

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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kind of animal is Kojo?

- A. a parrot
- B. a leopard
- C. a monkey
- D. a snake

2. Kojo faces a problem when a leopard comes and the other monkeys do not listen to his warning. How does he solve this problem?

- A. by throwing sticks and rocks at the leopard
- B. by getting the leopard to chase him
- C. by leading the leopard to the other monkeys
- D. by asking Aunt Ama for help

3. Read this paragraph from the text:

"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."

Based on this evidence, why might the monkeys have climbed up to the highest tree branches?

- A. The monkeys were afraid that a leopard would eat them.
- B. The monkeys were afraid that Kojo would hurt them.
- C. The monkeys wanted to get a better view of the leopard that Kojo was shouting about.
- D. The monkeys wanted to get a better view of Kojo.

4. Read these sentences from the text:

"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."

Based on this evidence, why might Aunt Ama have scolded Kojo?

- A. to make him spend more time with her
- B. to praise his behavior
- C. to encourage him to play more tricks
- D. to discourage him from lying

5. What is the main message of this passage?

- A. Family is more important than battling enemies.
- B. Nobody trusts a trickster and never will.
- C. Tricksters never get what they want.
- D. Tricking others can cause them to lose trust in you.

6. How did Kojo get the other monkeys to notice the leopard in the end?

7. What might happen in the future when Kojo warns the other monkeys about a leopard? Use evidence from the text to support your prediction.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Kojo tricks the other monkeys _____ he saves them.

- A. after
- B. before
- C. when
- D. because

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The theme of this passage is

- A. trust.
- B. lying.
- C. fear.
- D. danger.

2. Which of the following statements supports the theme?

- A. Kojo got bored.
- B. Kojo got in trouble.
- C. A leopard came near the monkeys.
- D. Kojo saved the monkeys.

3. What is the main problem in this passage?

- A. The monkeys got mad at Kojo.
- B. Kojo lost the monkeys' trust.
- C. Leopards eat monkeys.
- D. Kojo tricked the leopard.

4. This passage teaches the reader

- A. to stay away from leopards.
- B. to not listen to liars.
- C. that trust is important.
- D. that scaring others is a problem.

5. How would you describe Kojo?