

I See Animals Hiding

I see animals hiding. I see a porcupine high in a tree.	8 12
Wild animals are shy and always hiding. It is natural for them to be this way. There are many dangers in the wild.	18 27 35
Even when they are caught unaware out in the open, wild animals try to hide. They stay behind whatever is available- a thin tree trunk or even a single blade of grass. Most of the time they go unnoticed.	42 51 58 67 74
The colors of wild animals match the colors of the places where the animals live. Because of this protective coloration, called camouflage, wild animals can hide by simply staying still and blending in.	81 88 93 97 104 107
Woodcocks and other birds, which spend much of their time on the woodland floor, have patterns and colors like those of dry leaves.	112 119 125 130
I see animals hiding. I see two woodcocks on the leafy ground.	137 142

They Thought They Saw Him

Little dark chameleon crept out of the 7
heart of his winter home and moved up 15
onto a tiny branch. 19

Rain puddles glistened beneath his feet. The 26
wind blew warm over the walls of the adobe. 35
All winter little dark chameleon had lived, safe 43
and asleep, beneath the granary where the 50
people kept their seed corn. 55

Now insects buzzed over bush and tree, and 63
he was awake. 66

As he moved on quick, silent feet, he began 75
to forget the sleepy winter dark and felt now 84
the joy in the first wakeful light of spring. 93

Eyes half closed, still filled with winter 100
memories, little dark chameleon sat on a 107
brown branch and waited for an insect to 115
find his tongue. 118

Hungry Little Hare

Little Hare the jackrabbit had great long ears with little black tips. Her long furry hind paws helped her hop very fast and jump very high.	7 16 25 26
One beautiful day, Little Hare smelled raspberries. Raspberry leaves were her favorite food.	32 38 39
Little Hare hopped, and then she hopped again. She followed the scent of raspberry to a pond in the meadow.	47 56 59
"Ouch!" a voice cried. "You stepped on me!" Little Hare looked, but she saw only bright green grass.	67 76 77
"I can't see you," Little Hare said.	84
"You're not supposed to see me," said a green frog, hopping in front of Little Hare. "My color hides me in the grass from snappy snakes. You don't eat frogs, do you?"	93 102 111 116

How to Hide an Octopus and other Sea Creatures

If you take a careful look, you'll see how
creatures in this story are camouflaged and out
of view although they're right in front of you.

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As quick as a wink, it turns to pink or green
or blue or any hue, and, if you think that's not
enough, its skin can turn from smooth to rough.

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This creature is an octopus and very often
hides by changing to the color...over which it
glides.

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Its relative the cuttlefish, could do the same
if he should wish. The stripes that he is sporting
show that he's been courting, but he can make
them fade away... slowly or without delay.

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How the Guinea Fowl Got Her Spots

A long time ago, when everything	5
had just been made, Nganga the	11
Guinea Fowl had glossy black	16
feather all over. She had no white speckles	24
as she does today- not a single spot.	32
Guinea Fowl was a little bird, but she had	41
a big friend. And that was Cow.	48
They like to go to the great green hills	57
where Cow could eat grass and Nganga	64
could scratch for seeds and crunch	70
grasshoppers.	71
And they would both keep an eye out	79
for Lion.	81
One day, Guinea Fowl was crossing the	88
river to meet Cow on the most delicious hill	97
they knew. The grass was so juicy and thick	106
that, even from the river, Nganga could hear	114
Cow hungrily tearing up one mouthful after	121
another.	122

Animal Camouflage

Have you ever played hide and seek
outside? Sometimes it is hard to find
a good place to hide! But what if you could
paint yourself brown and green like the
ground?

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Or put on a costume that made you look like
A tree? Or lie down and cover yourself with
leaves? All of these tricks would make you
much harder to find.

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Some animals use tricks to hide themselves.
Using colors and patterns to hide is called
camouflage. Camouflage makes things very
hard to find- even when they are out in
the open.

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Animals, fish, reptiles, and even people
use camouflage for hiding. When something
looks like the objects around it, it is much
harder to see. That is what camouflage is
all about!

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