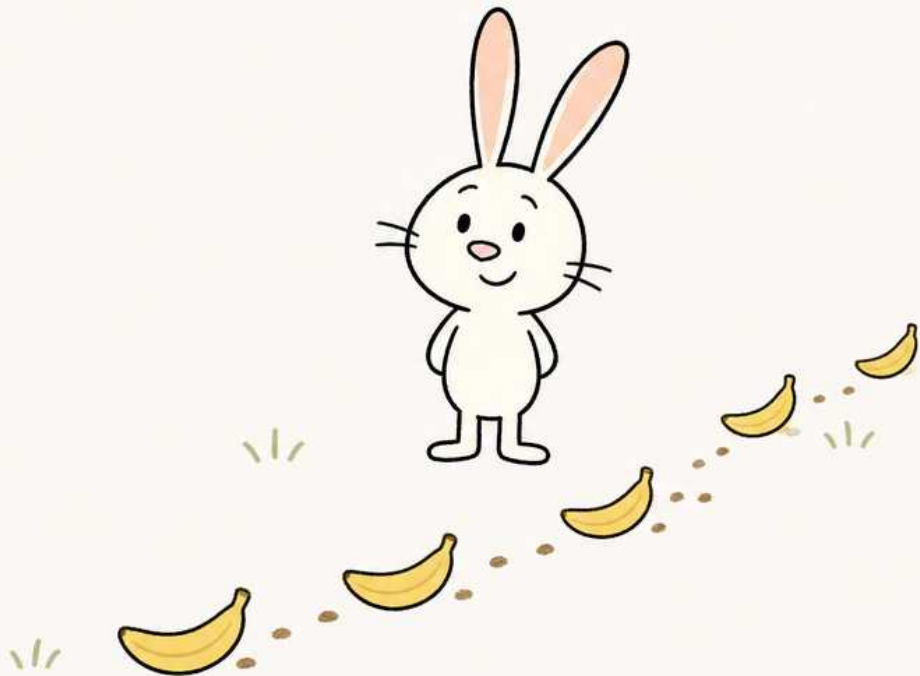


Monkey Catches a Culprit

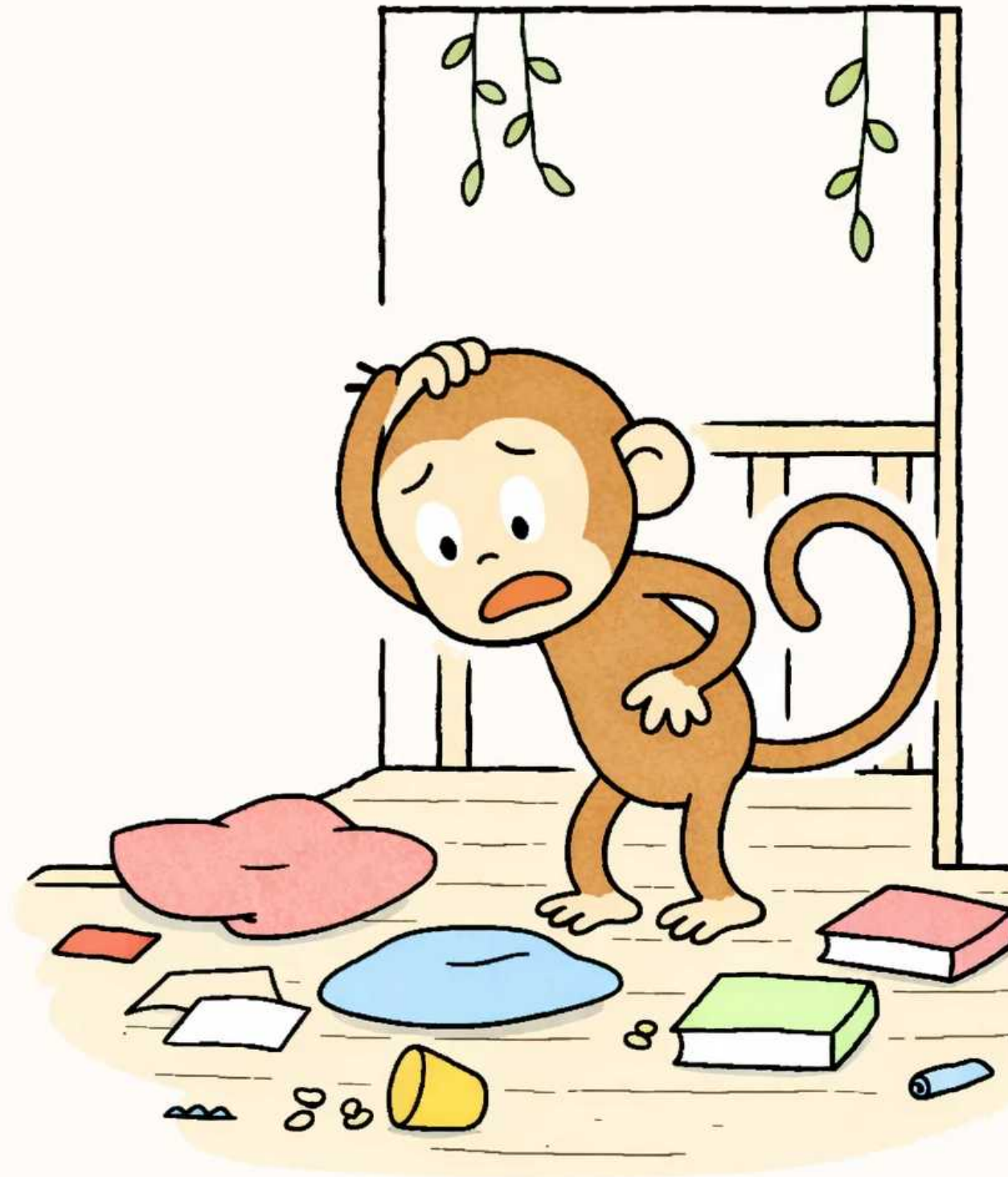


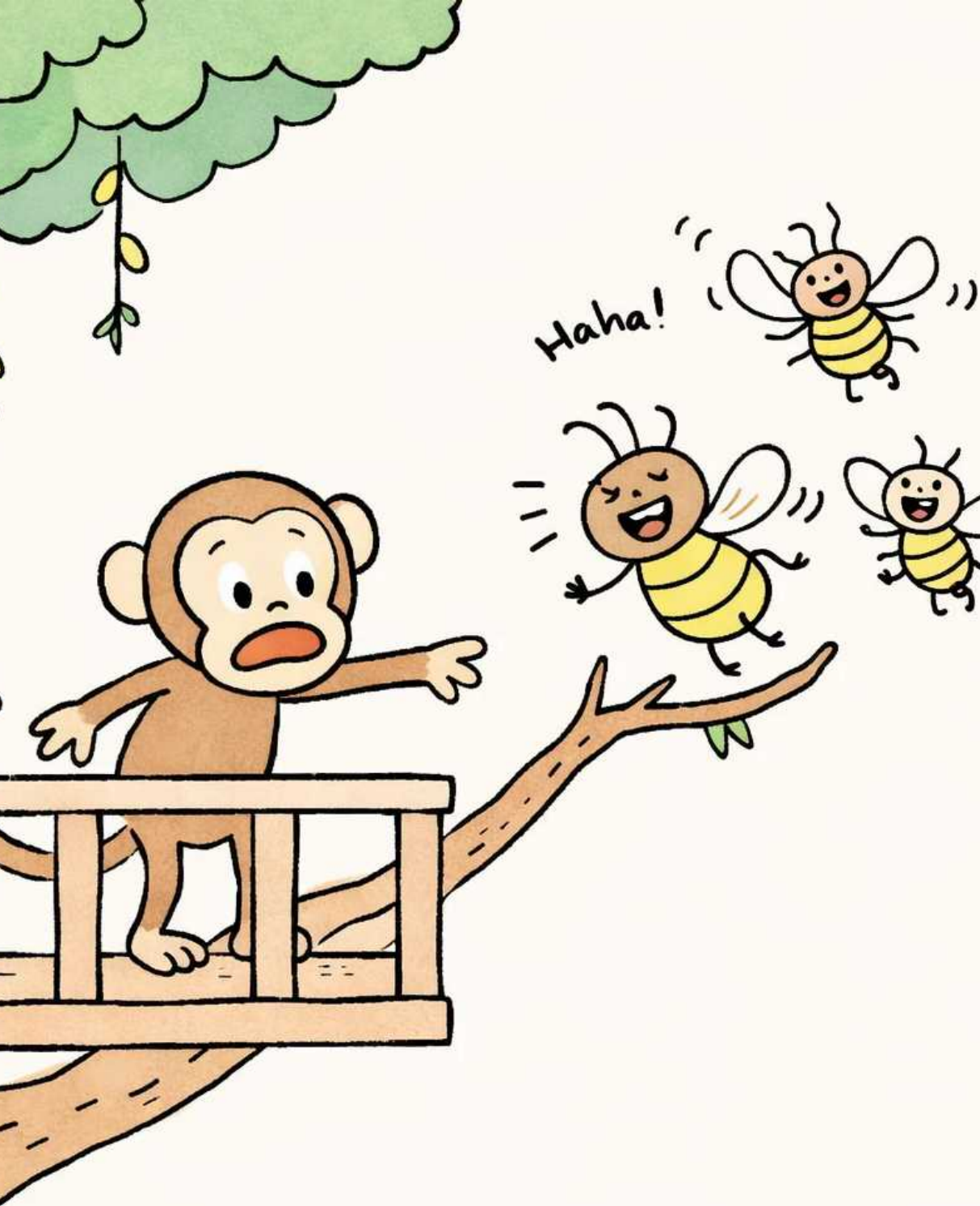


Monkey has a
great house, high
in a tree.

He spends a lot
of his time
thinking about
food.

It's time for **breakfast**,
and **Monkey** looks around
for the **yummy yellow**
treat he had planned to
eat. But it is nowhere to
be found. He turns his
house **upside down**,
frantic as he hunts. What
could have **happened** to
his **breakfast**?





A honey bee comes for a visit, and **Monkey** asks her if she has taken his **breakfast**. 'Of course not,' she replies, 'I eat nectar. Your **breakfast** would be far too heavy for me to **carry away**.'

Then a snake slithers
down to say hello.

'Excuse me, but did
you eat my **breakfast**?'

Monkey asks.

'Not me,' replies the
snake, 'I eat rats. Your
breakfast would not be
yummy to me.'



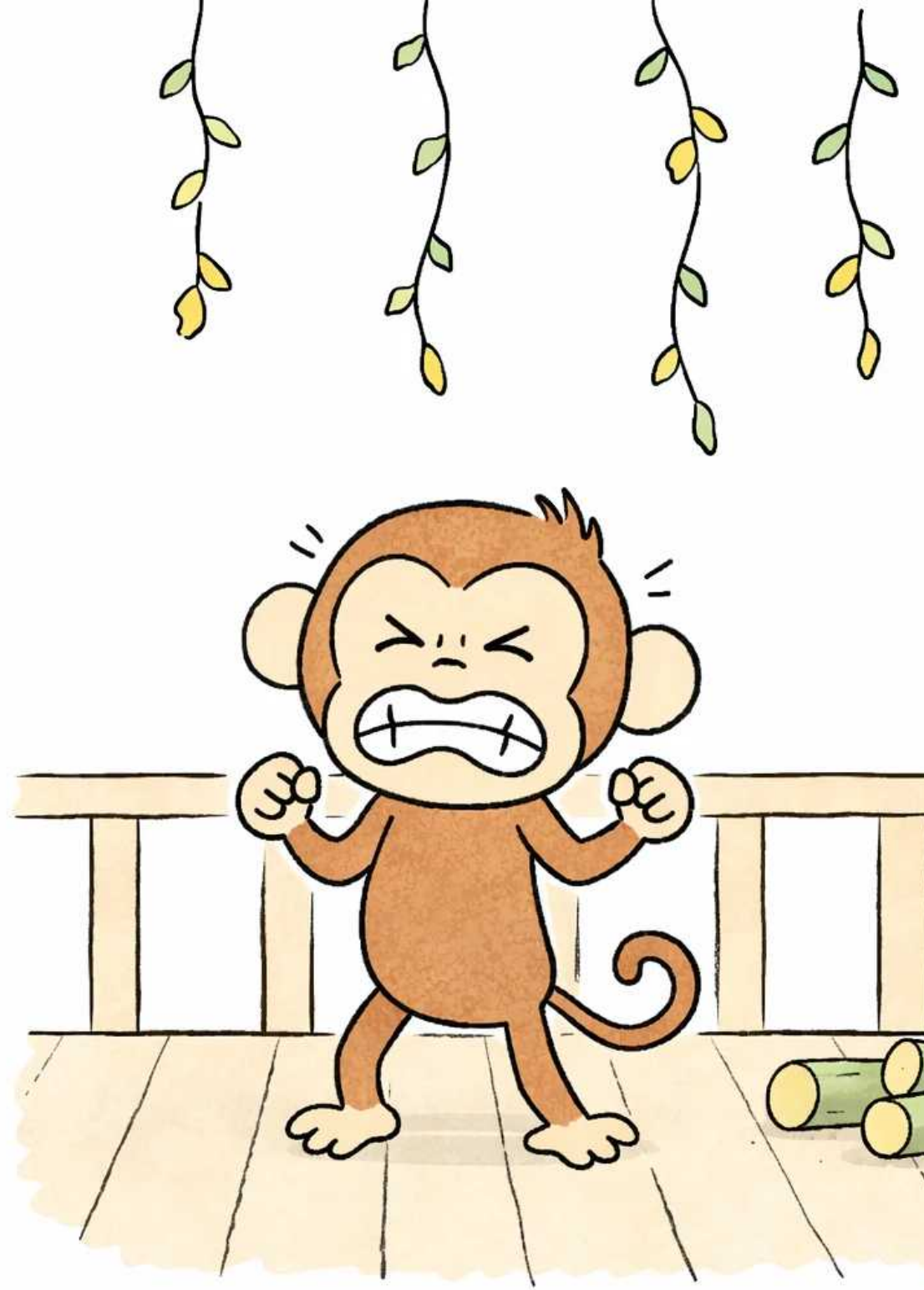


The monkey is so
confused.

He looks high and
low.

He looks in the tree
and around the tree
and still cannot find
his breakfast.

Monkey is so upset.
He goes back to his
deck and shuts his
eyes tight. 'When I find
the culprit who took
my food,' he says,
'there will be trouble.'
His belly growls again,
even louder this time.





Just then, something yellow catches his eye! Monkey leans over the rail and peers down. Down at the bottom of the tree is a bright yellow trail. His eyes go wide with surprise. 'Got you now, culprit!' he says.

At the end of the trail
sits a white rabbit
having a picnic. He has
a great big pile of
yummy yellow snacks.
'You stole my **breakfast!**'
Monkey shouts. He grips
the rail and leans far
over, frantic and angry.



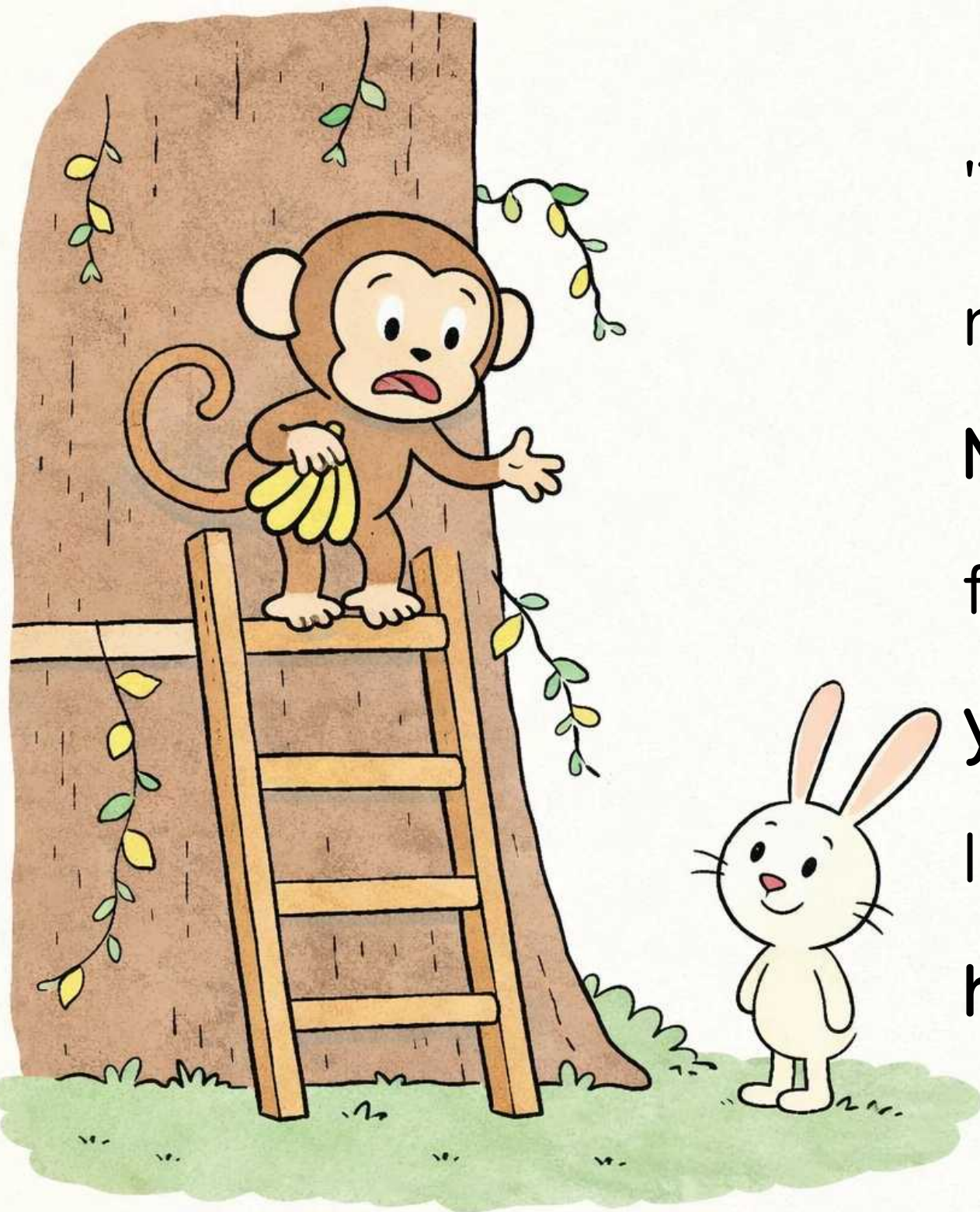


'Oh, these are mine,' says the bunny. 'I grow them myself, right here. You can come and look if you like.' He is not worried at all. Monkey is confused. He opens his mouth, but no words come out.

'It has been a very big harvest,' says the rabbit, 'here you go, have this bunch!'

The rabbit ties the bunch to a vine for **Monkey** to pull up to his house in the tree.





'Thank you very
much,' says

Monkey, 'but I never
found the yummy
yellow snack I lost.

I wonder what
happened to it.'

Then **Monkey** thinks back to the night before. 'Oh! What a **surprise!** I ate them last night for **dinner.**' **Monkey** grins at his funny mistake.





Monkey Catches a Culprit

Monkey loves bananas more than anything in the world - so when his breakfast bunch vanishes overnight, who could the sneaky thief be? Was it the buzzing honey bee, the hissing snake, or the white rabbit having a picnic at the bottom of the tree? Follow along as one very hungry monkey hunts for clues and tries to crack the case. This decodable reader practices VC/CV syllables in words like 'breakfast,' 'rabbit,' 'picnic,' and 'culprit.'

Reading Skills: VC/CV division

belly, bottom, breakfast, bunny, cannot, carry, confused, culprit, dinner, frantic, gritting, happened, harvest, hello, honey, monkey, nectar, picnic, rabbit, surprise, upside, wonder, worried, yellow, yummy

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