

A Color of His Own

Parrots are green, goldfish are red, elephants are gray, and pigs are pink. However, the sad chameleon has a problem: all animals have a color of their own, *except* for chameleons. They change color wherever they go. On lemons they are yellow. In the heather they are purple. And on the tiger they are striped like tigers.

One day a chameleon who was sitting on a tiger's tail said to himself, "If I remain on a leaf I shall be green forever, and so I too will have a color of my own." With this thought he cheerfully climbed onto the greenest leaf.

But in autumn the leaf turned yellow--- and so did the chameleon. Later the leaf turned red and the chameleon too turned red. And then the winter winds blew the leaf from the branch and with it the chameleon. The chameleon was black in the long winter night.

But when spring came, and he walked out into the green grass, he happened to find a delightful solution. For it was there that he met another chameleon and told his sad, sad story.

"Won't we ever have a color of our own?" he asked.

"I'm afraid not," said the other chameleon who was older and wiser.

"But," she added, "why don't we stay together? We will still change color wherever we go, but you and I will always be alike."

And so they remained side by side. They were green together and purple and yellow and red with white polka dots. And they lived happily ever after. (259wds)