

LEVELED BOOK • J

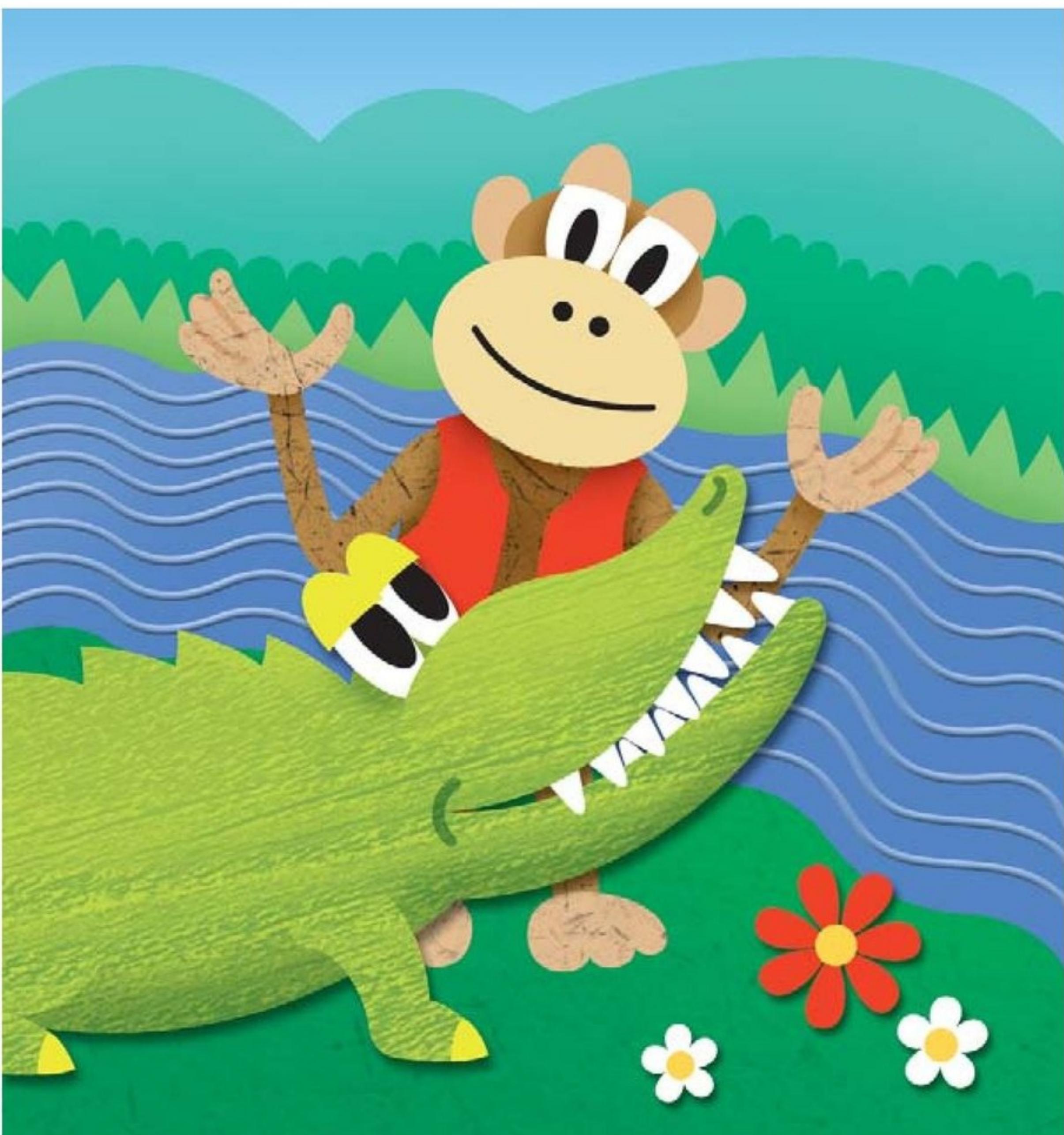


Monkey and Crocodile

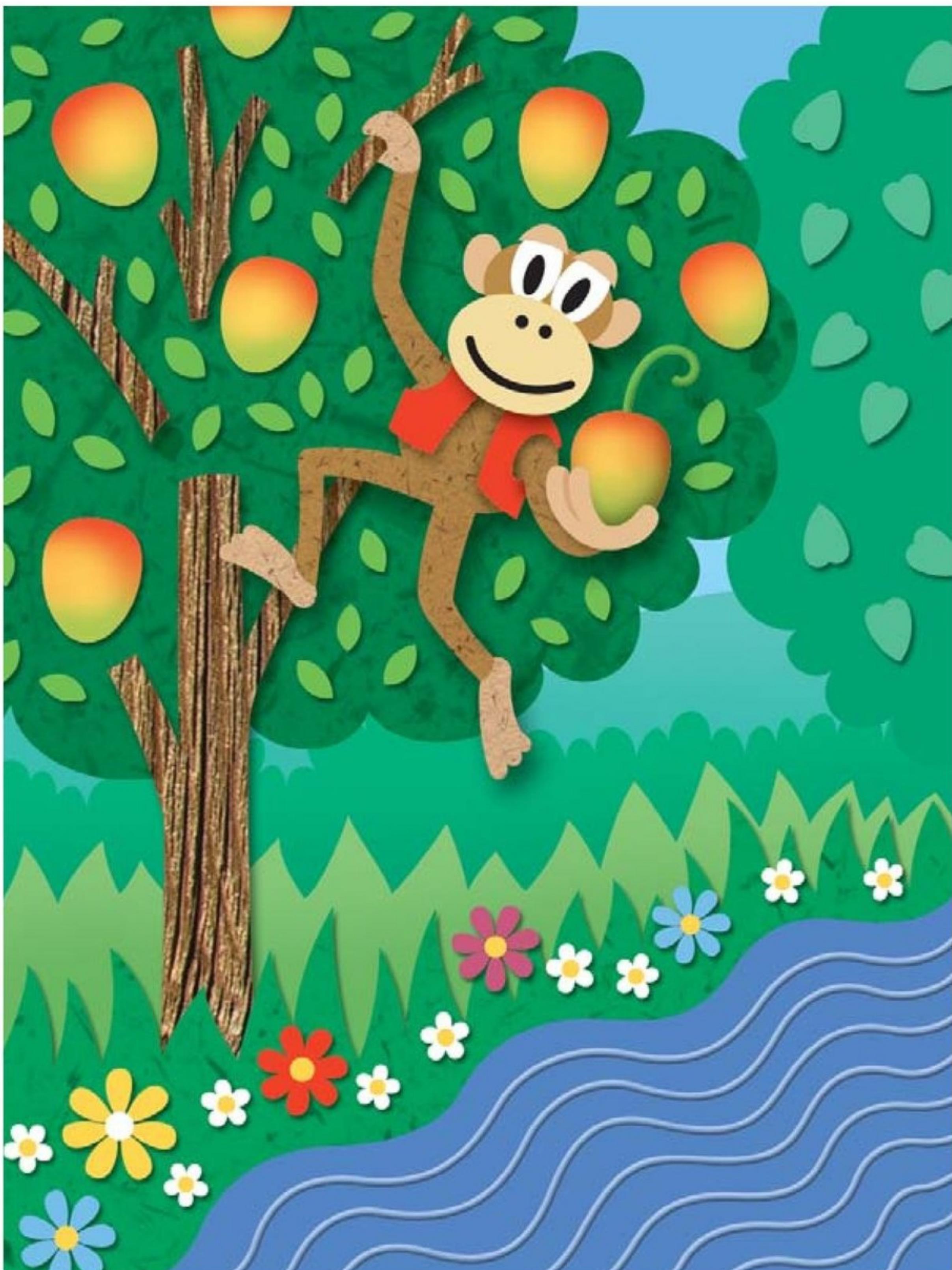


Retold by Karen Mockler • Illustrated by Mark Bowers

Monkey and Crocodile



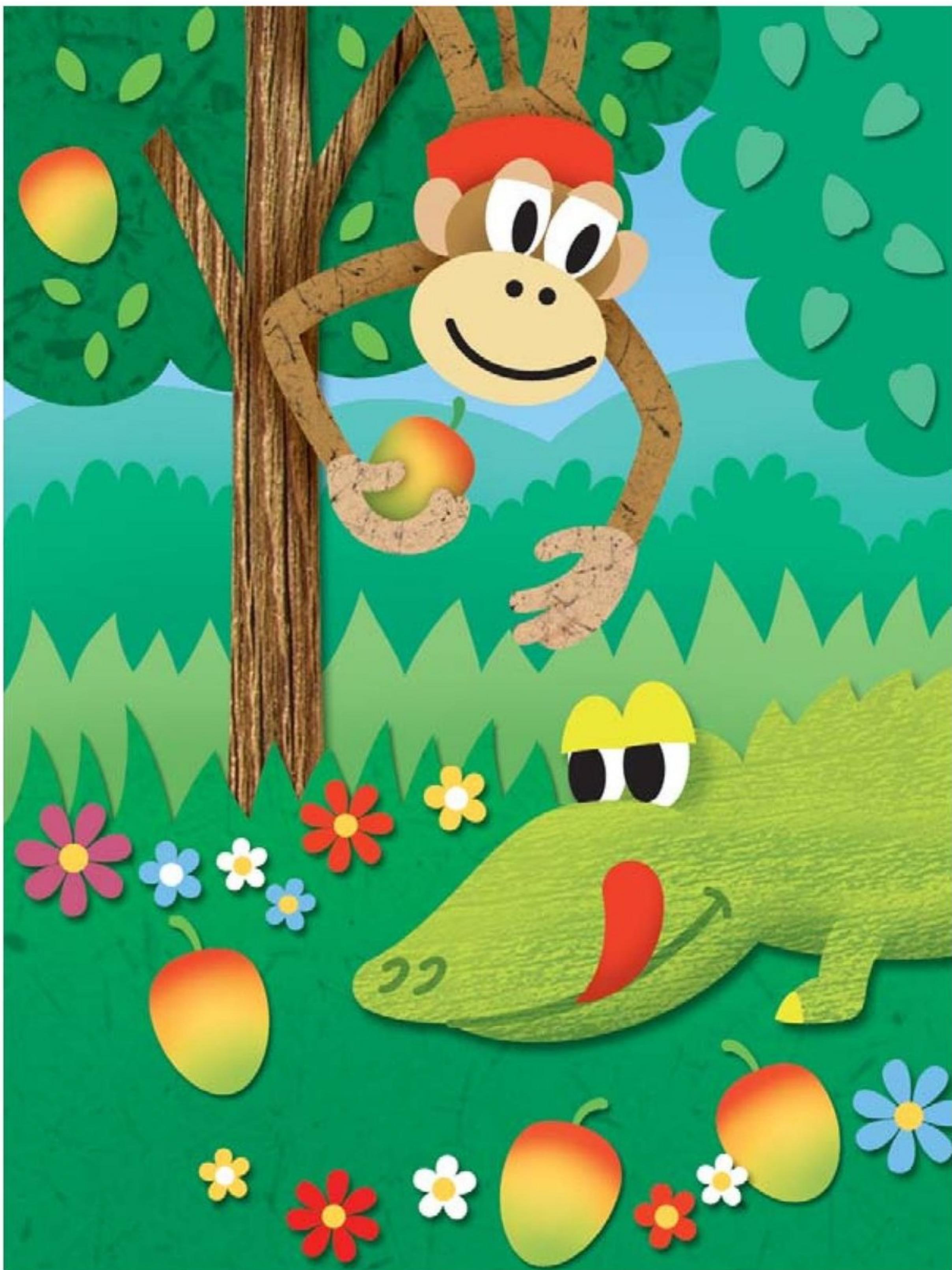
A Folktale from India
Retold by Karen Mockler
Illustrated by Mark Bowers



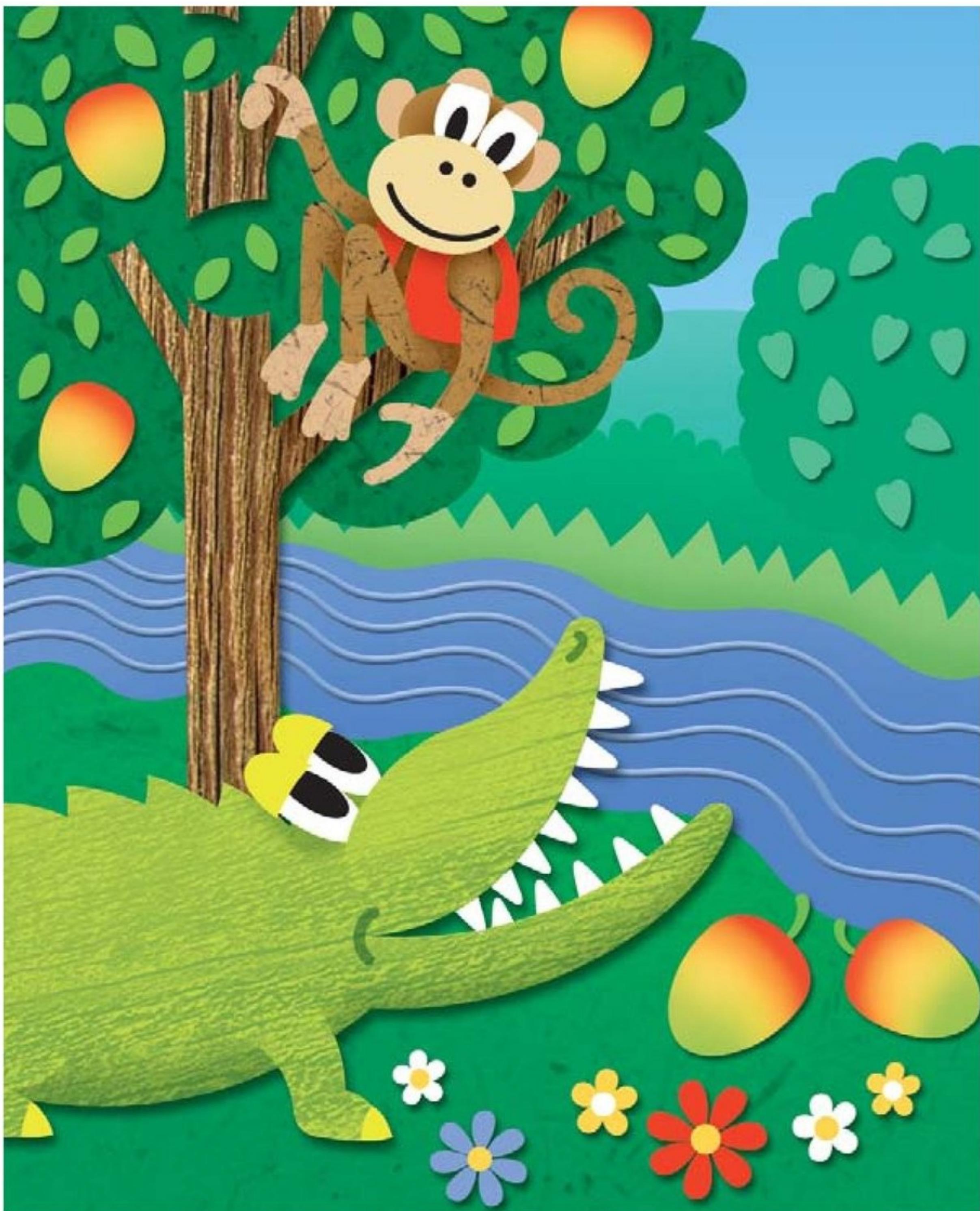
Monkey lived in a fine fruit tree
by the side of a river. He spent his
days eating the fruit of the tree
and swinging in its branches.



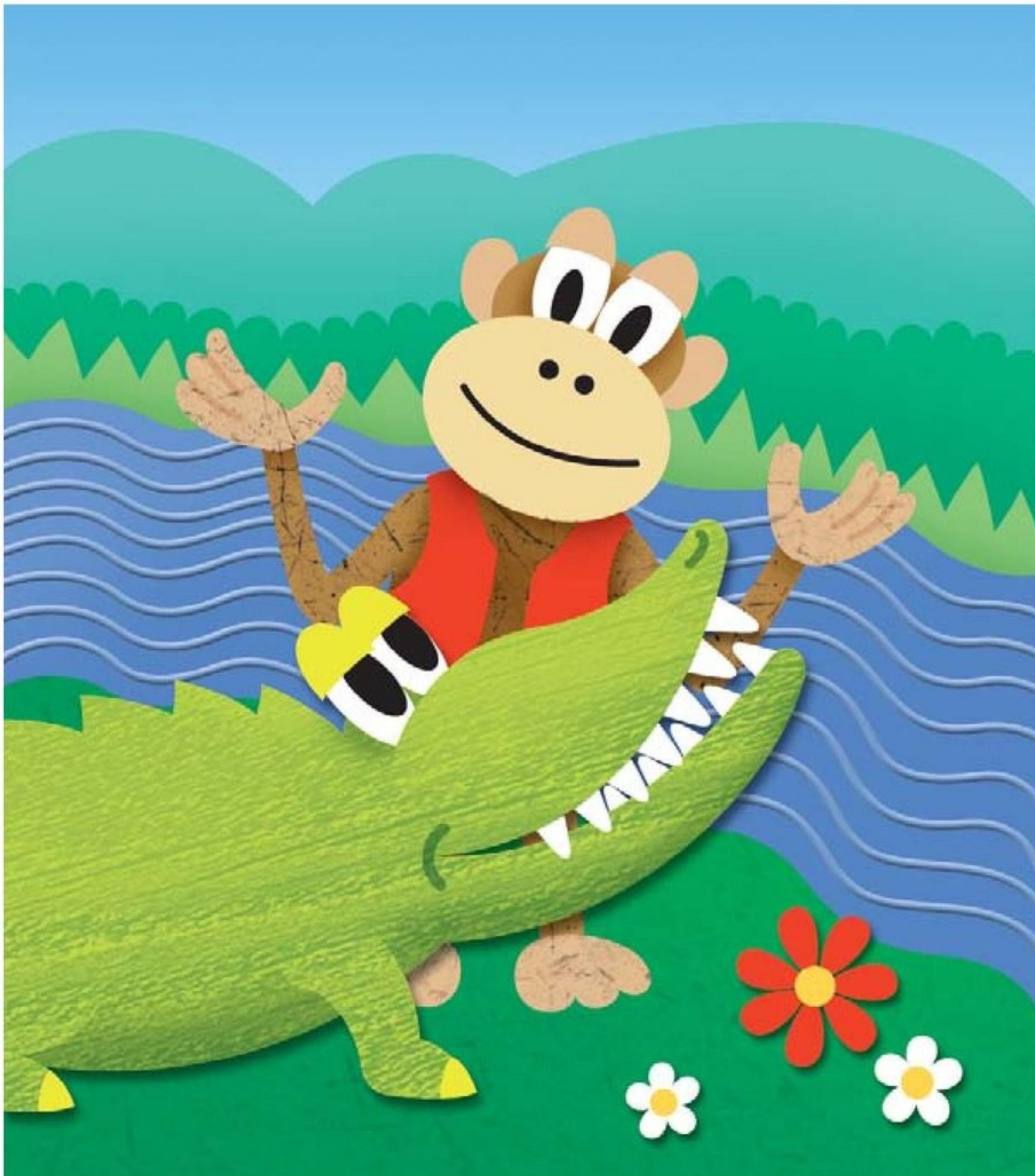
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One day, Crocodile took rest
under the tree. Monkey greeted
Crocodile, saying, “As you are
under my tree, that makes you my
guest. Allow me to offer you food.”



Monkey tossed down fruit after sweet fruit to Crocodile. Crocodile visited Monkey's tree each day after that.

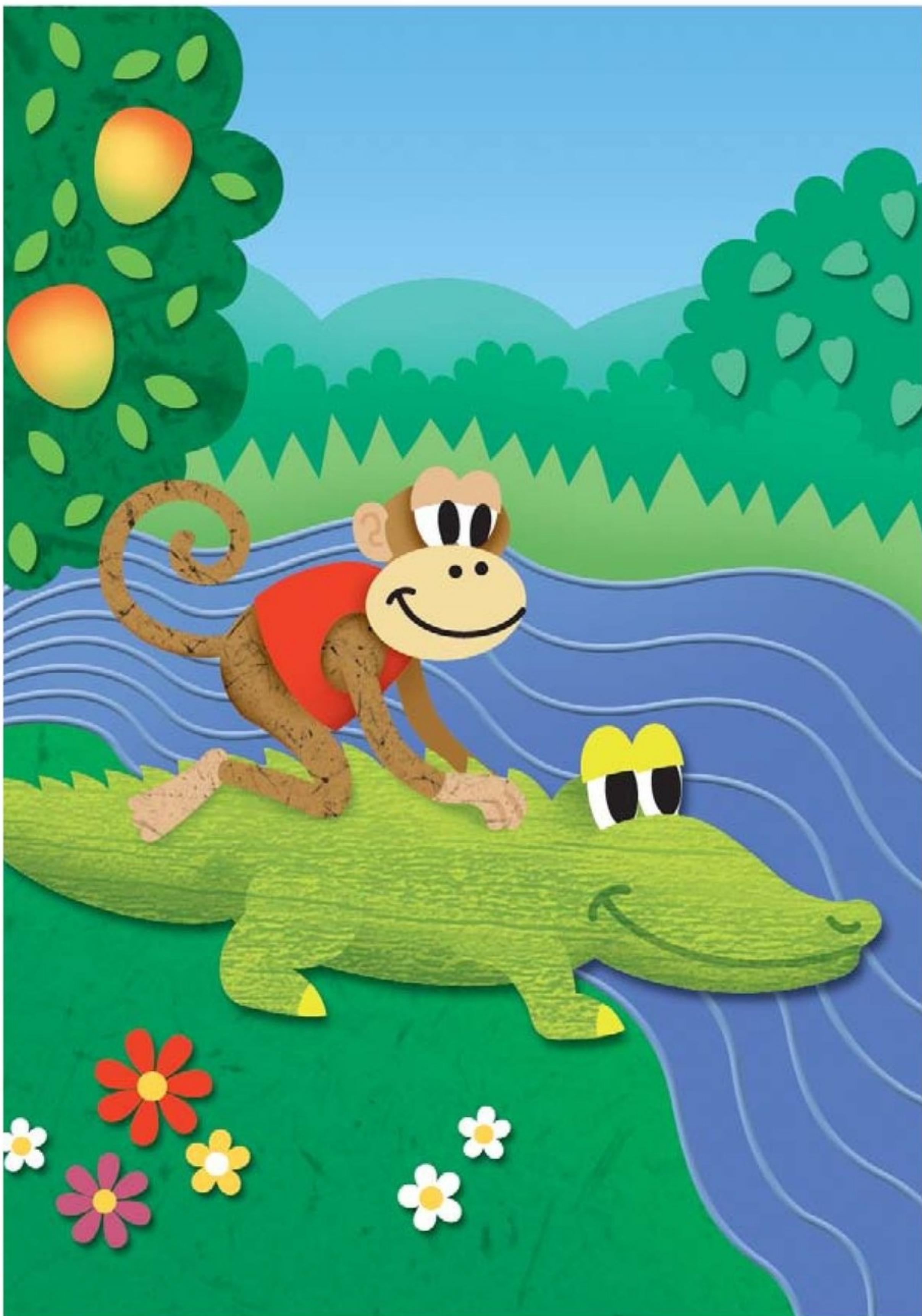


One day, Crocodile asked Monkey to cross the river with him for dinner. He called up to Monkey, “Please join me. I should have invited you sooner.”



“I’d love to come,” Monkey said, “but I can’t swim. How shall I cross the river?”

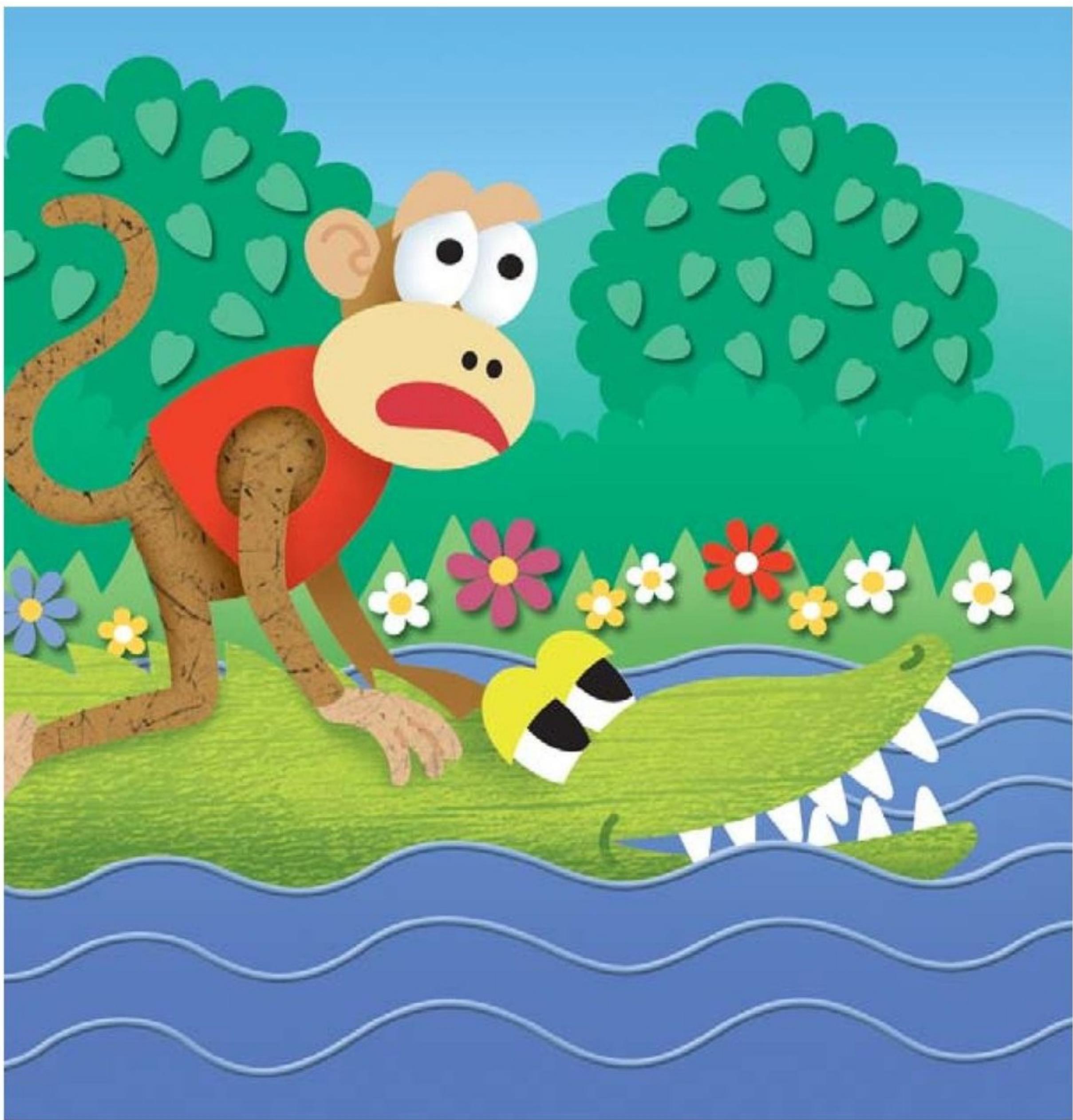
“Please take a ride on my back,” Crocodile said. “It would be my pleasure.”



“The pleasure is all mine,” said Monkey. He left his safe tree and climbed onto Crocodile’s back.



They set out across the river.
“What, may I ask, is for dinner?”
Monkey asked.

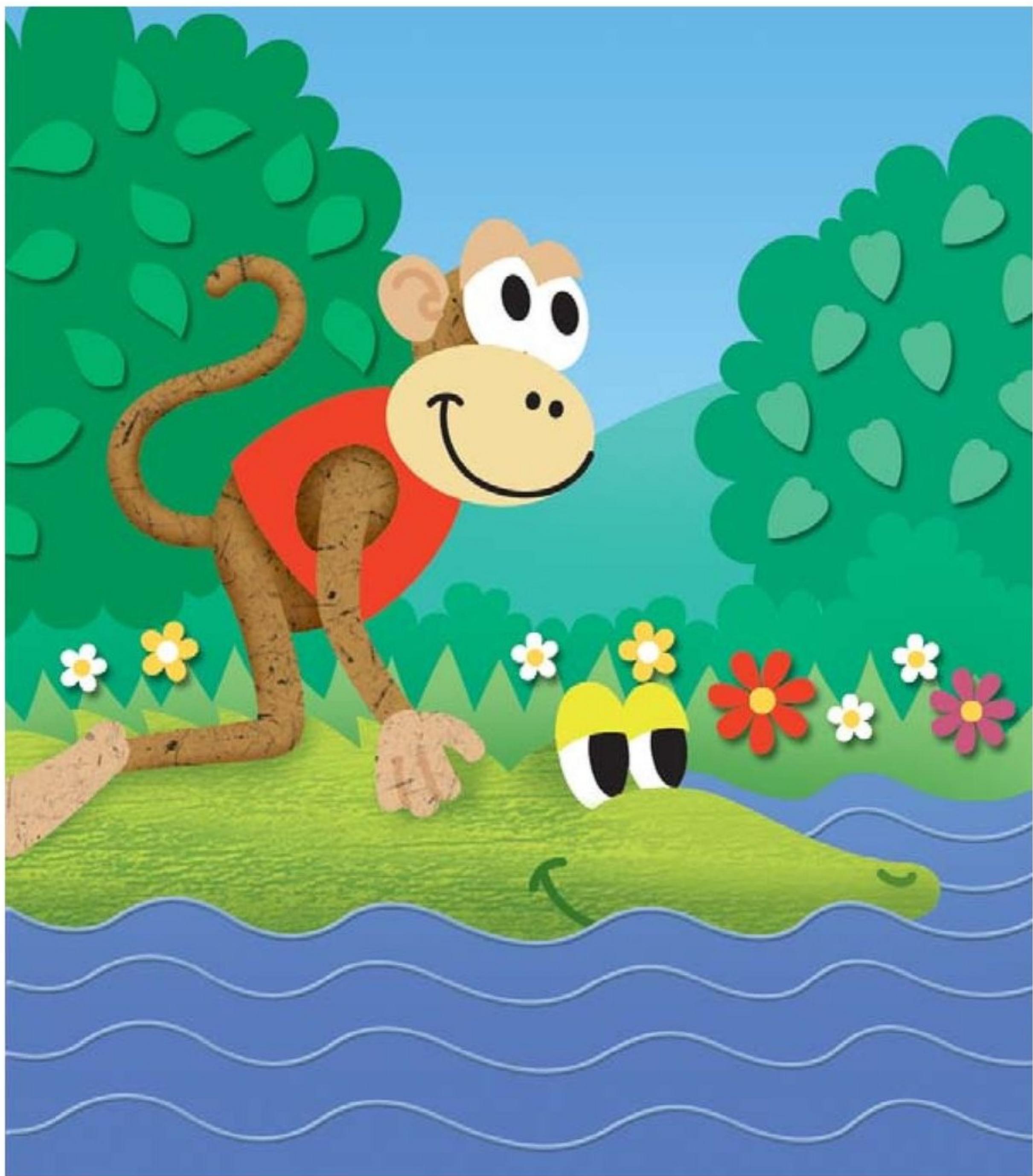


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By this time, the two were halfway across the river. Since it was now impossible for Monkey to **escape**, Crocodile told him the truth.

“You are for dinner, my furry little friend. I am taking you home to eat you.”

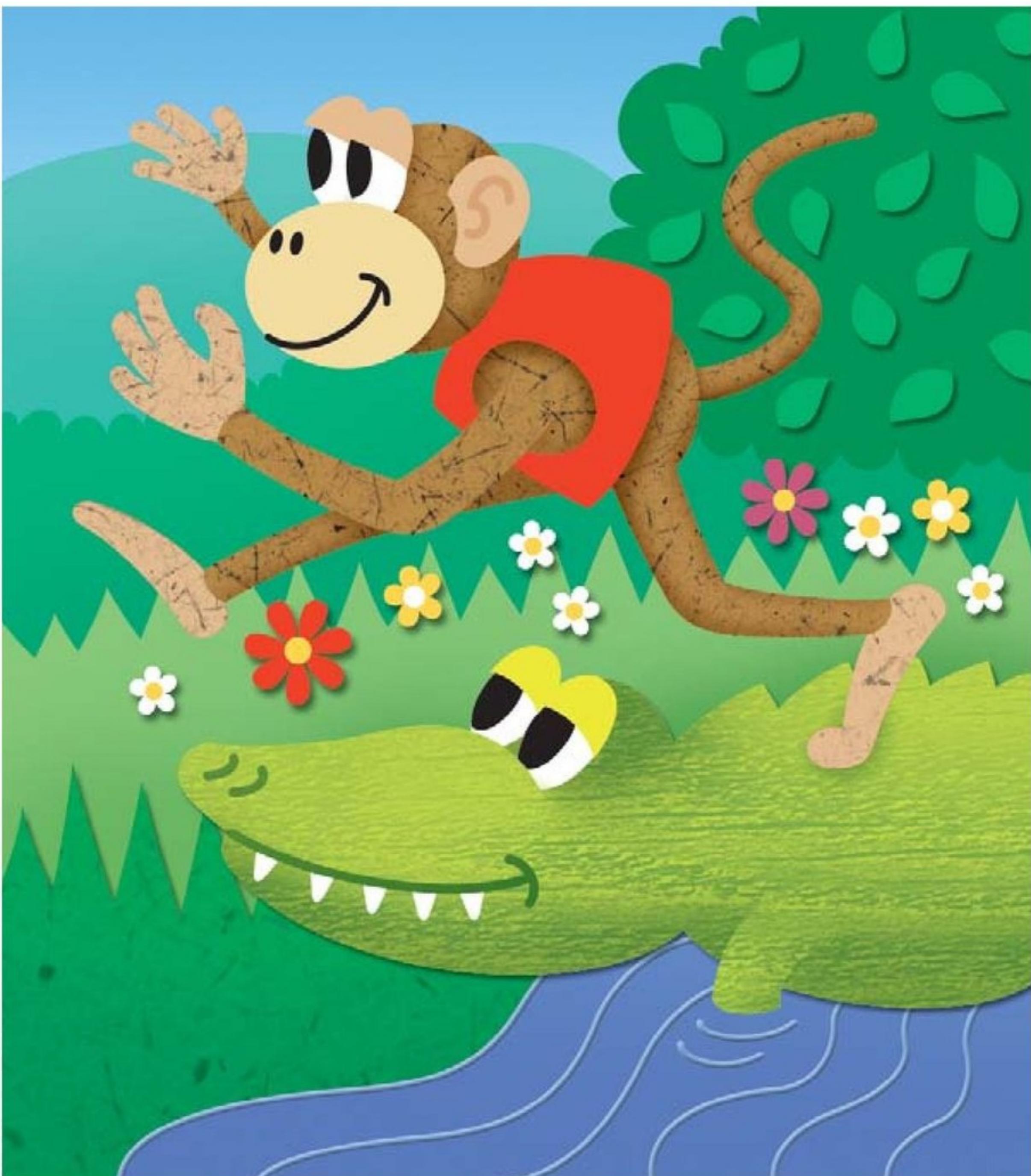


The monkey was scared to death.
His heart boomed in his chest, but
he kept his wits about him.

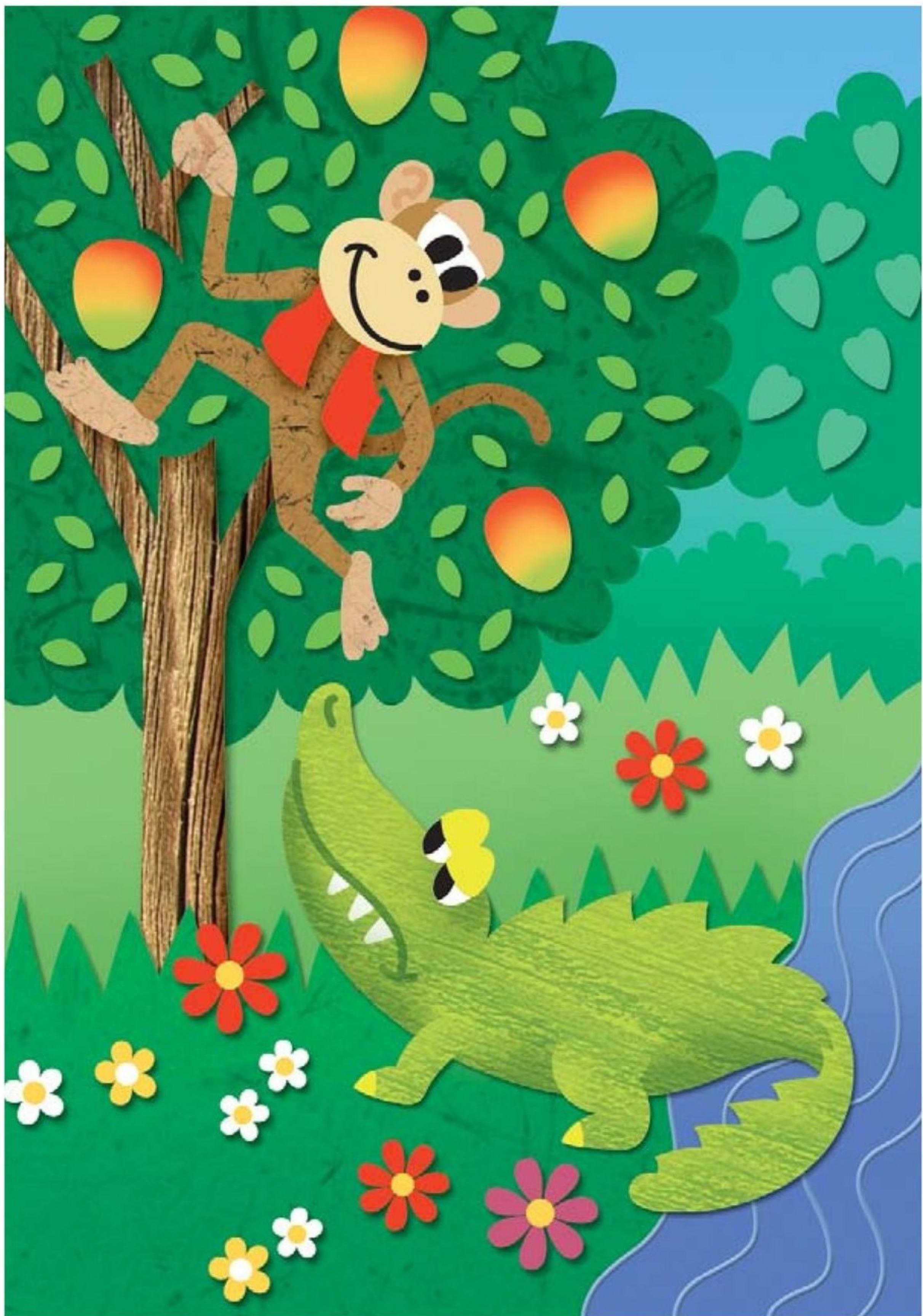


“In that case,” Monkey said, “let me **fetch** my heart. Of all my parts, it tastes the best, but I left it back in my tree.”

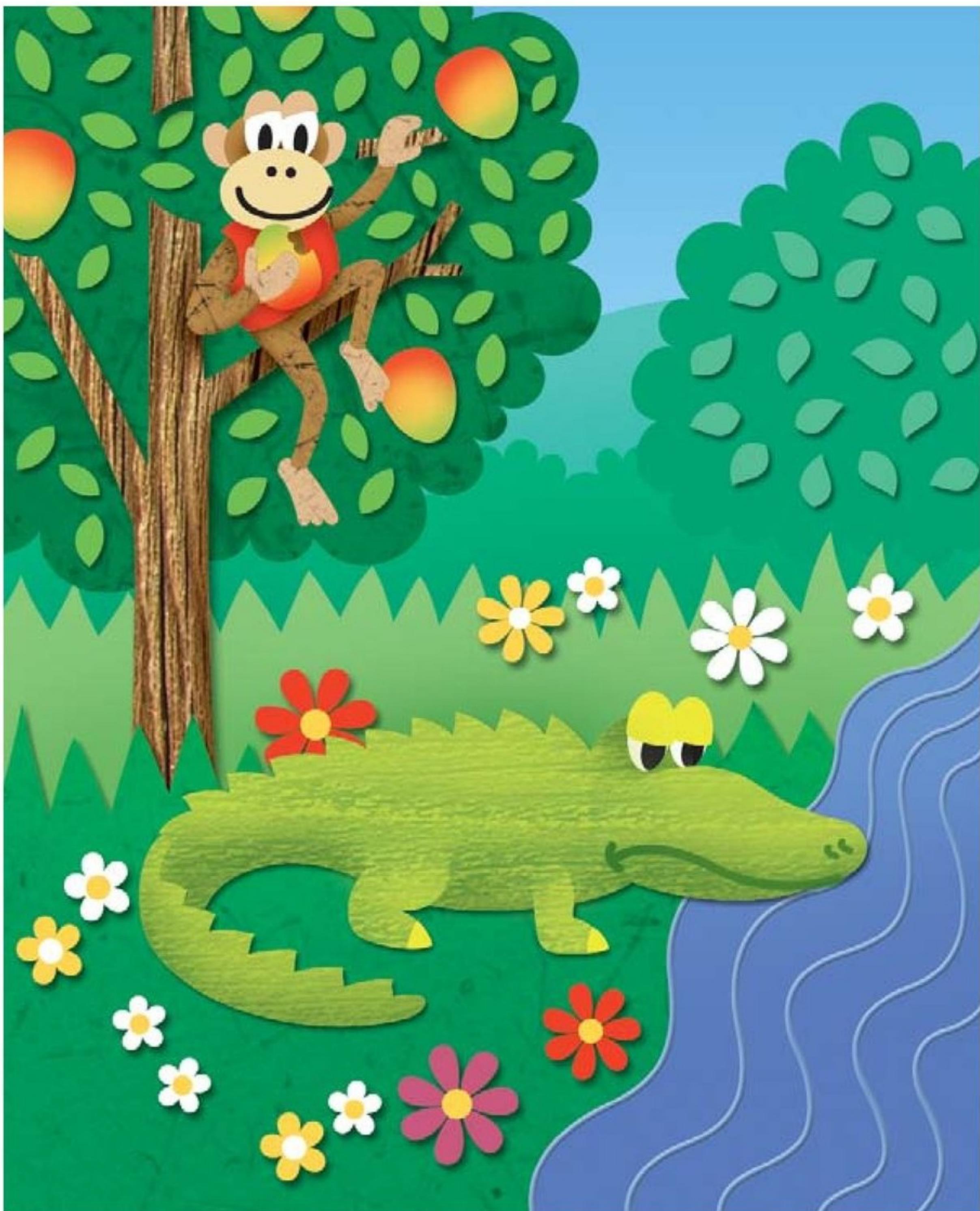
“Oh, yes,” Crocodile agreed, “please fetch your heart!”



Crocodile turned and swam back to Monkey's tree. As soon as they reached the riverbank, Monkey jumped off and climbed out of reach. He laughed down at Crocodile.



“Crocodile,” he called, “my big, scaly friend, I won’t be coming tonight for dinner.”



Crocodile was angry and ashamed.
He knew then that Monkey had
outsmarted him.

From that day forward, monkeys
have never **trusted** crocodiles.

Glossary

escape (v.)	to break free from or keep from being captured (p. 10)
fetch (v.)	to bring or get (p. 12)
guest (n.)	a visitor who is welcomed into a home or other place (p. 4)
invited (v.)	politely asked someone to go somewhere (p. 6)
outsmarted (v.)	defeated someone through the use of cleverness (p. 15)
trusted (v.)	believed that someone or something was good, fair, honest, or could be counted on (p. 15)

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