

# 2010 Year 5 — Literacy preparation

## Reading magazine

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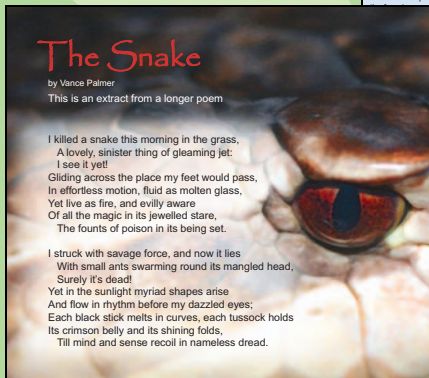
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### The Snake

by Vance Palmer  
This is an extract from a longer poem

I killed a snake this morning in the grass,  
A lovely, sinister thing of gleaming jet;  
I see it yet!  
Gliding across the place my feet would pass,  
In effortless motion, fluid as molten glass,  
Yet live as fire, and evilly aware  
Of all the magic in its jewelled stare,  
The founts of poison in its being set.

I struck with savage force, and now it lies  
With small ants swarming round its mangled head,  
Surely it's dead!  
Yet in the sunlight myriad shapes arise  
And flow in rhythm before my dazzled eyes;  
Each black stick melts in curves, each tussock holds  
Its crimson belly and its shining folds,  
Till mind and sense recoil in nameless dread.



### Roar for the Snow Leopard

The snow leopard is in grave danger of extinction. We need to speak out!

**What's so special about a snow leopard?**

**It's a beautiful animal.**  
This magnificent cat has lived for centuries in the harsh mountain environments of Central Asia. Its beauty is adored by many people from across the globe. Some have even braved the dangerous mountains to admire this beautiful animal.

**It's an adaptable animal.**  
The snow leopard has adapted exceptionally well to mountain conditions. The most obvious is its very thick fur coat. This coat covers its body and helps keep the snow leopard warm in the coldest weather.

**It's a great athlete.**  
The snow leopard's thick fur coat is also its camouflage. This helps it hide in the snow and blend in with the surrounding environment.

**It's a big cat.**  
The snow leopard is a big cat that cannot roar because it has no voice box, larynx.

**Why is it endangered?**  
For centuries the snow leopard has survived in the harsh weather conditions of its isolated mountain home. Its survival is under threat as humans begin to take over the mountains. People are cutting down forests to create farms. People are building dams in the snow leopard's habitats. These changes to the mountains have had a significant impact on the snow leopard's food sources. Without food the snow leopard cannot survive!

**Another serious threat to the snow leopard's survival comes from the very thing that people love, its beautiful fur coat.** Snow leopards are being hunted for their fur. While hunting them is illegal in all Central Asia countries except Mongolia, wild snow leopards continue to be killed for their magnificent fur coats.

**What can we do to help?**  
The snow leopard is a big cat that cannot roar. If this beautiful creature is to be saved, we need to make its voice heard.

**Roar now!**  
Save the snow leopard from extinction.

### The answer is...



...d the seat so hard her fingers went white. She loved her grandmother fixed of flying.

...? Are you scared?" Dave asked Alice.

...ave driven to Newcastle," she grumbled at Dave.

...hour drive, Alice. We are only going for gran's party, and then coming I replied her brother, sick of her constant complaining. "How about we?" he suggested.

...es. They're no fun. You're no fun," Alice snapped.

... Dave that Alice had a smart answer for everything. "How about we play is game. You loved playing that when you were little. I ask you questions one wrong, then it's your turn to ask me."

...no mood to play. She sat slumped in her chair staring out the window. ad an idea. "Alright," she said, a little too cheerily, "but I have two new an't answer your question, I'll give you one dollar from my holiday money. answer my question you have to give me \$10. Deal?"

...satisfied in his ability to answer any of his nine-year old sister's so he readily agreed to such a biased contest, with one proviso: "I get to ve announced.

... "Fire away."

...kilometres is it from the earth to the moon?" he asked. Alice took \$1 use and handed it straight to Dave.

...he chirped, "What goes up a mountain with three legs and comes back ear?" Dave sat for a long time thinking about the question. Alice quietly he window smiling contentedly. Finally Dave handed Alice a brand new e," he asked, "what is the answer?"

...another dollar out of her purse and handed it to her brother.

# The Snake

by Vance Palmer

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Its crimson belly and its shining folds,  
Till mind and sense recoil in nameless dread.

# Roar for the Snow Leopard



The snow leopard is in grave danger of extinction. **We need to speak out!**

*What's so special about a snow leopard?*

## **It's a beautiful animal.**

This magnificent cat has lived for centuries in the harsh mountain environments of Central Asia. Its beauty is adored by many people from across the globe. Some have even braved the dangerous mountains to admire this beautiful animal.

## **It's an adaptable animal.**

The snow leopard has adapted exceptionally well to the freezing mountain conditions. The most obvious adaptation is its very thick fur coat. This coat covers its body and head and helps keep the snow leopard warm during even the coldest weather.

A less obvious adaptation is the snow leopard's thick, fur-covered tail. This tail helps keep in warmth and protects its face from the bitter cold when the snow leopard is sleeping.

## **It's an exceptional athlete.**

This cat's extraordinary athletic ability is another adaptation. The snow leopard is capable of making huge leaps over deep ravines. Its long flexible tail helps it to keep its balance as it lands on the narrow icy surfaces. The snow leopard has fur on the underside of its feet. This fur provides traction on the slippery mountains.



*The snow leopard is a big cat that cannot roar because it has no voice box, larynx.*

*Why is it endangered?*

For centuries the snow leopard has survived in the harsh weather conditions of its isolated mountain home. Its survival is under threat as humans begin to take over the mountains. People are cutting down forests to create farms. People are building dams in the snow leopard's habitats. These changes to the mountains have had a significant impact on the snow leopard's food sources. Without food the snow leopard cannot survive!

Another serious threat to the snow leopard's survival comes from the very thing that people love, its beautiful fur coat. Snow leopards are being hunted for their fur. While hunting them is illegal in all Central Asia countries except Mongolia, wild snow leopards continue to be killed for their magnificent fur coats.

*What can we do to help?*

The snow leopard is a big cat that cannot roar. If this beautiful creature is to be saved, we need to make its voice heard.

## **Roar now!**

Save the snow leopard from extinction.



## The answer is...

Alice gripped the seat so hard her fingers went white. She loved her grandmother but was terrified of flying.

“What’s wrong? Are you scared?” Dave asked Alice.

“You could have driven to Newcastle,” she grumbled at Dave.

“It’s an eight hour drive, Alice. We are only going for gran’s party, and then coming home again.” replied her brother, sick of her constant complaining. “How about we play a game?” he suggested.

“I hate games. They’re no fun. You’re no fun.” Alice snapped.

It seemed to Dave that Alice had a smart answer for everything. “How about we play the questions game. You loved playing that when you were little. I ask you questions until you get one wrong, then it’s your turn to ask me.”

Alice was in no mood to play. She sat slumped in her chair staring out the window. Then she had an idea. “Alright,” she said, a little too cheerily, “but I have two new rules. If I can’t answer your question, I’ll give you one dollar from my holiday money. If you can’t answer my question you have to give me \$10. Deal?”

Dave was confident in his ability to answer any of his nine-year old sister’s questions, so he readily agreed to such a biased contest, with one proviso “I get to go first!” Dave announced.

Alice smiled, “Fire away.”

“How many kilometres is it from the earth to the moon?” he asked. Alice took \$1 from her purse and handed it straight to Dave.

“My turn!” she chirped, “What goes up a mountain with three legs and comes back down with four?” Dave sat for a long time thinking about the question. Alice quietly looked out the window smiling contentedly. Finally Dave handed Alice a brand new \$10 bill. “So,” he asked, “what is the answer?”

Alice took another dollar out of her purse and handed it to her brother.