

"When am I going to return to normal?" Percy Penguin asked his mother.

"What are you talking about, my dear?"

"Our feathers!! We are shedding them all over the place, and I look *ridiculous*. I have random patches of ugly old feathers along with my new, sleek feathers," Percy complained.

"Just be patient, Percy. This happens to all of us once a year, so we are all in the same boat. Our new feathers are pushing the old ones out. The entire process takes about four weeks for us, so we are about halfway done already," Mom cheerfully responded.

Percy gasped. "Are you *kidding* me? I really have to endure this for another two weeks? But I'm *starving* because you said I can't go into the water when I am molting."

Percy's mom had grown weary of her son's pessimistic attitude. Her tone turned business-like. "Percy, I've heard enough whining from you. Trust me. You *will* survive. Go for a waddle and try to take your mind off your troubles."

Percy turned away and muttered under his breath, "Easy for her to say... she's not a growing penguin like I am. I bet I am way hungrier than she is right now."

What was the author's purpose for writing the above passage?

- A. to explain the process of molting for penguins
- B. to entertain readers with a story about a young, grumpy penguin
- C. to entertain readers with a story about a penguin leaving his mother to set off on his own
- D. to inform readers how penguins molt once a year

