

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.