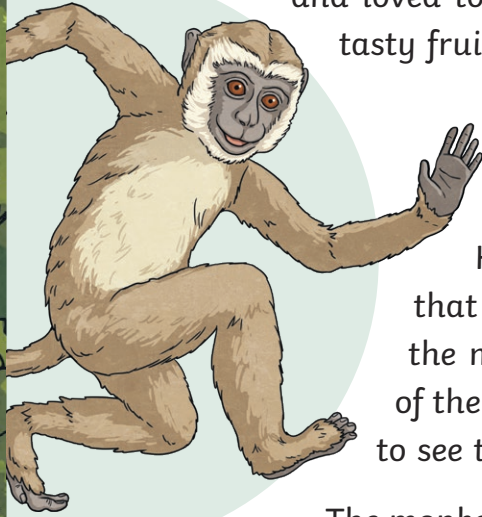


Monkey and the Crocodile

A Panchatantra Fable

There was a fruit tree by the edge of the river. It was filled with delicious, juicy pieces of fruit all through the year. A monkey lived near the tree and loved to climb and play in the fruit tree while enjoying the tasty fruits.



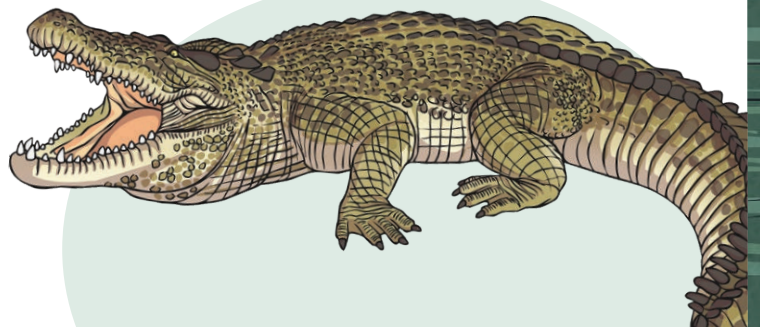
One day, a crocodile came down the river and stopped under the fruit tree. The Monkey saw the crocodile under his tree and thought he looked tired. He offered the crocodile some of the delicious fruits that were on the tree. The crocodile took the fruits from the monkey gladly. Crocodile loved the sweet, juicy flesh of the fruit and started returning to the fruit tree every day to see the monkey and eat more of the delicious fruits.

The monkey enjoyed seeing the crocodile and picked lots of fruit for him to enjoy and to take home to his wife. The crocodile took the fruits home to his wife and told her about his new friend monkey who lived near the fruit tree. The crocodile's wife enjoyed the fruit that she was given. She started to think that if the monkey ate the fruit from the tree every day, then he would be even tastier than the fruit on its own. She told her husband that he needed to bring the monkey's heart to her to eat.

The crocodile was upset. He didn't want to hurt his new friend but his wife insisted that he needed to bring her the monkey's heart if he really loved her. The crocodile felt he was left with no choice but to do as his wife had demanded. He created a plan and went to the delicious fruit tree to catch his friend.

He called to his friend, "Monkey, my wife loves the fruits you have been sending to her. She would love to meet you and share fruit together. Please come to our home for dinner." The monkey was overjoyed. He had never been invited to a crocodile's home for dinner before.

The crocodile offered to transport him to his home on his back. The monkey could not swim and so this was a perfect way for him to be transported to the crocodile's home for dinner.



So monkey climbed up on crocodile's back and they began the trip to the crocodile's home. They entered deeper and deeper water and monkey became scared. He asked his friend to go slowly and to go to the shallower water. Crocodile started to feel guilty about his plan to kill monkey and told him of his plan to kill him for his wife.

Monkey was shocked. He couldn't believe that his new friend had lied to him. He knew that he could not panic as he still needed crocodile to take him safely to the shore. He quickly devised his own plan. "Oh dear friend crocodile, why did you not tell me? I would happily give your wife my heart but I didn't bring it with me. I keep it hidden high up in the fruit tree. If you take me back to the tree, I will gladly get it for you to give to your wife."

The crocodile was overjoyed to hear that he didn't need to kill his friend and turned around at once. As soon as they neared the bank of the river, monkey jumped from the crocodile and climbed high up in the fruit tree where he knew the crocodile could not get him. He called down to the crocodile, "You silly crocodile. How can I take my heart and put it in a tree? I have tricked you to save myself. This is a lesson to you that you should not deceive others to harm them. Go away and never come back to this part of the river or this fruit tree."

The crocodile felt upset that he had been tricked but he knew that he had done the wrong thing by his friend. He went away and never came back to that side of the river again.



The moral of this story is that quick thinking can save you from a sticky situation.