

VOCABULARY LIST

mango	n.	fruit of a tropical tree
boating	n.	the sport of one who boats
permission	n.	the act of allowing or giving approval
furious	adj.	extremely angry; raging
fussy	adj.	too much concerned with trifles; finicky

FOCUS AND FOLDERS

Ask your readers to speak directly to the audience, not to each other. This is called "storyteller focus." Readers will focus upon the audience just as a storyteller focuses upon the listeners. (It is sometimes helpful for readers to focus eyes slightly above heads of audience members.)

Place cast scripts in colorful folders. (Ring binders allow for smooth and easy page turning.) Place folders in front of or on chairs and on music stand before reading begins. Readers should hold folders at chest level and away from their bodies so that listeners can see facial expressions and hear clearly.

MOVEMENT AND ACTION

This Teacher Script version of "The Monkey and the Crocodile, Part One" includes movement and action directions which may be used if preparing readers for a more formal, elaborate performance of the story. These directions appear only in the Teacher Script. Disregard directions, if you have chosen a more simplified readers approach.

COLOR-ME POSTER, PERFORMANCE PROGRAM COVER, THEATRE TICKET

Included in this package are black and white drawings which are meant to be colored by your students.

Duplicate the Color-Me Poster and ask each student to color it in any way he or she might like. The posters may also be used as publicity posters which can be posted around your school or library to publicize a reading performance of the story.

The program cover is also designed to help you when planning a reading performance for an audience. Simply duplicate the program cover, copying as many as your audience will need. Fold duplicated sheets into program shape, and ask students to fill insides with the important details (cast list and reader names, synopsis of the story, director, etc.). Students may also color the front of each program. As audience members enter the room before the performance, ask student ushers to hand each a program.

If time allows, also duplicate the special theatre tickets and ask your students to color them. Cut out each ticket and make the tickets available to audience members a few days before the performance. Again, ask student ushers to collect the tickets as audience enters.

ENTRANCES

(READER 3 enters and, miming a crocodile, "swims" to stool 3. READER 3 swims around stool twice, looks menacingly at assembled listeners. Then READER 3 picks up reading folder and sits. READER 3 covers face with folder and freezes.

READER 4 "hops" in pretending to be a monkey. READER 4 jumps upon chair 2, makes monkey sounds, and looks around. READER 4 spots stool 4 and says, "Now there's a nice mango tree!" READER 4 jumps down from chair 2, picks up folder, and perches upon stool 4. READER 4 covers face with folder and freezes.

READERS 1 and 2 enter, miming father crocodile and mother monkey. They pick up their folders, sit, cover faces, and also freeze.

NARRATOR enters and stands in front of large chair. NARRATOR looks at assembled listeners and says, "If there were a contest between a monkey and a crocodile, how many think the crocodile would win? (Show of hands.) How many think the monkey would win? (Show of hands.) Well, let's find out who wins in this story."

NARRATOR opens folder and announces, "The Monkey and the Crocodile, Part One." All other readers lower their folders on this cue and the reading begins.

Page 1/ Teacher Script/ THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE, PART ONE

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

(READER 3 STANDS, LOOKS AT AUDIENCE, AND BOWS.
READER 3 SITS).

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

(READER 4 JUMPS OFF STOOL, WAVES TO AUDIENCE, PATS
THE STOOL SEAT AND SAYS, "I told you this was a nice mango
tree!" READER 4 SITS).

NARRATOR: The mango tree grew close to the water of the deep dark swamp.
Which is why, one day, the crocodile looked up to see that very
monkey sitting upon a leafy branch. She was sitting there eating
a juicy piece of mango fruit.

Now, the crocodile was hungry. He thought the monkey looked
even juicier than the mango fruit. So he swam to where his father
was sunning himself and said,

(READER 3 STANDS, SWIMS IN FRONT OF CHAIR 1, AND
STOPS BEHIND AND TO THE SIDE OF THE CHAIR. READER
3 READS LINES DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE).

3/CROCODILE: "You see that monkey sitting in the mango tree, Dad?"

(READER 1 REMAINS SEATED AND READS LINES DIRECTLY
TO THE AUDIENCE).

Page 2/ Teacher Script/ THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE, PART ONE

1/FATHER: "Yep!"

3/CROCODILE: "Well, I am going to catch that monkey and I am going to eat that monkey!"

NARRATOR: But father wasn't sure about that.

1/FATHER: "Mighty tough job, son. Crocodiles can't climb trees."

3/CROCODILE: "I know, I know. But I am clever and will think of a way."

(READER 3 SWIMS BACK TO STOOL AND STANDS IN FRONT OF IT AS NARRATOR READS).

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

(ALL READERS EXCEPT MONKEY RECITE THE POEM TOGETHER).

ALL: Watch! Watch!
I'll be the winner.
Catch that monkey
And eat her for dinner.

Page 3/ Teacher Script/ THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE, PART ONE

Can't! Can't!
Can't get away.
I will eat that
Monkey today!

(AT THE END OF POEM, READER 3 SITS).

NARRATOR:

Finally, the crocodile thought of the perfect plan. He swam to the edge of the deep dark swamp, looked up, and called to the monkey,

(READER 3 LOOKS UP, SHADES EYES WITH HAND, AND PRETENDS TO SEE THE MONKEY).

3/CROCODILE:

"Hey there, monkey, wouldn't you like to visit the island in the middle of the swamp? There the mango fruits are the sweetest and juiciest in all the world!"

NARRATOR:

And the monkey called down,

(READER 4 LOOKS DOWN, SHADES EYES WITH HAND, AND PRETENDS TO SEE THE CROCODILE).

4/MONKEY:

"Sure, I'd love to visit the island in the middle of the swamp. But think about it, crocodile! I can't get there because monkeys can't swim."

3/CROCODILE: "I have thought about it, and here's my plan. Listen. I will be your boat. Just jump on my back and I will float you to the island."

NARRATOR: Well, the monkey thought this was a wonderful idea, but she also thought she'd better ask her mother's permission first. So she swung off through the trees and found her mother chattering away with one of the neighbor monkeys.

(READER 4 JUMPS OFF STOOL, HOPS IN FRONT OF CHAIR 2, AND STOPS BEHIND AND TO THE SIDE OF THE CHAIR. READER 4 READS LINES DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE).

4/MONKEY: "Mother, mother! I have a new friend. He wants me to go boating with him. Please, mother, may I go?"

(READER 2 REMAINS SEATED AND READS LINES DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE).

2/MOTHER: "Just who is this new friend, dear?"

4/MONKEY: "He's a very nice crocodile!"

NARRATOR: Mother was not happy with this bit of information.

2/MOTHER: "Absolutely not! Not another word about it. Crocodiles cannot be trusted. Crocodiles eat monkeys! Just stay away from that fellow."

(READER 4 HOPS BACK TO STOOL AND STANDS IN FRONT OF IT).

NARRATOR:

But the little monkey was not convinced. She had a mind of her own and did not always do as she was told. She swung back through the trees and chanted a little poem to herself. It went like this:

(ALL READERS EXCEPT CROCODILE RECITE THE POEM TOGETHER).

ALL:

Watch! Watch!
I'm not a dummy.
Just too smart
To end in a tummy!

Can't! Can't!
Can't stay away.
I will have some
fun today!

(AT END OF POEM, READER 4 SITS).

NARRATOR:

When the monkey reached the edge of the swamp, she jumped upon the crocodile's back and shouted,

(READER 4 RAISES A FINGER INTO THE AIR AND POINTS AHEAD).

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4/MONKEY: "Full speed ahead!"

NARRATOR: The crocodile swam as fast as he could. He swam far away from shore. But, about half-way between the shore and the island, the crocodile did something unexpected. He suddenly dove straight down beneath the water of the deep dark swamp.

When he came back up, the monkey was holding on for dear life. She shook water from her ears and spat water from her mouth.

(READER 4 MIMES SHAKING WATER FROM EARS AND SPITTING WATER FROM MOUTH).

4/MONKEY: "Ohhhhhh! What did you do that for, you silly crocodile? You know I can't swim!"

3/CROCODILE: "Yes, I know that, but what you don't know is -I am going to drown you and then I am going to eat you!"

NARRATOR: The crocodile was so pleased at his cleverness that he loudly chanted his little poem:

(READER 3 STANDS AS ALL EXCEPT MONKEY RECITE THE POEM).