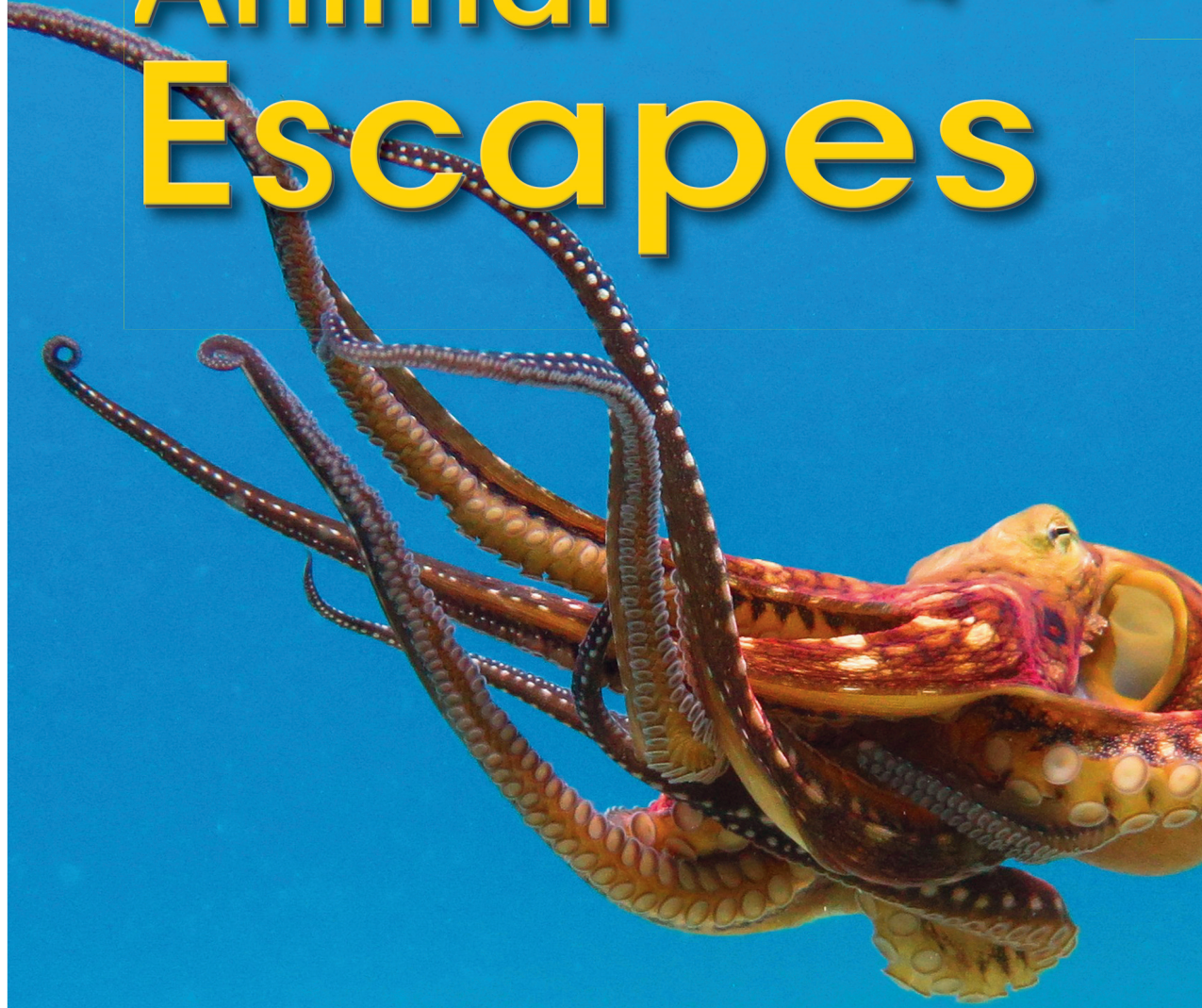




# Animal Escapes



By John Townsend



Ransom Reading Stars

Animal Escapes

by John Townsend

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## A Quick Getaway

Small animals have a big problem. They are good to eat!

It can be scary when you are small and tasty. Bigger animals always want to eat you. That means you have to be good at

- hiding,
- moving fast, and
- surprises.

If you can do something amazing, you might surprise a predator. Then you could make a quick getaway.

Some small animals have amazing ways to escape from big jaws ...

## A Spider Life-line

A juicy spider wants to escape from hungry mouths. How about a life-line for a quick getaway?

If a spider needs to escape, it lets out a strand of silk. As the wind catches it, the spider just 'flies' away.

Some spiders even travel across oceans like this. It is called *ballooning*. It's a great way to lift yourself out of danger!



## Octopus Escape

An octopus has no bones. That makes it soft and easy to swallow.

Many fish hunt for octopus. So this sea animal has a few tricks to help it escape:

1. Squirting water from its body to make it shoot off at full speed – like a jet.
2. Squashing into a narrow shape (there are no bones to worry about), so it can squeeze through tiny gaps in rocks.
3. Shape-shifting to look like something else.



Another octopus trick ... What do you do if a shark is after you? Easy – just disappear!

A quick squirt of ink does the trick. The octopus can escape behind the 'smoke-screen'.

An octopus pumps out an ink cloud so it can sneak away safely.



Did you know that the mimic octopus can change colour and shape to look just like a deadly fish or sea snake? Anything chasing it will quickly turn and swim off fast!

## Gas Attack

If you are a crawling insect just 3 centimetres long, life can be risky. Everything wants to eat you. If you are a millipede, what can you do to stop getting eaten?

The pink dragon millipede lives in Thailand. It is bright pink and smells of almonds. That's because it fires out a deadly gas if something tries to eat it.

That's a great way to escape without needing to run!



## Ransom Reading Stars

### Animal Escapes

Word count **802**

White Book Band

Purple    The Mouse and the Magic Socks  
              The Frogs Want a King  
              Plop  
              The Secret Egg  
              Greedylocks  
              The Northern Lights

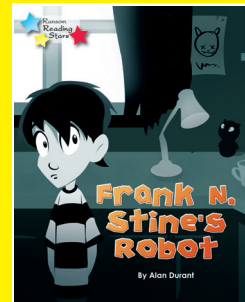
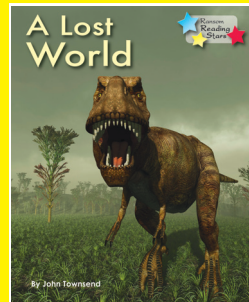
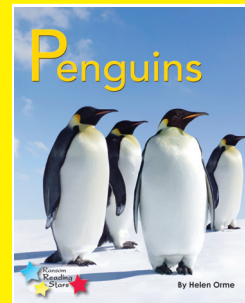
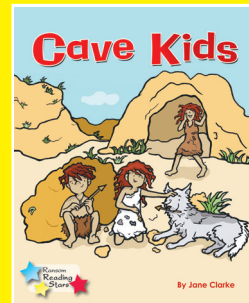
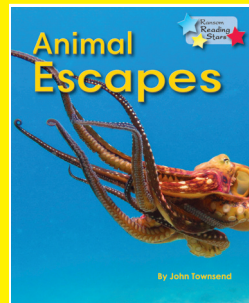
Gold        Decorating Sabir's Room  
              Staying Alive  
              Soccer Stars  
              The Legend of the Three Brothers  
              Feeding the Dragon  
              Whales

White      **Animal Escapes**  
              Cave Kids  
              Penguins  
              A Lost World  
              The Sword in the Bone  
              Frank N. Stine's Robot

Lime        Jumpers  
              Starway Station  
              You'll Never Believe This!  
              A Light in the Forest  
              The Moon  
              The Rescue



Series consultant: Shirley Bickler



Book band: