

THE MONKEY WHO COMPLAINED TOO MUCH

Once there was a monkey who loved to **complain**. No matter what nice thing his friends did for him, he always found something bad to say about it.

One evening, Parrot invited Monkey and Frog to come over for dinner. The three friends sat down in front of a big green leaf piled high with fruit.

Parrot said to Monkey and Frog, "I flew all over the rainforest to gather this fruit. Would you like to share some with me, friends?"

Frog **nodded** her head. "Yes, please! It looks delicious," she said. Frog was always **polite**. She never forgot to say *please* and *thank you*.

Monkey turned up his nose. "Humph! Do you have any bananas, Parrot?" he asked.

Parrot **answered** Monkey's question. "Yes, I got one banana for you, Monkey."

"Only one banana? You should have gotten more," Monkey complained. "And this one banana is too small, too green, and too hard. It won't taste very good." But Monkey ate the banana anyway. He finished his meal and left Parrot's tree without saying *thank you*.

Frog said to Parrot. "Monkey is always complaining. Someone needs to teach him to be more polite."

"Yes," **agreed** Parrot, "I think so, too." The two friends agreed to teach Monkey a lesson.

The next day, Monkey saw Frog and Parrot eating a huge pile of bananas. "Yum, bananas!" he cried.

"Oh, no. You don't want these," Frog warned. "They're too small and green and hard."

"Yes," Parrot agreed. "I'm afraid there are no bananas here that are good enough for you to eat."

So Monkey went hungry that day. But he learned an important lesson: From that time on, he stopped complaining, and he always remembered to speak kindly to his friends and to say *please* and *thank you*.

COMPREHENSION Which words tell how the characters communicate with each other? What do you think Monkey should have said when his friend Parrot offered to share his fruit?



STOP, THIEF!

Mia was going to the Bead Shop with her Aunt Alice. It was a sunny afternoon. A bright green pigeon was walking beside them on the sidewalk. They didn't think anything of it.

As they came near the store, Mia saw long tables outside the door. On the tables were trays and trays of beautiful beads. They were all different shapes and colors. Many people were looking at the beads in the trays.

"Oh, Mr. Fassett," said Mia to the store owner. "The beads look so beautiful in the sunlight!"

"Maybe too beautiful," said Mr. Fassett sadly.

Mia **sensed** that something was wrong. Usually Mr. Fassett liked to joke with her, but today he was talking very **seriously**.

"Somebody's been stealing beads," said Mr. Fassett. "Every time I turn around, more beads are missing. So now I have to put them back inside the store. Will you watch the beads while I get ready to move them?"

"Sure," said Mia and her aunt.

Mr. Fassett went inside. Mia watched the people **suspiciously**, but she didn't see anyone take anything. After a while, she noticed some beads she liked. She turned around to show them to her aunt. As she turned, she saw the green pigeon standing on the table, pecking at a tray of beads. Right then, Mia **guessed** who the thief was.

"Stop, thief!" she yelled. The pigeon flew up to a nest above the door of the Bead Shop.

When Mr. Fassett came out, Mia said to him, "Mr. Fassett, I know who's been taking your beads. It's that pigeon in the nest above your door!"

Mr. Fassett scratched his head and looked **confused**. "A pigeon?" he said. But then he got a ladder and climbed up to look in the nest. "Why, you're right," he said. "Here are all the beads I've been missing. Good for you, Mia, and thanks!"

COMPREHENSION What words help you understand how Mia and Mr. Fassett are thinking and feeling? What idea does Mia share with Mr. Fassett that makes him feel better?

