**03/04/2019**

***Naughty Monkey and the Candy***

Once upon a time, Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack were in the alleyway behind Naughty Monkey’s house trying to decide what they would do on a warm and sunny summer afternoon.

I want to go to the pond and go swimming, said NJ.

No, I don’t want to go swimming, said NM.

Why not? Asked NJ.

Well, the real reason was that NM didn’t know how to swim. He had never learned how to swim, but he was too embarrassed to tell NJ. So instead he suggested that they go to the candy store, because NM had $1 that his grandmother had given him. NJ said, okay, lets go to the candy store and then afterwards we can go to the pond and go swimming.

NM and NJ headed to the candy store and all the while NM was trying to think up an excuse not to go swimming after they went to the candy store.

At the candy store, NM wanted to take his time. But NJ wanted to hurry. He said, come on NM, let’s just pick out a few of our favorite candies and then we can take them to the pond and eat them on the little beach there. Or we can even just save the candy for after we go swimming for a little while. The day had become very hot and NJ was eager to swim in the cool pond.

NM wanted the opposite of NJ. He did not want to hurry. All he wanted to do was to waste time, so that there wouldn’t be any time at all to go swimming and so NJ wouldn’t find out that he really did not know how to swim.

NM picked up a piece of candy that he had never tried before and said NJ I want to try some new candies that I have never tried before. And then NJ said, well, how will you know if you like them or not. What if you don’t like the flavor? That would be just a waste of money. And NM nodded his head, because he remembered the time when the two of them only had one nickle (which is 5 cents) and they spent their whole nickle on some violet candy that tasted just like the perfume that NM’s mother wore. It was not a good flavor and they had wasted their money on the candies and didn’t have any more money to buy other candies.

With all of this is mind NM opened the candy’s foil wrapper and tried the candy even before he paid for it. NJ was amazed. He said, NM you can’t do that! You have to pay for the candy before you try it. NM just shrugged his shoulders and said, I’m only going to try a couple. But then, to waste time so that he wouldn’t have to go swimming, he started to sample one of every piece of candy in the store. He would take off the packaging, take a little lick or a little nibble from the candy and if he liked it he would put it in his basket. But if he didn’t like it he would put the packaging back on the candy and put it back on the shelf.

After sampling one of every candy in the whole store, NM finally took his basket up to the counter and purchased all of the candies that he liked. By this time NJ was getting very impatient. NM we have to hurry or we won’t have time to swim in the pond.

After paying for the candies that he had chosen and walking outside the candy store with NJ, NM finally told NJ the truth. NJ I don’t want to go swimming with you in the pond, because… because.. because I don’t know how.

You don’t know how to swim!?! Said NJ who was pretty surprised, because NM could do so many other things.

NM was so embarrassed. He said, don’t laugh at me NJ. But NJ who was his good friend, and he said of course I won’t laugh at you. In fact, if you’d like, I can teach you how to swim.

And that’s just what he did. Right there on the sidewalk outside of the candy store. NJ taught NM everything he knew about swimming. NM was so excited because he had always wanted to learn how to swim.

Now that he knew how both of them raced across town as fast as they could to the pond. But when they reached the pond the life guards were closing the beach because a storm was coming.

Oh, no said NM, we can’t swim today after all. But then NJ with a very devious look on his face. Said to NM, don’t worry, I have a plan.

29MARCH2020

***Naughty Monkey and the Day Out***

Once upon a time Naught Monkey and Naught Jack were very bored. They had played all of their favorite games- cutting their decks of Uno cards up into little bits of paper, cutting the lining out of their coats, smashing all of the marbles, and they even biting their moms and dads right on the arms just to be feisty.

They were bored to death and needed a new plan. So they came up with an idea to sneak out one night. So they packed their beds with pillows and prepared a length of rope made from tying bedding together, they snuck right out their windows and into the night.

Their parents being curious that they hadn’t heard from their boys in a while decided to check in. Peering into the darkened bedroom they could clearer see their son in his bed.

Meanwhile, Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack were now long gone and into the night. They were both carrying a backpack with a toothbrush, toothpaste, clothes, and one of those little sled things that just woosh in the air.

All of a sudden they heard, “Kids- what are you doing?”

And they turned around it was a Police Officer, who seemed likely to want to take them right back home. So they jumped on to their sleds and they flew up and off into the air, just as the police officer was about the grab them. And how far did the Police officer miss them by? This close (she holds up her fingers close together).

So they flew off into the night gliding through the air near each other on their air sled things. As they flew they talked about where they wanted to go.

And they went whoosh, and they made suggestions and they said no… Exploritorium.. no… I want to go somewhere with wild animls? How about the mountains. Yes! I want to go to the mountains and so they whooshed off towards the mountains.

Off and off and off they flew, until they landed on the mountains. Boom, boom, boom. And their was a sign that said “DO NOT ENTER”. But they said, we don’t have to mind that sign and they just went whooshing through the rusty gates on their air sleds. And then they say something in the distance that had something written on it. It was a sign and it said, “BEWARE of MOUTAIN LIONS”. And then they noticed that all around them where signs that all said, “BEWARE of MOUTAIN LIONS”. Looming up over them was a mountain taller than a twenty-storied building. In fact, much taller. In fact, an inch taller than 1,600 monsters on top of a twenty-storied building. It was so tall. Even nearly touching the sun. It was an inch away from the sun. Way up at the top of the mountain they could just make out a teeny, tiny speck. They were both overcome with an extremely spell of curiosity to find out what that speck was. And so at once they began climbing the mountain. They walked and they walked and they walked and they walked. Until they were out of breath. And finally they were up on top of it. And they found themselves face to face with a whole family of mountain lions creeping downward, getting ready to spring on to them. And just then, they grabbed out their air sleds and they put them down right next to the mountain lions and zoomed up into the air as the mountain lions leapt right with them with snarling jowls and gleaming talons. The boys were lucky though, they had taken flight just a hair before the lions had leapt and they slips away by the same slim margin.

And then they got stopped. They heard snuffling noised around them. Then they turned around and the saw an arrow pointing one way with a sign that said “Bear Homes This Way”. They hadn’t noticed that the arrow was pointing that way. Then suddenly they got stop by a big furry bottom. And they touched it and it moved! And he had a face and his big bear ears twitched.

Just as the bear looked up. And they got away by the slimmest of seconds when the bear was distracted by a chance meeting with a friend in the forest

The bears had wings. And they went flying through the sky and their sled was going so fast and then in less than a second they went through the biggest cloud in the world. And then when they whooshed through the cloud they both saw a roof top that they recognized. Especially, Naughty Monkey, who said,

* Hey! That’s my house!

But they didn’t go home. But they did see Naughty Monkey’s mother pulling weeds in the garden. She did not see them fly over, but they could see her and Naughty Monkey knew she could tell that she was unset about something, she always pulled weeds when she was upset. She looked up and she saw a red speck with a little fury head sticking out of the top. And she thought- hey! That might be my son Naughty Monkey. And so she jumped into an airplane and she flew up into the air to try and find her son.

He held on to the rope on his flying sled and Naughty Monkey held on to his end. And they cried and they whimpered, panicking for their dear lives. And when they went flying over Naughty Monkey’s house they could hear Naughty Monkey’s mother crying and weeping and pulling up weeds and they could hear her crying, “I miss my son. I miss Naughty Jack.” And so she jumped into an airplane, because luckily her job was to fly an airplane and could take people on really great field trips, so she said, today we are going on a field trip to find my son, Naughty Monkey, and his good friend, Naughty Jack. They are always together. They are both missing. They are bound to be found in the same place. So lets go. Naughty Monkey’s mother and her team jumped into their airplane and soared off in the direction that Naughty Monkey’s mother had seen the red dot with they fury top flying.

They flew and flew and flew and then while flying over the desert they looked deep into the distance and they could just make out two air sleds soaring over the barren wasteland.

I’ll meet you at North Park Parking Lot. They had gotten separated, so the regrouped at North Park Parking lot.

There was a whole family of tarantulas creeping up the stick. And they thought they felt something ticklish on the stick and the tarantulas were creepy. And they looked down the tarantulas scurried around climbing all over the boys and the boys were discussed and wiggled and danced and jiggled and whipped their arms wildly around until all of the tarantulas scurried off in fight. The boys then jumped onto the sleds and whooshed off into to the night. Leaving the tarantulas all alone in silver starlight, just when another family of tarantulas, an even more poisonous one, came out looking for some boys to bite. And as they were flying they looked at each other’s arms and they realized they were covered with tiny tarantula fang marks. The spiders had bitten them all over.

***Naughty Monkey and the Card Trick***

Once upon a time Naughty Monkey learned a new card trick. He loved doing tricks and people seemed to really like his tricks. Some people even called his card tricks, magic tricks. Even though this wasn’t true and was kind of like tricking other people, Naughty Monkey liked to let people believe he was a little bit magical. Especially his best friend Naughty Jack.

One day after recently learning a new card trick, he went running over to Naughty Jack’s house to impress him with his new magic. Just as soon as Naughty Jack opened the door to his house, Naughty Monkey crashed into the room with his deck cards and excitedly asked if his friend wanted to see a magic trick!

Naughty Jack loved Naughty Monkey’s magic tricks, so of course he said, yes! Absolutely! He looked on with wide, excited eyes as naughty Monkey put down two decks of cards on to the fireplace mantel in Naughty Jack’s living room. He would’ve liked to put the cards on a coffee table, but Naughty Jack’s little sister Matilda, was toddling all over the living room grabbing and tossing anything she could get her hands on.

Once the cards were set on the mantel in two piles, he invited Naughty Jack to chose one of the piles. After thinking for a moment, Naughty Jack chose the pile on his right. He tapped it with his finger and said, “I choose this one, on the right!” Then Naughty Monkey picked up the cards and fanned the deck out with fronts of the cards facing down and the backs of the cards facingup towards Naughty Jack. The picture on all of the cards were three Siamese Kittens surrounded by pale blue bell flowers and a darker blue boarder accented by a thin inner border of shiny gold which contoured the circumference of the round edged card.

Then Naughty Monkey said pick one. Naughty Jack picked a card from the middle of the fan and asked, “Can I look at it.” “Yes!” replied Naughty Monkey. “But don’t show it to me and don’t tell me what it is okay.”

Next Naughty Monkey ran out of the room and came back with two markers, one black and one red, and a few blank pieces of white paper. “Now,” said Naught Monkey handing Naughty Jack a blank piece of paper. “I want you to write the down or draw the card you selected on this piece of paper. Also, if your card is red, use the red marker, and if your card is black, use the black marker. When you are finished, fold up the paper as small as you possibly can.”

Then Naughty Monkey reached into his pocket and pulled out an envelope. Without looking at Naughty Jack or his card or the white piece of paper that Naughty Jack had just written or drawn his card on, Naughty Monkey handed Naughty Jack the envelope. “Now, put the piece of paper you wrote on in the envelope.”

“And my card?” asked Naughty Jack.

“Nope. Please put your card back into this pile of other cards.” And with that Naughty Monkey picked up a pile of cards, fanned it out, with the fronts of the cards facing down again and the Siamese and Blue bells facing up. And said, “Slip you card back into the deck.”

Naughty Jack slipped his card back into the middle of the fanned out deck. Naughty Monkey then folded the deck back together and began to shuffle the it in the most elaborate ways. He cut the cards right to left and left to right. He split the deck into two parts and then using his thumbs and other fingers, bend the cards back into the shape of a sloping roof until he snapped them up into a bridge and fanned them back together.

Then Naught Monkey asked Naughty Jack a question. “Do you think I can pick out your card from this deck that I have just elaborately shuffled?”

“No way!” Said Naughty Jack.

“If I could pick out the right card on my first attempt do you think that would make me a little magical?”

Naughty Jack just stared at the deck a little wide-eyed and mumbled, “Ummm, hmmm.” He had seen Naughty Monkey do some pretty surprising magic tricks in the past, so he was bracing to be surprised once again by Naughty Monkey’s magic.

Naughty Monkey then held the deck out in his right hand, extending it with his arm outstretched and pointed at Naughty Jack and asked, “Are you ready?” Then with a flick of his wrist Naughty Monkey flung the cards towards his left hand. Suddenly, most of the cards were in his left hand, leaving only one card in his right hand.

“Now,” said Naughty Monkey. “Open your envelop and show me what you wrote down on your piece of white paper.

“Okay!” said Naughty Jack. Naughty Jack placed a drawing of the seven of diamonds down on the mantel. He had used the red marker and drawn a card with a diamond in the top left corner and the bottom right corner as well as a cluster of seven red diamonds in the middle of the card. Now it was time for the big reveal. Naughty Monkey, placed the card he had popped out of the deck face down on top of Naughty Jack’s drawing. “All right,” he said. “Turn over the card. What card do you see?”

“The seven of diamonds!” said Naughty Jack! “That’s my card! How did you do you it!”

But Naughty Monkey just replied as he always did when Naughty Jack asked him about his magic tricks. “I’m sorry, a magician never reveals his secrets!”

28JULY2019

***Naughty Monkey and the Walk***

Once upon a time, Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack decided to go for a walk.

* Where should we go, Jack, asked Naughty Monkey.
* Let’s go to the candy store and steal candy.
* I don’t know, Jack, said Naughty Monkey. Don’t you remember what happened the last time we stole candy from the candy store.

Naughty Jack did remember. Both the boys had gotten grounded for 6 whole weeks. It was the most boring 42 days of Jack’s life. All they could do was wake up, go to school and come right back home. They couldn’t go play in the park, they couldn’t go over to each other’s houses. They couldn’t do anything!

* Well, this time it’s going to different, insisted Naughty Jack. This time we won’t get caught. Nobody will even know that we stole the candy.
* How are we going to do that?
* Well, here’s my plan. I have 50 cents. And so when we are at the candy store, we can pick out 50 cents of candy and then while I’m paying for it, the Candyman will be distracted and you can sneak a few extra pieces of candy for us.
* But that’s stealing, Naughty Jack!

Naughty jack just looked at Naughty Monkey and rolled his eyes. The boys walked to the candy store. When they got there it was very busy. There were a lot of kids from their school in the candy store looking at all the delicious candy. Naughty Monkey whose favorite candy were the sweet and sour gummy worms told Naughty Jake to get 25 cents worth of those. Naughty Jack who loved chocolate malt balls decided to use the other 25 cents to buy malt balls. Naughty Jack then got in line to pay for the candy. While he was paying for it, Naughty Monkey snuck over to a corner of the store that was as far away as possible from the counter where the Candyman was working the cash register. Naughty monkey approached a big rack of chocolate bars. He thought, this would be perfect. I can just take one chocolate bar and put it right in my pocket and walk right out of here and no one will ever know. So he reached out and selected a Peanut butter and Marshmallow chocolate bar and quick as a wink snatched it off the rack and stuffed it in his pocket. Out of nowhere he heard a voice that made the many hairs on his back stand straight up!

* Naughty Monkey! What are you doing!

Naughty Monkey’s mother was standing right behind him. She and Naughty Jack’s mother had just taken a walk of their own. They had come to the candy store to buy a special treat for their sons because the boys had been so good recently. They had not really done anything naughty in several weeks. Well, now there was no way the mothers were going to buy their sons a treat. Instead, Naughty Monkey’s mother grabbed him by the ear and dragged him out of the candy store and all the way home. Meanwhile, Naughty Jack’s mother grabbed him by the ear and dragged him all the way home.

So Naughty Monkey’s mother grounded him once again. And Naughty Jack’s mother grounded him once again. They were grounded both for another 6 weeks or 42 very long and boing days. And just like the first time all they could do was wake up in the morning, go to school, and then come right back home.

This boring routine went on for three long weeks until Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack couldn’t take it anymore and came up with an idea: they would sneak out of school at the end of the day, but instead of going straight home they would meet at the park and play at the park together until dinner time. And then when they went home they would tell their mothers that it had been a late day at school.

* There’s only one problem though, Jack. What if they ask why was it a late day? What should we say?
* Well, said Naughty Jack, we will say that we are planning on putting on a show. A big school show.

And so that is exactly what they did. Instead of going straight home from school that day, they snuck off to the park and played the rest of the afternoon until dinner time. They both arrived home to very suspicious mothers. The mothers asked the boys why they were late. And just like they had planned, the boys said that they had had to stay late at school to get ready for the big school show.

Well, this plan worked for a little while until one day Naughty Monkey’s mother called their teacher to get more details on the big school show. Well, when she asked the teacher about it, the teacher was a more than a little confused.

* Big school show? Hmmmm… I’m sorry but I don’t really know what you’re talking about.

That’s when Naughty Monkey’s mother realized Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack were up to their old tricks again. She immediately gave Naughty Jack’s mother a call and filled her in on what she had discovered. The next day the mothers went to the park in the afternoon and waited for their sons to show up. When they came to the park and started to play their mothers suddenly jumped out of the bushes and surprised them!

* A-ha! You are not preparing for the Big School Show. In fact, there is no Big School Show. I called your teacher and she told me as much.

Then, before Naughty Monkey or Naughty Jack could say another word, their mothers grabbed them by an ear and dragged them out of the park and all the way home. Instead of only having one more week of being grounded, the boys each were grounded for 10 more weeks or if your keeping track, 70 more days! Do you think they’ll finally learn their lesson?

04/19/2020 (added but originally written up: 4/19/2020)

***Naughty Monkey and the Candy***

Once upon a time, Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack were in the alleyway behind Naughty Monkey’s house trying to decide what they would do on a warm and sunny summer afternoon.

I want to go to the pond and go swimming, said NJ.

No, I don’t want to go swimming, said NM.

Why not? Asked NJ.

Well, the real reason was that NM didn’t know how to swim. He had never learned how to swim, but he was too embarrassed to tell NJ. So instead he suggested that they go to the candy store, because NM had $1 that his grandmother had given him. NJ said, okay, lets go to the candy store and then afterwards we can go to the pond and go swimming.

NM and NJ headed to the candy store and all the while NM was trying to think up an excuse not to go swimming after they went to the candy store.

At the candy store, NM wanted to take his time. But NJ wanted to hurry. He said, come on NM, let’s just pick out a few of our favorite candies and then we can take them to the pond and eat them on the little beach there. Or we can even just save the candy for after we go swimming for a little while. The day had become very hot and NJ was eager to swim in the cool pond.

NM wanted the opposite of NJ. He did not want to hurry. All he wanted to do was to waste time, so that there wouldn’t be any time at all to go swimming and so NJ wouldn’t find out that he really did not know how to swim.

NM picked up a piece of candy that he had never tried before and said to NJ,

“I want to try some new candies that I have never tried before.”

And then NJ said, “well, how will you know if you like them or not. What if you don’t like the flavor? That would be just a waste of money.” And NM nodded his head, because he remembered the time when the two of them only had one nickel (which is 5 cents) and they spent their whole nickel on some violet candy that tasted just like the perfume that NM’s mother wore. It was not a good flavor and they had wasted their money on the candies and didn’t have any more money to buy other candies.

With all of this is mind NM opened the candy’s foil wrapper and tried the candy even before he paid for it. NJ was amazed. He said, NM you can’t do that! You have to pay for the candy before you try it. NM just shrugged his shoulders and said, I’m only going to try a couple. But then, to waste time so that he wouldn’t have to go swimming, he started to sample one of every piece of candy in the store. He would take off the packaging, take a little lick or a little nibble from the candy and if he liked it he would put it in his basket. But if he didn’t like it he would put the packaging back on the candy and put it back on the shelf.

After sampling one of every candy in the whole store, NM finally took his basket up to the counter and purchased all of the candies that he liked. By this time NJ was getting very impatient. NM we have to hurry or we won’t have time to swim in the pond.

After paying for the candies that he had chosen and walking outside the candy store with NJ, NM finally told NJ the truth. NJ I don’t want to go swimming with you in the pond, because… because.. because I don’t know how to swim.

You don’t know how to swim!?! Said NJ who was pretty surprised, because NM could do so many other things so very well.

NM was so embarrassed. He said, don’t laugh at me NJ. But NJ who was his good friend, said, of course I won’t laugh at you. In fact, if you’d like, I can teach you how to swim.

And that’s just what he did. Right there on the sidewalk outside of the candy store. NJ taught NM everything he knew about swimming. NM was so excited because he had always wanted to learn how to swim, but had just been too embarrassed to ask someone to help him.

Now that he knew how to swim, the boys raced across town as fast as they could to the pond. But when they reached the pond the lifeguards were already closing the beach because a storm was coming.

Oh, no said NM, we can’t swim today after all. But then NJ with a very devious look on his face. Said to NM, don’t worry, I have a plan.

Nm looked at NJ with wide eyes. What’s your plan? he asked.

NJ said, first, let’s go hide in those bushes over there and eat some candy. And so while the lifeguards collected their things and all of the people that had been swimming and enjoying the cool refreshing waters of the pond had left the little beach and were walking slowly back toward the town, NM and NJ spied on them from the bushes. They waited until all of the people and all of the lifeguards were gone. And then they crept out of the bushes, leaving behind a little pile of candy wrappers that they covered with a dry brown leaf.

As they walked down a little hill toward the pond and its small sandy beach the clouds began darkening and the wind picked up and they could smell the scent of rain in the lively breeze. NM looked at NJ and said in a worried voice, uh, NJ, maybe we should head back to town too. Those clouds look really scary, I think a big storm might be coming. And NJ just laughed and he said, I’ve never understood why no one swims in the rain. I mean, you are in water, you’re already wet, you can’t get any wetter, it doesn’t matter if a little rain drips on you when you’re swimming. NM, just wanted to run back home and play with NJ and so he said, come on NJ let’s just run back home and play- inside. But before he could finish his sentence NJ was sprinting toward the pond and diving into the water. NM walked to the edge of the pond and looked for NJ, but he couldn’t see him because he was still under the water. The rain had begun to fall a little harder and a littler harder and NM was becoming more and more nervous. When suddenly NJ popped up out of the water right in the middle of the pond. NJ looked back at NM and just laughed. Ha, ha, you look soaking wet. NM didn’t like that comment, so he said, look whose talking you’re in the middle of a pond. Naturally, said NJ, but look at you, you’re soaking wet standing on dry land. NM looked down at his soaking fur and felt more than a little ridiculous. NJ had a point. So without giving it any further thought, NM ran straight into the pond. He dove into the water and began swimming toward NJ just like a dolphin. When he reached NJ in the middle of the pond, NJ was clapping and cheering. You can swim, he said, you can swim. Great job, NM! NM suddenly realized he was swimming, but then he panicked and shouted, but I don’t know how to swim. NJ looked back at him in disbelief. Of course, you know how to swim. I taught you to swim this morning! I know, said NM, but I haven’t had a chance to practice. Well, practice right now before you sink to the bottom shouted NJ. Before they could even think about what they should do next, there was a flash of lightening followed almost immediately by the biggest boom of thunder either of them had ever heard.

NM looked at NJ with huge eyes. NJ looked back at NM with even huger eyes and they both yelled together at the same time- SWIM!!!

And with that the two of them began swimming as fast as they could toward the shore. And when they got to the shore they both raced back to their hiding place in the bushes. It was a little drier under the canopy of the bushes big leaves and the thunder didn’t seem quiet so load when they were huddled together under the bush.

Luckily, the worst of the storm passed quickly. But the rain continued and the dark clouds persisted and finally they had no choice but to high tail it and run back to town. On the way from the pond to the town NJ breathlessly called to NM- I guess I know why people don’t swim in the rain. NM wasn’t sure what he was talking about. What? Why? Because they don’t know how to?

NJ shook his head and said no just as a flash of lightening lit up the sky and a peel of thunder rumble over the trees. NJ looked at NM and raised an eyebrow. NM looked back and said- OOHHHHH.

**Naughty Monkey and the Ice Cream**

Once upon a time Naughty Monkey and Naughty Jack were trying to think of something fun to do. They had already played all of their favorite games. They hand worn their deck of Uno Cards into tattered bits of colored paper. They’d thrown all the leather off their baseballs and broken or lost each and every one of their marbles. And now there was nothing left to play or do. They were bored and desperately in need of inspiration for something to do.

Suddenly, Naughty Monkey had an idea!

* Hey Naughty Jack, you know what I always like to do?
* Climb trees, ai

17OCT2019

Once upon a time, when Naughty Monkey was a little boy, he and his family went on a trip to the countr[[1]](#footnote-1)yside. They rented a small cabin on the edge of a small lake where they could swim and fish and which wasn’t very far from a small farm run by some friends where they could pick fresh vegetables and potatoes straight from the garden and collect eggs in the morning from the hens roosting in the pen behind the big, red barn.

Naughty Monkey really enjoyed visiting the countryside and playing in the woods and in the lake and boating on the lake and playing and doing small jobs on the farm. At night he slept soundly in a little tent he set up behind the small cabin, under the big pine in back that was big enough and dense enough to keep most of the rain off the small tent, so even if it rained it would not be too wet to sleep in the tent out back under the big pine.

But one night, after a full day of swimming and playing hide and go seek in the woods around the campground, and spending the whole late afternoon until the sun was nearly going down and the golden dusk light was coming on and the fields looked majestic in the light and we felt good with the indirect sun bathing our skin in a golden glow, warming us and calming us at the end of a long day of working and playing. And then we went into the farmhouse and made up big plates of food- fresh vegetables and potatoes from the garden. And there was to be a big, cheesy quiche, which was the farmer’s favorite and his wife’s specialty. But when the farmer’s wife went to the window sill in the kitchen in the small farmhouse where she had left the very cheesy quiche to cool, she did not find it where she had left it. It was gone. Where could it possibly be?

One hour earlier, just as the piping hot, very cheesy quiche popped out of the oven in a plume of savory steam, and the farmer’s wife efficiently swooped the pie from oven to sill with a graceful flourish, with a flourish to the window sill of the south facing kitchen window.

Right at that exact moment, Naughty Monkey was passing outside the kitchen, thinking that he would like nothing more than a nice, delicious snack before dinner. And he wouldn’t ruin his dinner. He wouldn’t. He was just so hungry. Then suddenly, there right in front of him, appeared the most delicious looking cheese and egg pie. He felt that he had no choice in the matter. He had to take it. Without giving the situation another thought, he snatched the quiche off the window sill and scampered away.

The quiche was fightfully hot and even though he wanted nothing else, but to devour the whole pie in one crazed feeding, Naughty Monkey knew that the extreme temperature of the very cheesy quiche was sure to burn the inside of his mouth ifhe dared eat it too soon.

So he waited. And waited. He held the pie up in the air when a cool breeze picked up. And finally when it had cooled sufficiently, Naughty Monkey devoured the quiche pie just as quickly as he could.

Well fast-forward back to the present. When the farmer’s wife discovered that there was no longer a pie cooling on her window sill, she was so shock and dismayed that all she could think of doing was to tell everyone to just be sure to keep room for desert, because she had backed her famous chocolate chunk cookies with and without walnuts.

She hoped that if people didn’t get enough to eat, because there wasn’t a quiche, that they could fill up on dessert, because, come on, who doesn’t like cookies! And she had learned he lesson with the pie. And so she installed security cameras in the kitchen so she could keep track of the comings and goings of her favorite room in the house. These cameras would ensure that no one could come into the kitchen without the farmer and his wife knowing about it.

Having gotten wind of the new security cameras in the kitchen, Naughty Monkey brought a lot of blocks with him to block the cameras’ views, so he could sneak in and snatch all the scrumptious cookies away without anyone being able to see him.

Well, between losing the quiche and the cookies, the farmer’s wife was furious. And she vowed to get to the bottom of this mystery. When she called up the video footage from the security cameras, she culd t not believe that just at the moment when the cookies were stolen, something blocked the cameras view. Well that night, the farmer’s wife, perfectly perplexed, decided to make some more cookies. As she was starting to back them there was a knock at the door. There at the door, the backdoor leading directly into the kitchen, was Naughty Monkey, and he was positively beaming. He asked her, are you baking more cookies. And she said, why yes, I am. And he said, oh, thank goodness, you’d think that I would have gotten my fill today, but I just can’t think about eating anying else. As soon as the words slipped form his mouth, Naughty Monkey regretted saying anything at all about cookies.

You’ve had cookies today? The famer’s wife asked him, intrigued.

No, I have not, lied Naughty Monkey. Then the farmer’s wife made a strange request.

Let me smell your breath, Naughty Monkey. And he said, snatched Naughty Monkey and tickled him until he blew open with a loudmouthed laugh, which the farmer’s wife then took the opportunity to take a deep draught of his breath. Ah, ha! She cried, you have very cheesy quiche and chocolate chuck walnut cookie breath. I knew it! Something was fishy! Now, to make it up to me, I have few dishes that need washing. And without saying another word she lead Naughty Monkey to the kitchen and presented him a huge pile of dirty dishes for him to wash. But when, at last, when he was all finished, the farmer’s wife had saved him, a steaming pile of cookies and a huge sweating mason jar of fresh, cold milk. The cookies and the milk both tasted very good after all the work of washing the dirty dishes.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)