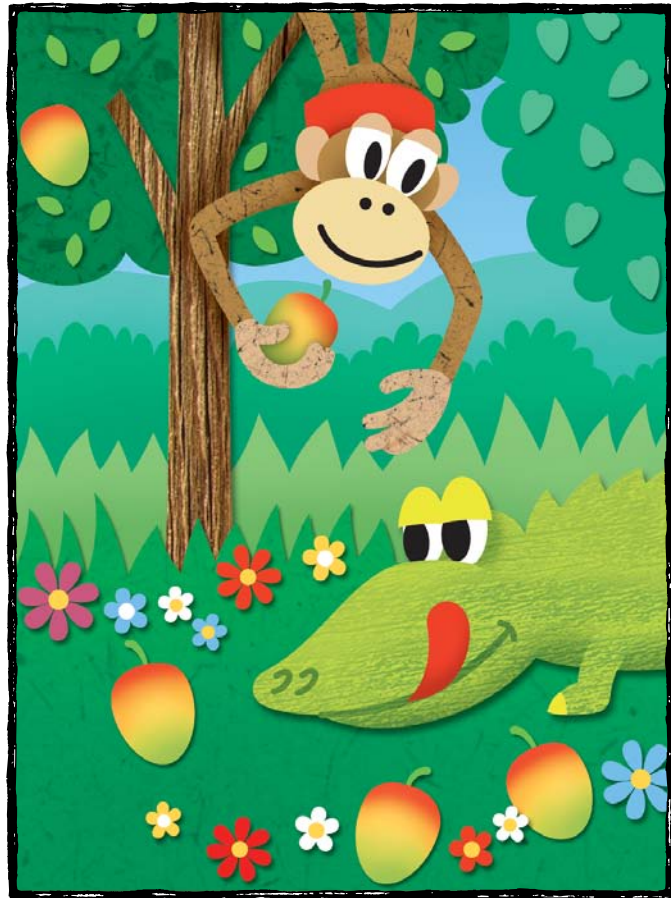


Monkey and Crocodile

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book
Word Count: 320

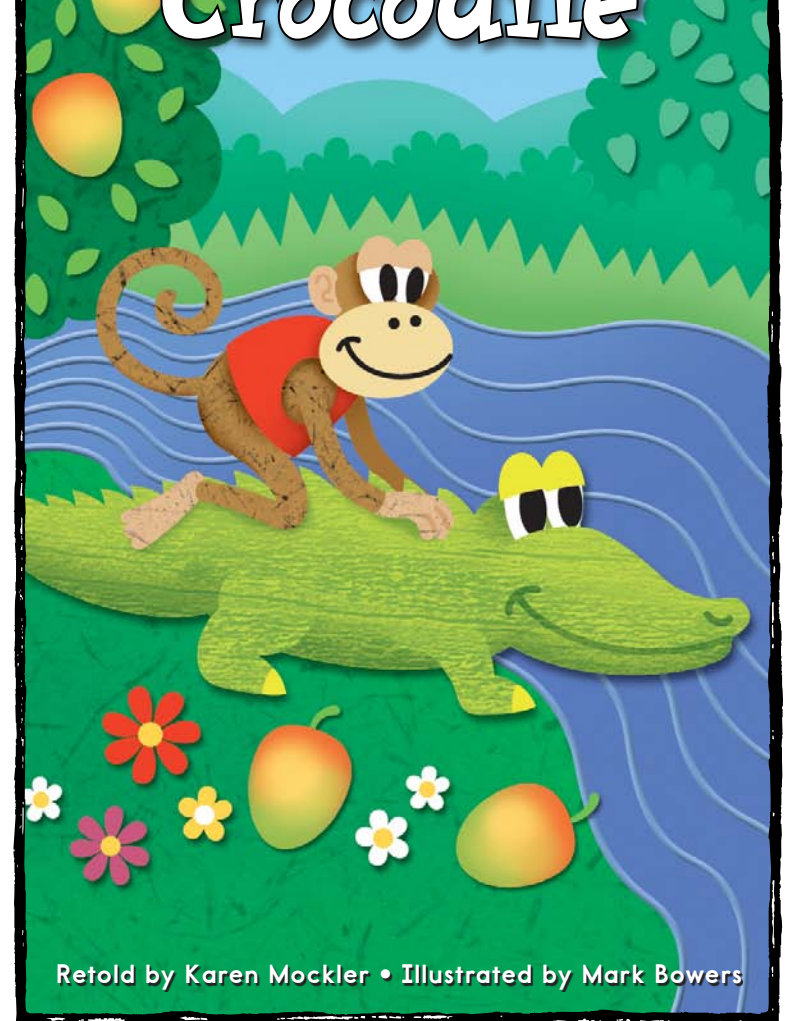


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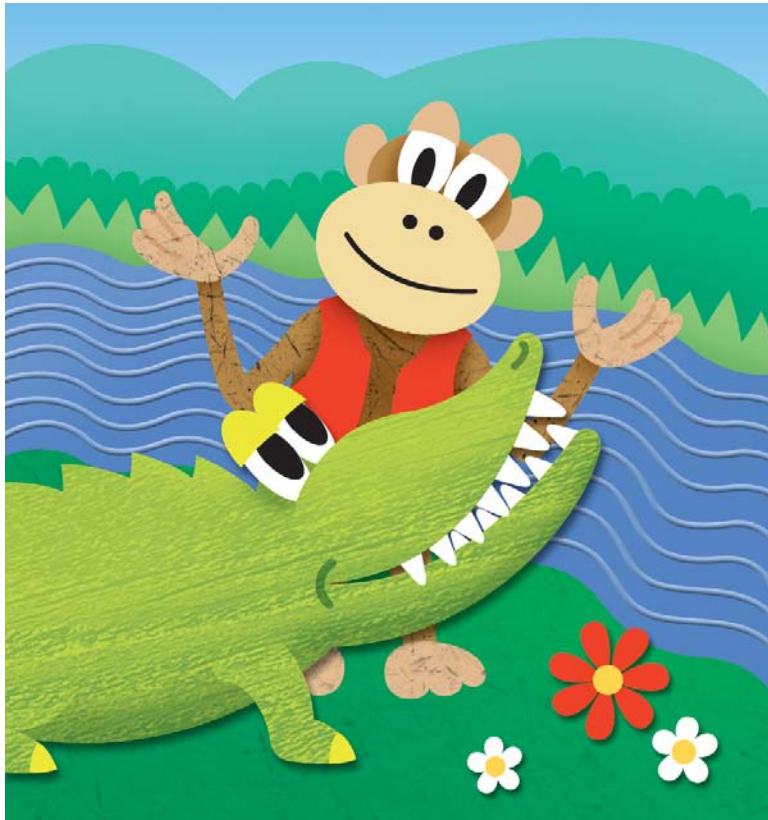
Monkey and Crocodile



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Monkey and Crocodile



A Folktale from India
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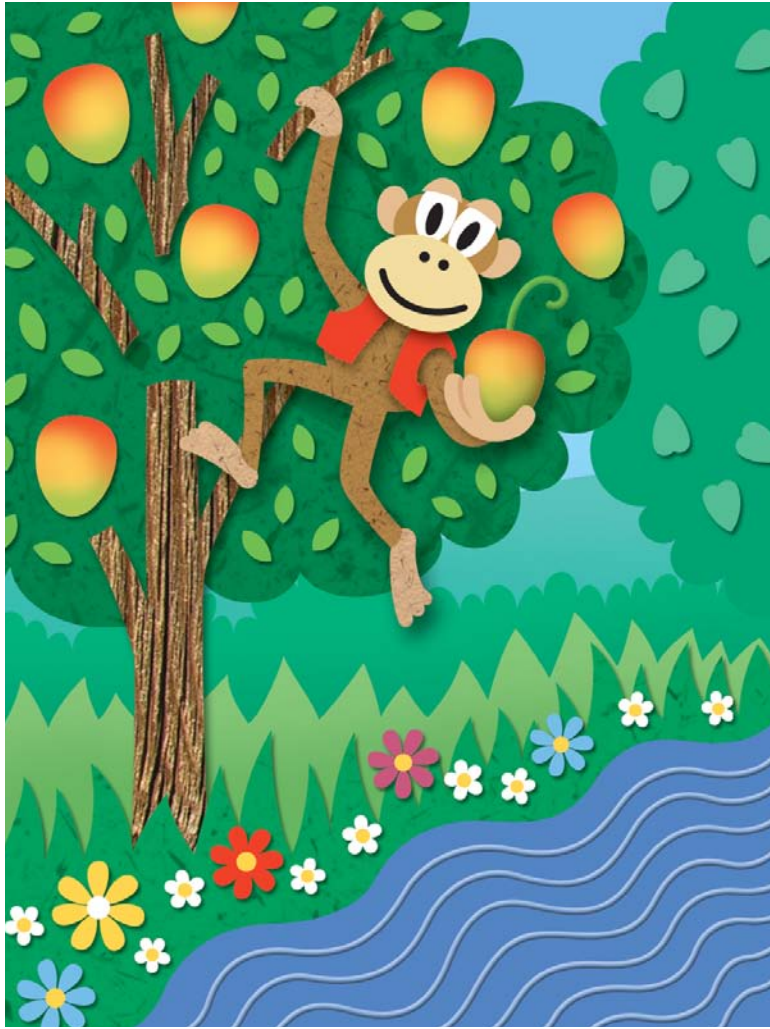
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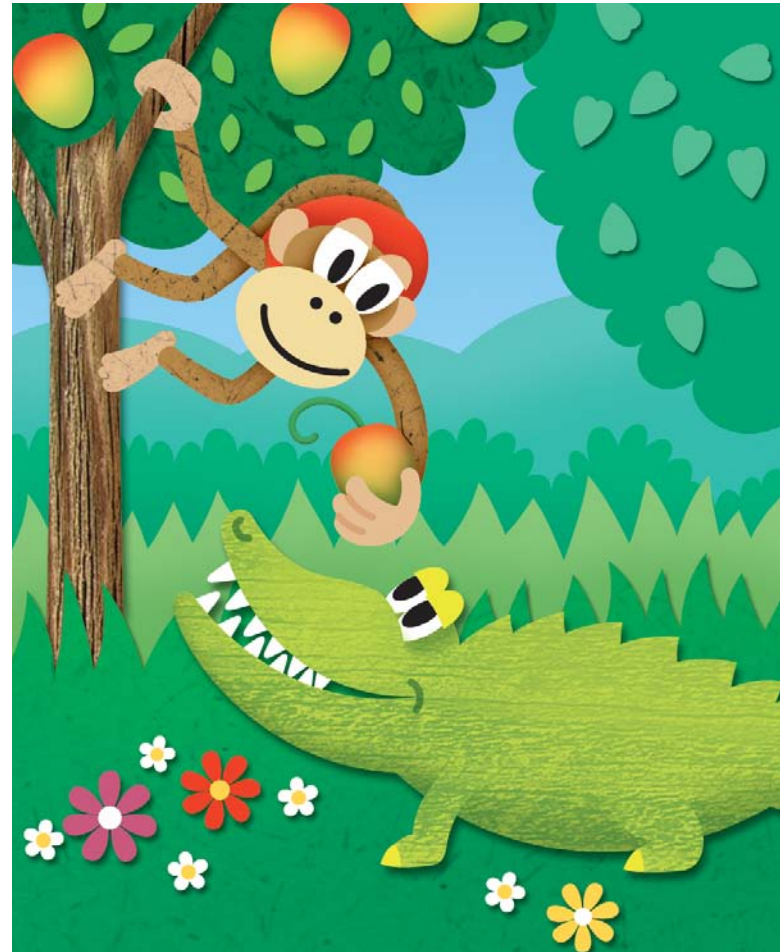
Correlation

LEVEL J

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



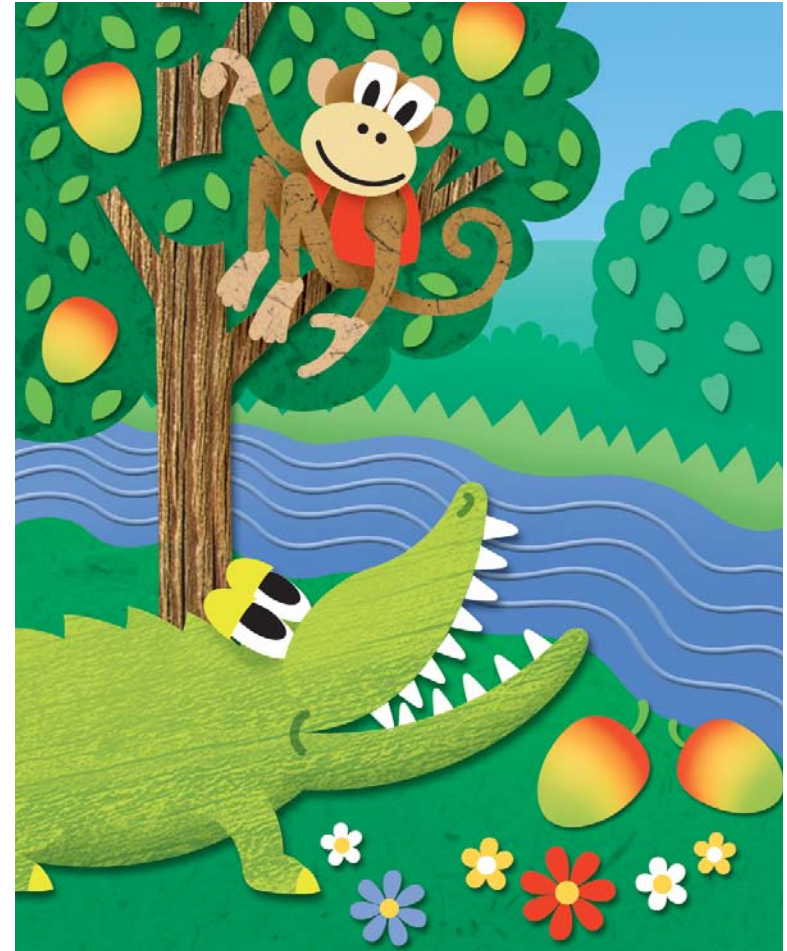
Monkey lived in a fine fruit tree by the side of a river. He spent his days eating the fruit of the tree and swinging in its branches.



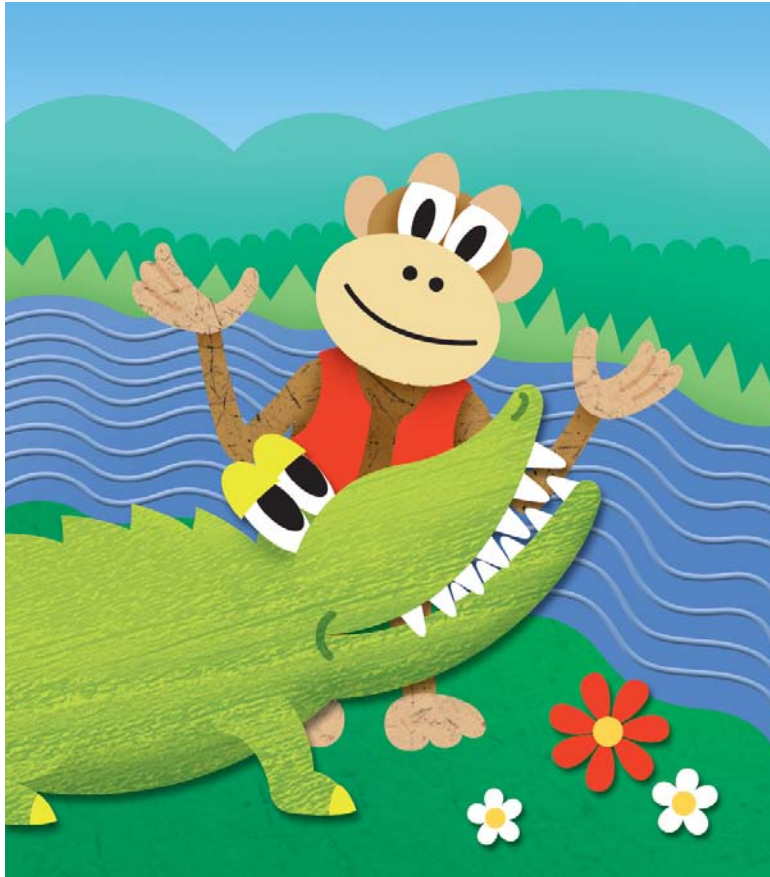
One day, Crocodile took rest under the tree. Monkey greeted Crocodile, saying, “As you are under my tree, that makes you my **guest**. Allow me to offer you food.”



Monkey tossed down fruit after sweet fruit to Crocodile. Crocodile visited Monkey's tree each day after that.

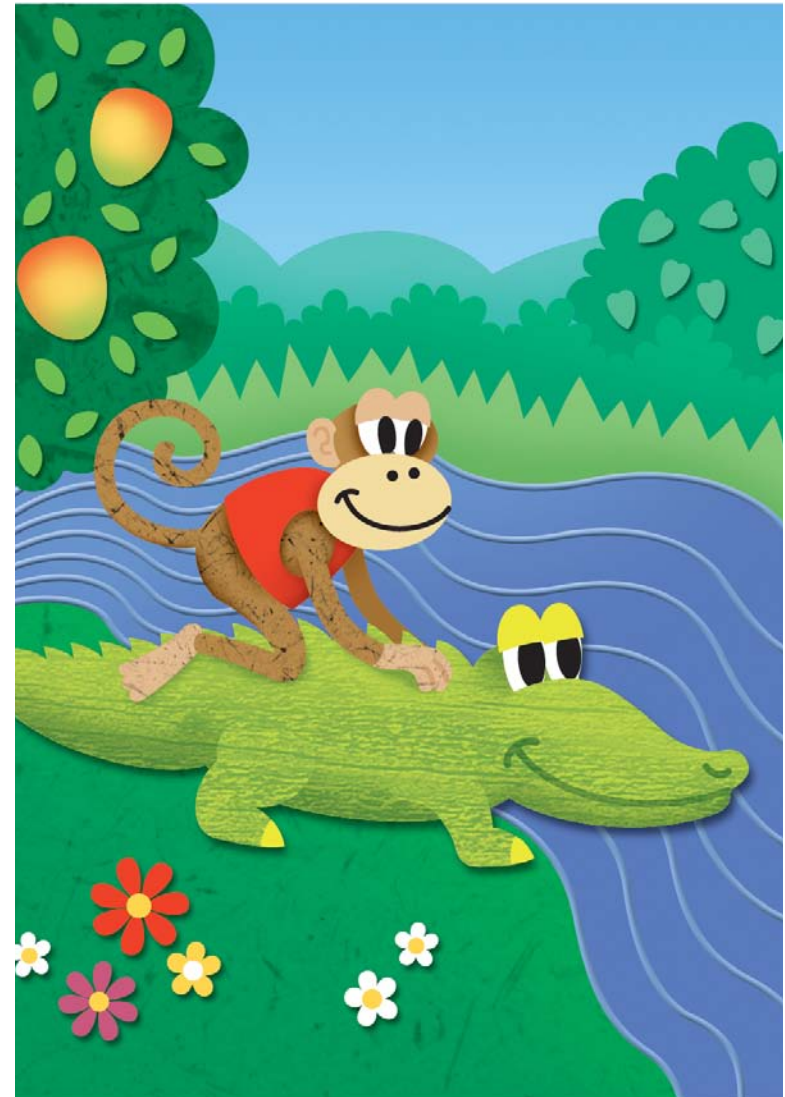


One day, Crocodile asked Monkey to cross the river with him for dinner. He called up to Monkey, "Please join me. I should have **invited** you sooner."

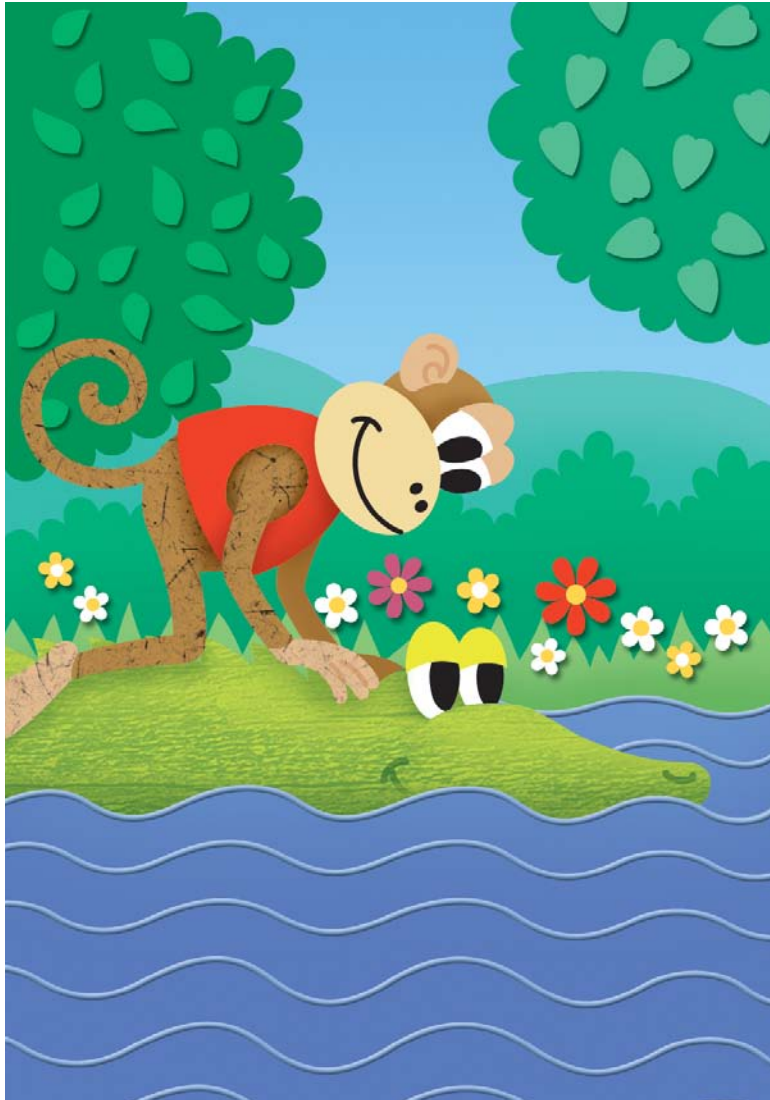


“I’d love to come,” Monkey said, “but I can’t swim. How shall I cross the river?”

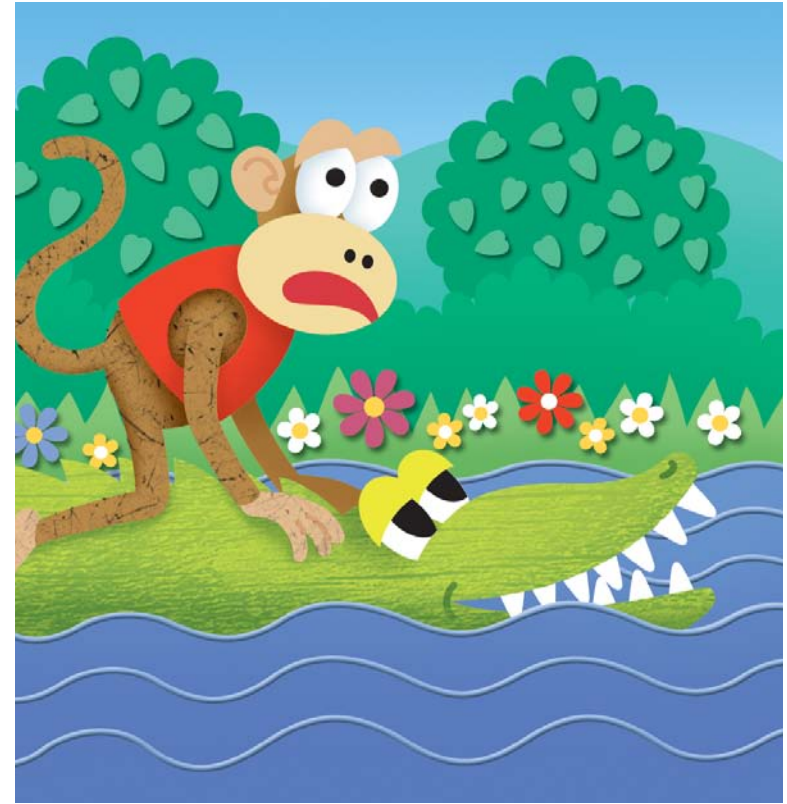
“Please take a ride on my back,” Crocodile said. “It would be my pleasure.”



“The pleasure is all mine,” said Monkey. He left his safe tree and climbed onto Crocodile’s back.



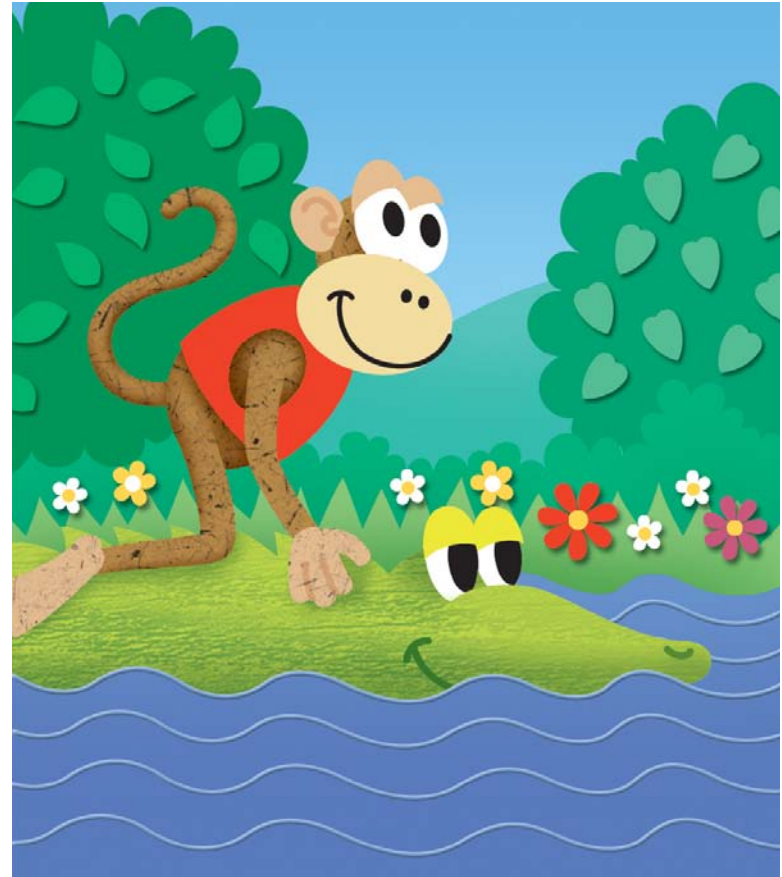
They set out across the river.
“What, may I ask, is for dinner?”
Monkey asked.



By this time, the two were halfway
across the river. Since it was now
impossible for Monkey to **escape**,
Crocodile told him the truth.
“You are for dinner, my furry little
friend. I am taking you home to
eat you.”

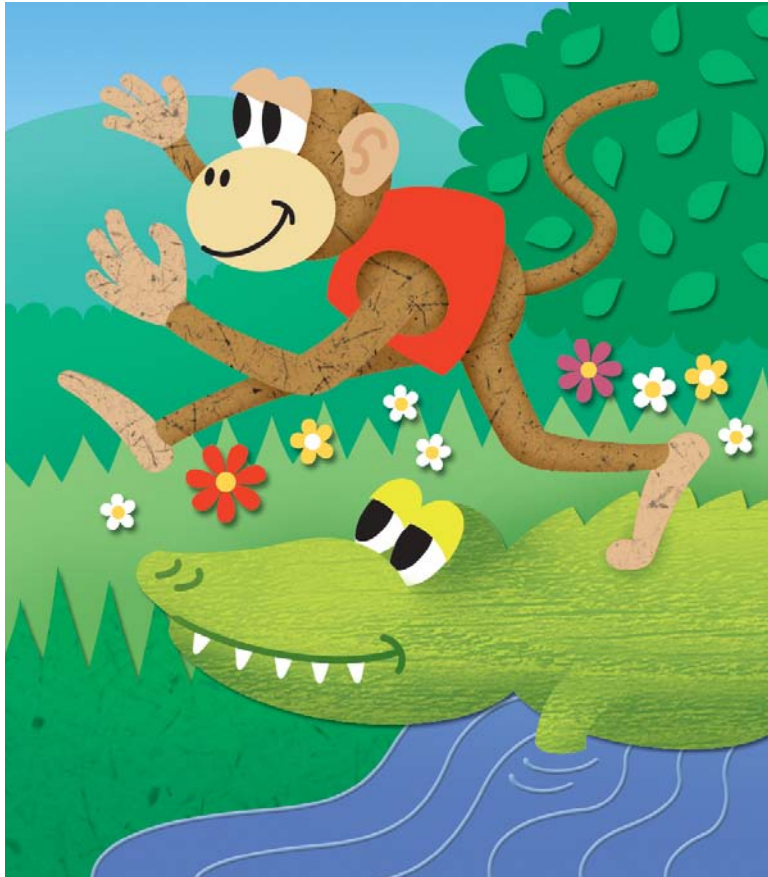


The monkey was scared to death. His heart boomed in his chest, but he kept his wits about him.

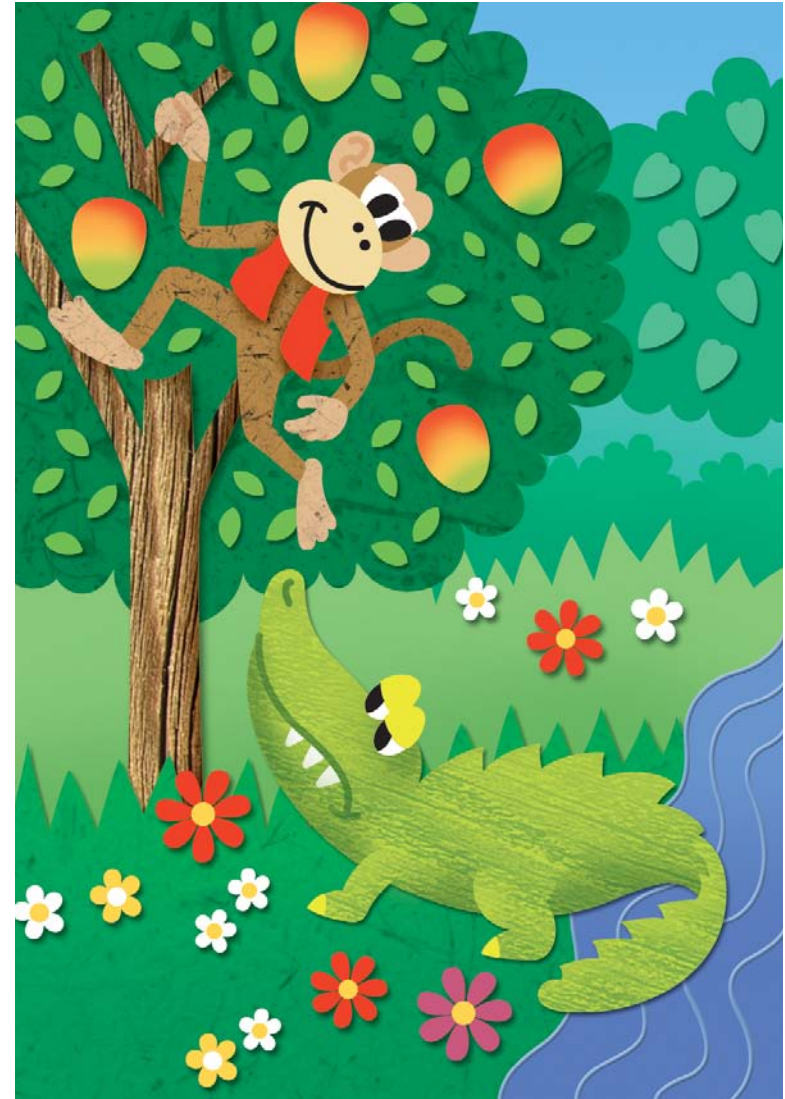


“In that case,” Monkey said, “let me **fetch** my heart. Of all my parts, it tastes the best, but I left it back in my tree.”

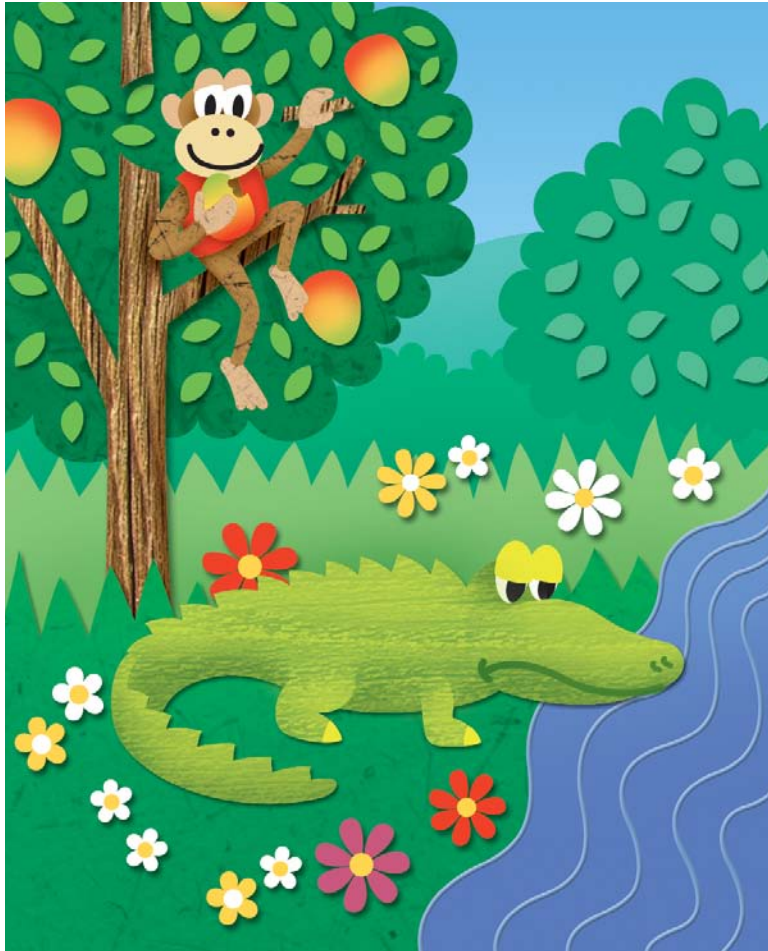
“Oh, yes,” Crocodile agreed, “please fetch your heart!”



Crocodile turned and swam back to Monkey's tree. As soon as they reached the riverbank, Monkey jumped off and climbed out of reach. He laughed down at Crocodile.



“Crocodile,” he called, “my big, scaly friend, I won’t be coming tonight for dinner.”



Crocodile was angry and ashamed.
He knew then that Monkey had
outsmarted him.
From that day forward, monkeys
have never **trusted** crocodiles.

Glossary

- escape** (v.) to break free from
or keep from being
captured (p. 10)
- fetch** (v.) to bring or get (p. 12)
- guest** (n.) a visitor who is
welcomed into a
home or other place
(p. 4)
- invited** (v.) politely asked
someone to go
somewhere (p. 6)
- outsmarted** (v.) defeated someone
through the use of
cleverness (p. 15)
- trusted** (v.) believed that
someone or
something was good,
fair, honest, or could
be counted on (p. 15)