

A Tricky Monkey

Kojo the monkey lived in the rain forest. There were lots of monkeys in Kojo's part of the forest. Kojo had many brothers and sisters. That was good, because Kojo had many monkeys to play with. But Kojo liked to get attention, too. That was hard to do with so many monkeys around.

One day Kojo decided to play a trick on the other monkeys. "Leopard!" Kojo cried. "A leopard is coming!" The monkeys scrambled. They climbed up to the highest tree branches. They shook with fear. Leopards like to eat monkeys.

Kojo laughed. "Ha! Just kidding," he said. Kojo's Aunt Ama scolded him. "Nobody likes a liar, Kojo." Kojo felt bad for a little while. But he soon got bored. A few days later, he did it again.

"Leopard!" Kojo cried. "A leopard is coming!" The monkeys scrambled again. Kojo laughed.

"Ha! Just kidding again," he said. Aunt Ama shook her head. "Be careful, Kojo. Nobody will believe anything you say if you keep this up." The monkeys were all pretty upset with Kojo.

They ignored him. Kojo sat in a tree branch, bored and lonely. Then he saw a shadow on the ground below. A hungry-looking leopard padded across the rain forest floor. "Leopard! A leopard is coming for

real this time!" Kojo yelled. None of the monkeys paid any attention. The leopard was headed right for them. Kojo knew what he had to do.

"Here, leopard! Over here!" he yelled. The leopard chased Kojo. Kojo climbed up to the highest branches. The other monkeys now saw the leopard and they climbed into the trees, too. The leopard could not climb as high as the monkeys. She gave up and walked away.

Kojo was relieved. The other monkeys were glad that Kojo had tried to save them. They forgave him for lying and played with him again. And Kojo became someone they could trust.

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The lottery

“It’s a secret. Don’t tell anyone!” Maya crossed her heart. “I swear. I won’t tell anyone.

What’s the secret?”

Tina looked around. She wanted to be sure that no one could hear her. Then she whispered into Maya’s ear: “My parents won the lottery. We’re rich!” Tina and Maya then talked about how different her life would be. “I guess I’ll travel around the world now. And get new sneakers. These are falling apart.” She looked down at her worn-out shoes. Then, she kicked them off. “I’m sure that now that we have money, my mother won’t complain if I just throw these away.”

It was getting late. They headed home for dinner. Tina waited for her parents to announce how much they had won. But dinner was the same old thing: rice and chicken wings. They didn’t talk about their riches. Tina figured they were waiting for just the right time to tell her.

Maya met her sister on the porch. “I’ve got something to tell you, but you have to promise not to tell anyone.” Then she said, “Tina’s rich.

Her parents won the lottery.”

Her sister didn’t understand about secrets. She burst through the door and yelled, “Tina’s family won the lottery!” She was loud enough

for all the neighbors to hear.

There had been talk around town for days about the lottery. Someone in their town had won. The winner had not come forward. So everyone was guessing about who it could be.

Tina's father was doing the dishes when the first neighbor arrived. Her mother opened the door. "Excuse me," Mrs. Hanly said. "But we are having some trouble with the rent. Could you lend me \$100 please?" There was soon another knock at the door. Then another. "My car is broken down. Could you maybe help me get it fixed?" asked one. "We need just \$50," said another. "Just enough for a bus ticket." Soon the house was full of people. All of them needed something.

"We would love to help," Tina's parents said. "But what makes you think we are so rich to help everyone?" One by one, they mentioned the lottery.

"I did win a lottery," Tina's mother said. "At my work. It was a drawing to see who would get next Saturday off. And I won."