

Copycat Crisis

Hugo was practicing his moves for the water ballet.

“I am one of a kind! I am unique!” he said to the mirror.

“What are we doing?” Bella asked.

“I was being unique, until *you* came along,” Hugo said. “Look how I can stand on my head!” Bella stood on her head too.

“Well, I can touch my toes!” Hugo said.

“Me too,” Bella said.

“I can even do the splits.” Hugo stretched his legs from side to side.

Bella did the same.

“You’re right, Hugo,” she said. “You are unique.”

“I would be, except *you* keep copying me!” he complained. Hugo huffed out the door and marched to the pool. Bella followed behind him.

“Do you have to do *everything* I do?” Hugo asked.

“Yes,” Bella said. “It’s lots of fun. I want to be unique too! Just like you.”

“Argh,” Hugo said. “That’s not how it works.”

In the pool, Hugo floated on his back. He jumped into the deep end. He did a back flip off the diving board. And so did Bella.

“Bella, will you STOP being a copycat!” he said. “You’re ruining my water ballet!”



Just then, the other swimmers at the pool clapped.

“Bravo!” they said. “What wonderful, synchronized swimming. Your team is truly unique!”



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. What was Hugo doing in the mirror?
 - a. Singing
 - b. Dancing
 - c. Practicing his water ballet moves
 - d. Swimming

2. Who can do the splits?
 - a. Hugo
 - b. Bella
 - c. Both
 - d. Neither

3. How does Hugo feel when Bella copies him?
 - a. Excited
 - b. Annoyed
 - c. Afraid
 - d. Embarrassed

4. What does Hugo mean by unique?
 - a. Weird
 - b. Talented
 - c. Blending in with others
 - d. Unlike anyone else

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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