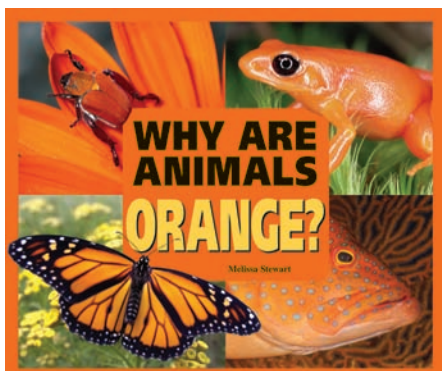




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RAINBOW OF ANIMALS

Written by Melissa Stewart

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

A Guide for
LIBRARIANS and TEACHERS

to enhance the use of the
RAINBOW OF ANIMALS
series

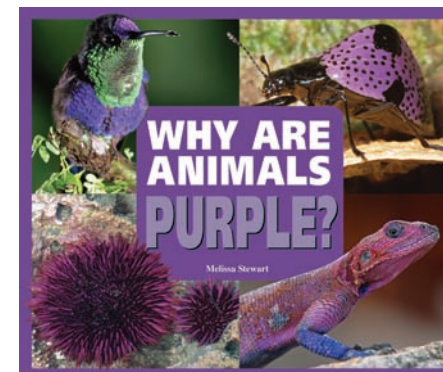
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Readers Theater Script

Based on the RAINBOW OF ANIMALS series
by Melissa Stewart
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Getting Started

Many readers theater scripts have just ten or twelve parts, but this script has a role for every student in the class. The script also includes choruses and lines read by everyone. They keep students focused and foster camaraderie.

As written, the script includes twenty-five animal parts and a narrator. The animal parts vary in difficulty, to accommodate children at a variety of reading levels. The narrator's text is the most challenging. It can be read by an adult or by an advanced young reader.

If you are working with fewer than twenty-five children, some students can perform two roles. If you have a large group, some children can share a role or you can divide the narrator role into six parts, one for each color.

After you have matched students with parts, ask the class to read through the script a few times. As the children practice, provide as much support and advice as needed.

Planning the Performance

When the children feel confident about their roles, you may want to set out a variety of art supplies and ask the students to make identification tags or animal hats to wear during the performance. Children acting as narrators can make a hat to represent their color.

When the children have finished their “costumes,” ask them to think about staging. During the final reading, the students can stand in six separate groups (one for each color) or the script can be performed as six separate acts, so that there is always an audience.

RAINBOW OF ANIMALS

A readers theater script based on the series
by Melissa Stewart (Enslow, 2009)

Chorus 1: Being red helps some animals survive.

Narrator: Guess what some female monkeys look for in a mate.

Everyone: What?

Narrator: A bright red face.

Monkey: *Keh-kik!* The redder the better! It means my mate is healthy, and he will make a great dad.

Narrator: A male great frigate bird has a different way of attracting a mate.

Frigate bird: *Gobble, gobble!* I pump air into a red pouch on my throat, and it blows up like a balloon. It is my way of saying “Here I am!”

Narrator: A coral snake’s bright red rings send a different kind of message.

Snake: They warn enemies to s-s-s-s-s-tay away. I could kill them with just one bite.

Narrator: Red animals are easy to spot on land, but not in the deep, dark ocean.

Soldierfish: *Glug! Glug!* You can’t see me or my soldierfish friends.

Chorus 2: Being orange helps some animals survive.

Narrator: A Bengal tiger’s orange fur and black stripes blend in with its forest home.

Tiger: *Shhh!* I’m hunting. If I move slowly and keep quiet, I think I can catch that wild boar.

Narrator: You might think a bright orange fish would really stand out, but not a coral grouper.

Fish: I spend my days swimming near colorful coral. My body matches the coral, so enemies don’t know where I am.

Narrator: A viceroy butterfly doesn’t need to hide.

Butterfly: When a bird spots me, it flies off in the other direction.

Everyone: Why?

Butterfly: My orange wings warn predators that I taste terrible.

Narrator: Most orange frogs taste bad too, but not the golden mantilla frog.

Frog: *Chirp! Chirp!* My little body is DEE-LICIOUS. But predators usually stay away. My bright colors fool them.

Everyone: Wow, you sure are lucky to be orange!

Frog: You can say that again!

Everyone: Wow, you sure are lucky to be orange!

Narrator: Okay, okay, stop joking around. It is time to hear from some yellow animals.

Chorus 3: Being yellow helps some animals survive.

Narrator: A cup moth caterpillar's bright colors send out a warning. They tell predators to stay away.

Caterpillar: If a hungry bird grabs me, it will be sorry.

Everyone: Why?

Caterpillar: My yellow spines give a painful sting.

Narrator: A male goldfinch's yellow feathers send out a very different message.

Goldfinch: *Per-chik-o-ree!* I don't have trouble finding a mate. I just flash my feathers. That really gets a female's attention.

Narrator: When lions lie down in dry grass, their yellow fur is hard to see.

Lion 1: *Pur-r-r-r-r. Pur-r-r-r-r.* I could use a nap.

Lion 2: Me too. [Big yawn.]

Narrator: A great horned owl's body isn't yellow. But its eyes are.

Owl: *Who-who, who-who.* Light from the moon and stars bounces off the yellow parts of my eyes. That makes it easy to spot prey at night.

Chorus 4: Being green helps some animals survive.

Narrator: Guess how the leaf-mimic katydid got its name.

Everyone: Does it look like a leaf?

Katydid: That's right! My shape and color help me blend in with my forest home.

Narrator: When a masked puddle frog feels sleepy, it crawls inside a leaf.

Frog: *Bizz, bizz.* Green body. Green leaf. Makes sense, right?

Narrator: A sloth's thick, shaggy fur makes a great home for tiny green algae.

Sloth: Those little guys do me a really big favor. They help me blend in with the green leaves around me.

Narrator: A green sea turtle lives in the ocean. But its green body still helps it stay safe from enemies.

Turtle: I'm the same color as my favorite food—sea grass. Time for a snack. *Munch, munch, munch.*

Chorus 5: Being blue helps some animals survive.

Narrator: A blue-tongued skink has a great trick for staying safe.

Skink: When an enemy attacks, I stick out my blue tongue. Its crazy color scares off most predators.

Narrator: You will never believe how a blue-footed booby attracts a mate.

Everyone: How?

Booby: I spread my wings wide and whistle. Then I strut, slide, shuffle, and stomp my bright blue feet. I'm a real twinkle toes.

Narrator: A blue shark's blue body helps it in a different way.

Shark: Sometimes I feel a little blue. But thanks to camouflage, I'm one of the fiercest predators on Earth.

Octopus: My body has enough poison to kill twenty people!

Narrator: Hey, hold on! I didn't introduce you yet.

Octopus: Oh, sorry.

Narrator: The blue-ringed octopus has pale skin with bright blue rings that really stand out.

Octopus: My colorful body warns predators to stay away. Like I said before, I'm full of deadly poison.

Chorus 6: Being purple helps some animals survive.

Narrator: Guess what a crab spider does to catch its prey by surprise.

Everyone: What?

Narrator: It changes color to match the flower it is on.

Everyone: That's a great trick!

Spider: Sometimes I'm yellow or orange or pink. But today I'm purple, just like this morning glory.

Narrator: Purple emperor butterflies don't make much noise, but the male's purple wings send a message to other butterflies.

Butterfly: My bright colors say: "Get away! This is my home."

Narrator: Agama lizards live in groups, and they need to know who is in charge.

Lizard: My purple back lets everyone know that I am the boss.

Narrator: The California sea hare is a large snail that lives in the ocean.

Sea hare: When an enemy gets too close, I scare it away with a blast of purple ink.

Everyone: Wow, that's cool!

Chorus 6: It sure is! The color purple can save an animal's life.

Chorus 5: So can blue,

Chorus 4: and green,

Chorus 3: and yellow too.

Chorus 2: Hey, don't forget about orange

Chorus 1: or red.

Everyone: Now we know why animals come in all the colors of the rainbow.

About the Author



Melissa Stewart is the award-winning author of more than 100 books for children. She has a B.S. in biology from Union College in Schenectady, NY, and a M.A. in science journalism from New York University. Melissa is on the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Board of Advisors and is a judge for the American Institute of Physics Children's Science Writing Award.

In her free time, Melissa enjoys exploring natural areas near her home in eastern Massachusetts. She also likes visiting exotic habitats around the world and has spent time in Costa Rica, East Africa, Europe, the Galapagos Islands, and Mexico. Melissa has taught fiction and nonfiction writing classes for children and adults, and is available for school visits. See her website for more information: www.melissa-stewart.com.