

READER 1: There once was a crocodile who lived in a deep dark swamp.

READER 2: There once was a monkey who lived high in a mango tree.

NARRATOR: The crocodile was a silly young fellow who spent most of his time trying to catch the monkey. And, as you can imagine, the monkey spent most of her time trying to outsmart the crocodile.

Early one morning, the crocodile swam close to shore, looked up, and saw that very monkey swinging through the branches of a mango tree. The crocodile had eaten his breakfast and was just starting to think about lunch. So he paddled to where his father was napping and said,

3/CROCODILE: "You see that monkey swinging through the mango branches, dad?"

1/FATHER: "Umm humm! I see her. She's a scrawny little thing."

3/CROCODILE: "Well, scrawny or not, I am going to trap that monkey and eat her for lunch!"

NARRATOR: But father rolled his eyes and slowly shook his head.

1/FATHER: "Mighty tough job, son. You've tried to catch that monkey many times. She always gets away. She's a very clever monkey. Why not munch on some catfish, instead?"

3/CROCODILE: "Not today, dad. I am going to trap that monkey. I just need a little time to think of a way."

NARRATOR: So the crocodile found a quiet spot. He thought and thought and thought. As he thought, the crocodile chanted a little poem to himself. It went just like this:

ALL: I'm a clever young croc
With this to say,
I will set a trap
Today!

Catch that monkey
Then here's my hunch,
I will munch on a
Monkey lunch!

NARRATOR: Meanwhile, the monkey swung through the branches overhead and thought about the island in the middle of the deep dark swamp. She said to herself,

4/MONKEY: "I've always wanted to visit that island in the middle of the swamp. Everyone says the mango fruits there are the sweetest and juiciest in all the world! But how can I get there? Monkeys can't swim, and I can't trust the crocodile to float me over - that's for sure!"

NARRATOR: So the monkey swung off through the trees to find her grandmother.