

excited

lucky

1 mark 2d

4 *Anna walked home in a daze.*

Why was Anna in a daze? Explain as fully as you can, using the story to help you.

2 marks 2d

5 What did Anna think of her mother's ideas?

1 mark 2b

/ 6
Total for this page

6 Draw lines to match each idea with Anna's excuse.

- Idea**
- sing a song
 - recite a poem
 - tell a joke

- Anna's excuse**
- she would be scared
 - everyone would laugh at her
 - she can't do it

1 mark 2b

7 What did Simon say Anna could do? Tick **two**.

- sing a song
- tell a joke
- do a magic show
- recite a poem
- do a puppet show

1 mark 2b

8 Look at these lines from the story. Circle **one word or phrase** that shows Anna's brother is enjoying himself.

“Good evening!” Simon would chant back enthusiastically.
 And then, while Simon giggled, Anna would make Scruff sing a little song, or do a magic trick.

1 mark 2a

9 In what way does Simon help Anna?

1 mark 2d

/ 10
 Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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Life in Disguise

- 1 Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy one word** that shows how difficult life can be in the wild.

	2a
1 mark	

- 2 In what way are the two creatures in the text similar? Tick **one**.

They have learned how to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> poison other creatures. | <input type="checkbox"/> hunt other animals. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> protect themselves. | <input type="checkbox"/> change colour and shape. |

	2c
1 mark	

- 3 Look at the end of the second paragraph, which says: *But there is more to them than most people think...*

What mistake do many people make about chameleons?

	2d
1 mark	

- 4 **Draw lines** to **match** what the chameleon does with the reason why.

What it does

turns reddish or yellowish

changes to a darker colour

stays a pale colour

Why

because it is cold

because it is not well

because it is angry

	2b
1 mark	

	/ 4
Total for this page	

5 *The mimic octopus has an amazing talent...*

a) What is this *amazing talent*?

2b
1 mark

b) Why is it so useful in the deep sea?

2b
1 mark

6 Tick to show whether each sentence is about the **chameleon** or the **mimic octopus**. One has been done for you.

	Chameleon	Mimic octopus
It can be 70 cm long.		
It is covered in stripes or spots.		✓
It can look at more than one thing at the same time.		
It has a long tongue.		

2b
2 marks

7 Look at these lines from the text.

Surviving is not always easy. Some clever creatures have learned that being sneaky can be better than being big or strong.

Choose the sentence that **best** explains what these lines mean. Tick **one**.

Strong animals survive more easily than clever ones.

The best way to survive can be to trick another creature.

It is not very easy for clever animals to survive.

Only sneaky animals are able to survive in the wild.

2d
1 mark

8 Look at the two 'Did you know?' sections in the text. What information do they give the reader? Tick **one**.

what some of the words mean

what the whole text is about

how big the creatures are

how the creatures survive

2f
1 mark

/ 10
Total for this test