NAME: DATE: Word Count: 154

**Special Tricks Level: J/K**

Some animals use special tricks

to help them survive.

They use tricks that can help them catch

food, get away quickly, or keep safe from

their enemies.

This snake can go for a year with no food.

When it does eat, it sometimes eats

a big animal. The snake uses a special trick

to help it swallow the animal.

The snake bites the mouse

and opens its jaw . . .

and then the snake swallows the mouse.

The snake can make its jaw str-e-t-ch

so the animal can fit inside.

(alligator turtle) (pink skin)

Some turtles use a special trick

to help them catch their food.

The turtle has some pink skin

inside its mouth.

It can wiggle the skin

to make it look like a worm.

A fish will swim inside the turtle’s

mouth to catch the worm.

1. The fish swims along.
2. It sees a “worm”.
3. It swims into the turtle’s mouth and is eaten.

[[1]](#footnote--1)

**COMMENTS:**

**Notice if the student…**

* Rereads text
* Asks for help
* Skips the word and comes back
* Sounds word out
* Looks at the pictures
* Chunks the words
* Covers the ending and looks for smaller words
* Self- Corrects
* Tries to figure out what makes sense in the sentence

1. Adapted from EPRA, with permission, by R Martens, Border Land SD, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref--1)