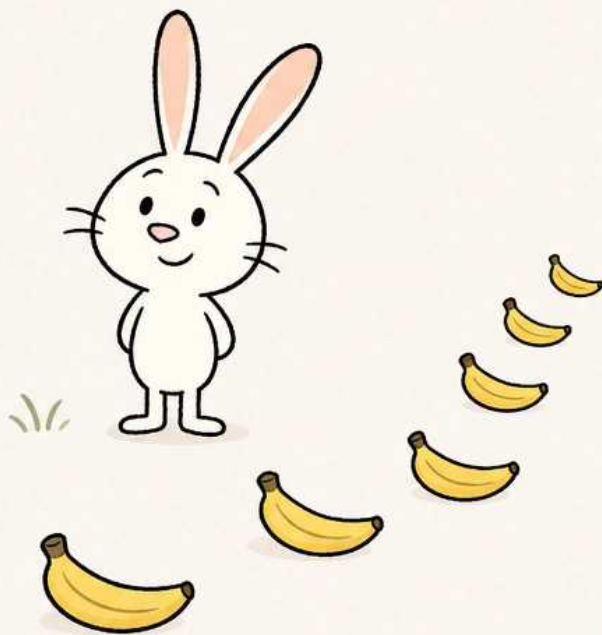


Who Stole My Bananas?

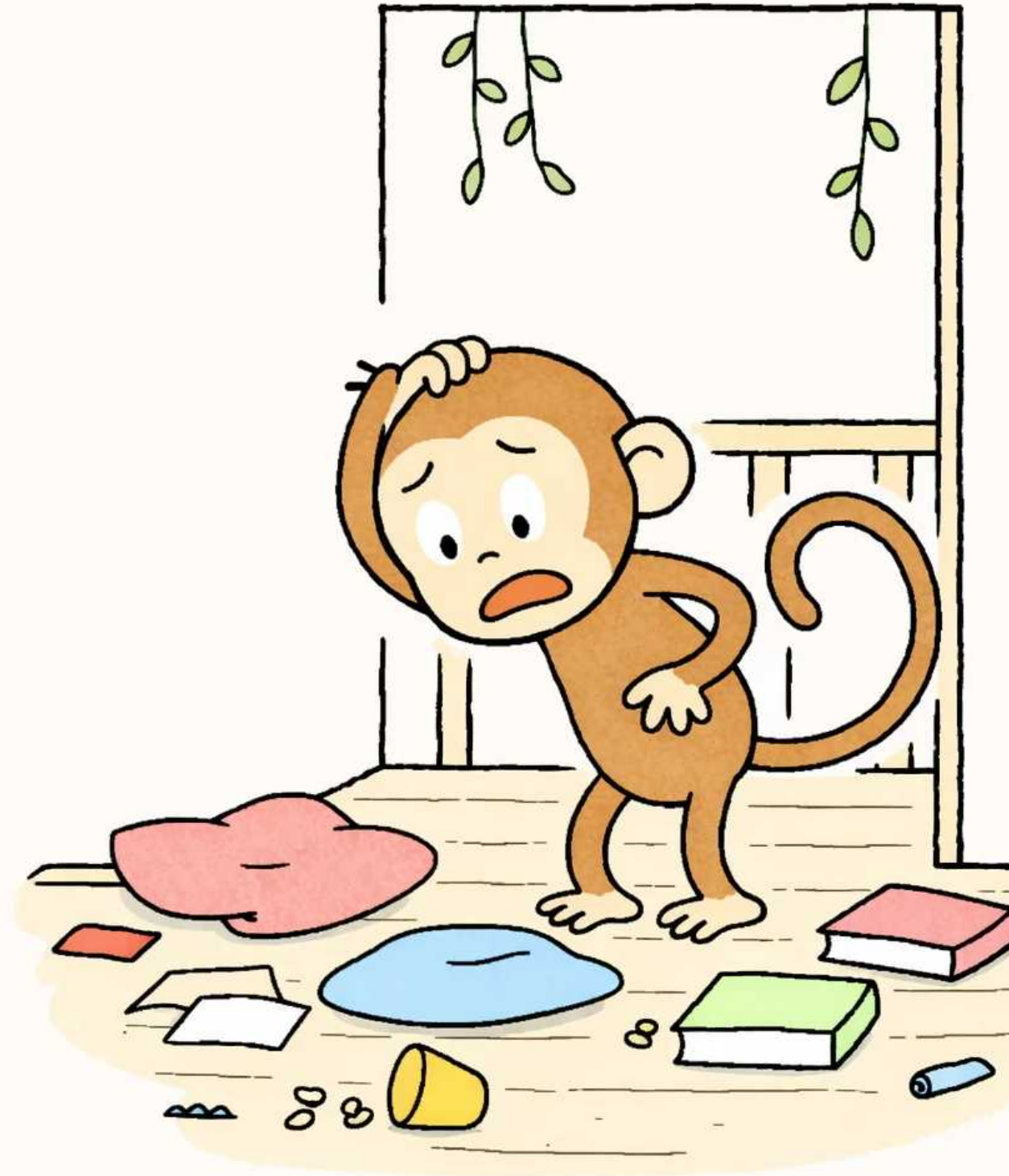


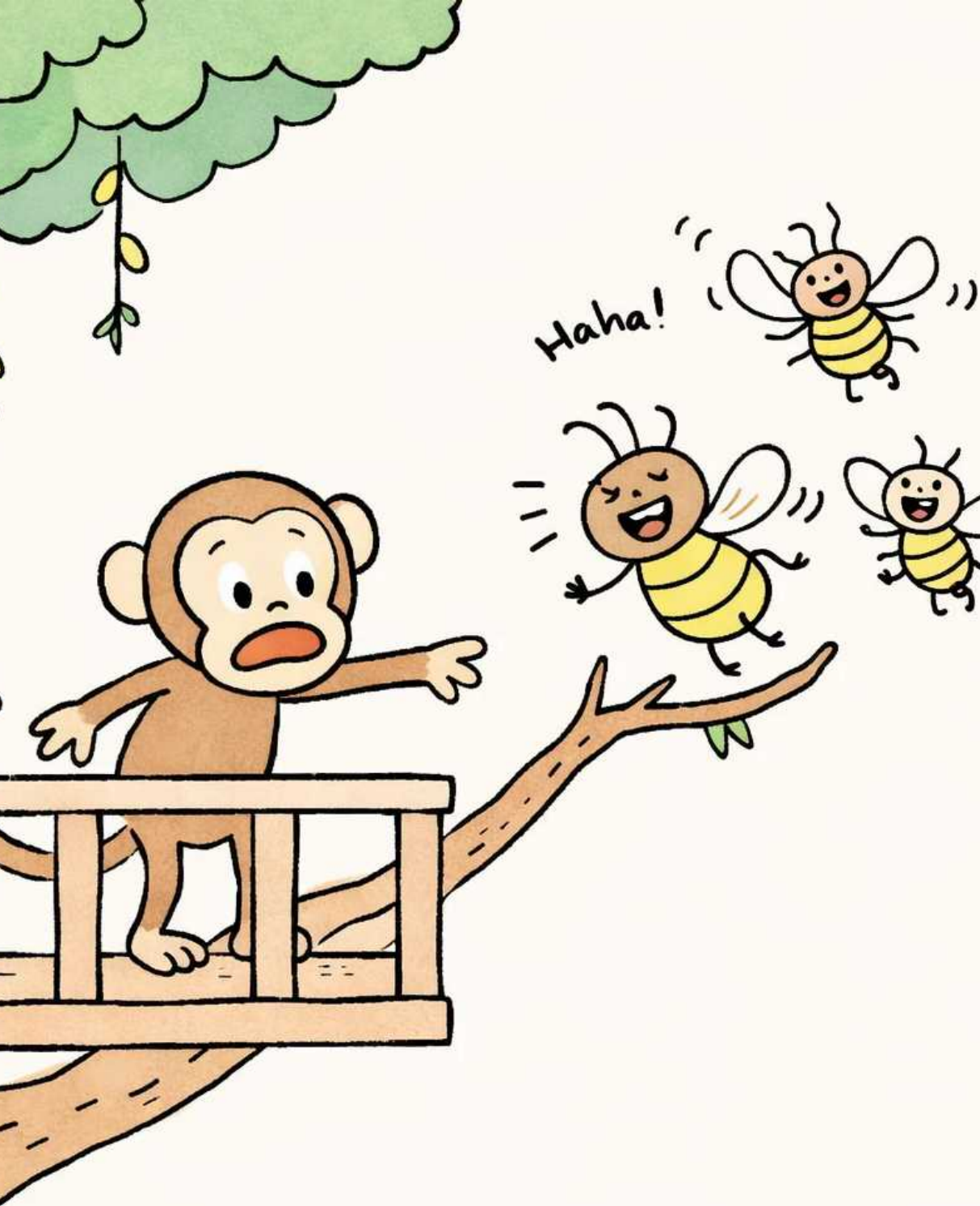


High in a great big tree
sits a treehouse, hidden
among the green leaves
and trailing vines with
yellow flowers.

A **naughty** little monkey
lives up there. He spends
most of his time thinking
about food. It seems like
he is always hungry and
always eating.

At breakfast time, Monkey hunts around for the bunch of bananas he planned to eat. But they are nowhere to be found! He turns his treehouse upside down, tossing books and things all over the floor. He is **distraught**. There is no sign of the bananas anywhere.





Monkey leans over the treehouse railing and calls out to a little honey bee buzzing near the yellow flowers.

'Excuse me, little bee. Did you take my breakfast? I seem to be missing a bunch of bananas.'

The honey bee **laughs** so hard her wings wobble. 'I could not carry away a big bunch of bananas!' she says.

Monkey spots a snake coiled around a branch above him. 'Excuse me, Snake. Did you by any chance eat my breakfast bananas?' he asks politely.

The snake lets out a **haughty**, hissy **laugh**. 'I don't eat fruit, only little creatures like rats,' he says, looking down with a calm grin.



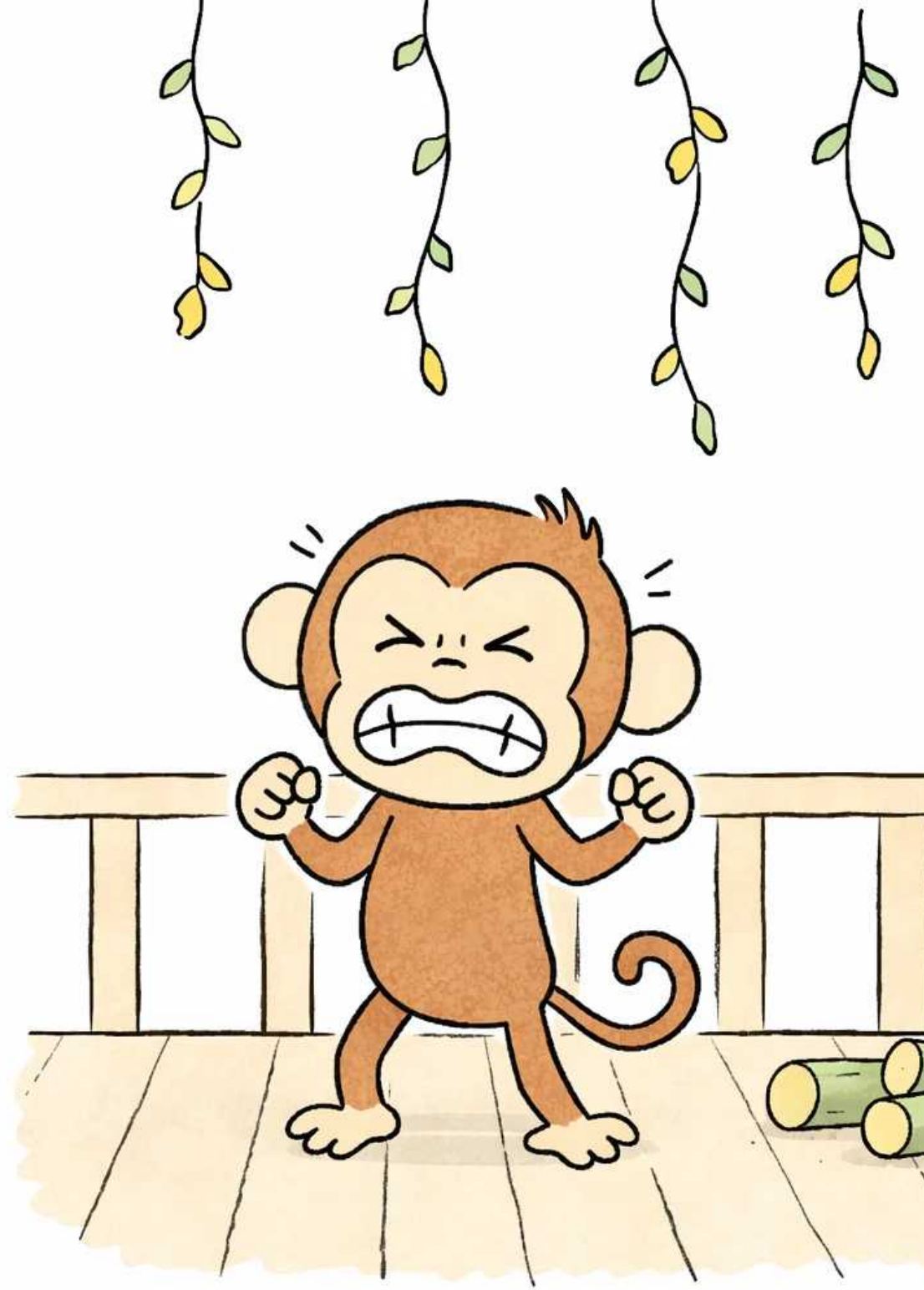


Monkey hangs upside down from a vine, clutching his empty tummy. He is worried sick!

His belly aches and grumbles with hunger. Breakfast time has come and gone, and this is no **laughing** matter. Those bananas are nowhere to be found.

He is so hungry now that he can't think. Little monkeys' brains don't work well on an empty tummy.

Monkey grits his teeth and squeezes his eyes shut, fists clenched at his sides. Those **naughty** bananas have completely disappeared!





When Monkey opens his eyes again, he catches sight of something yellow down on the grass below his tree.

There is a trail of bananas leading away from the trunk! His eyes grow wide. He has found a clue. That must be where the banana thief went!

At the end of the trail sits a white rabbit, having a picnic with a great big bunch of bananas scattered on the grass around him.

'You **naughty** thief! You stole my breakfast!' Monkey calls in a loud, angry voice. He leans over the railing, **caught** up in hunger and anger.



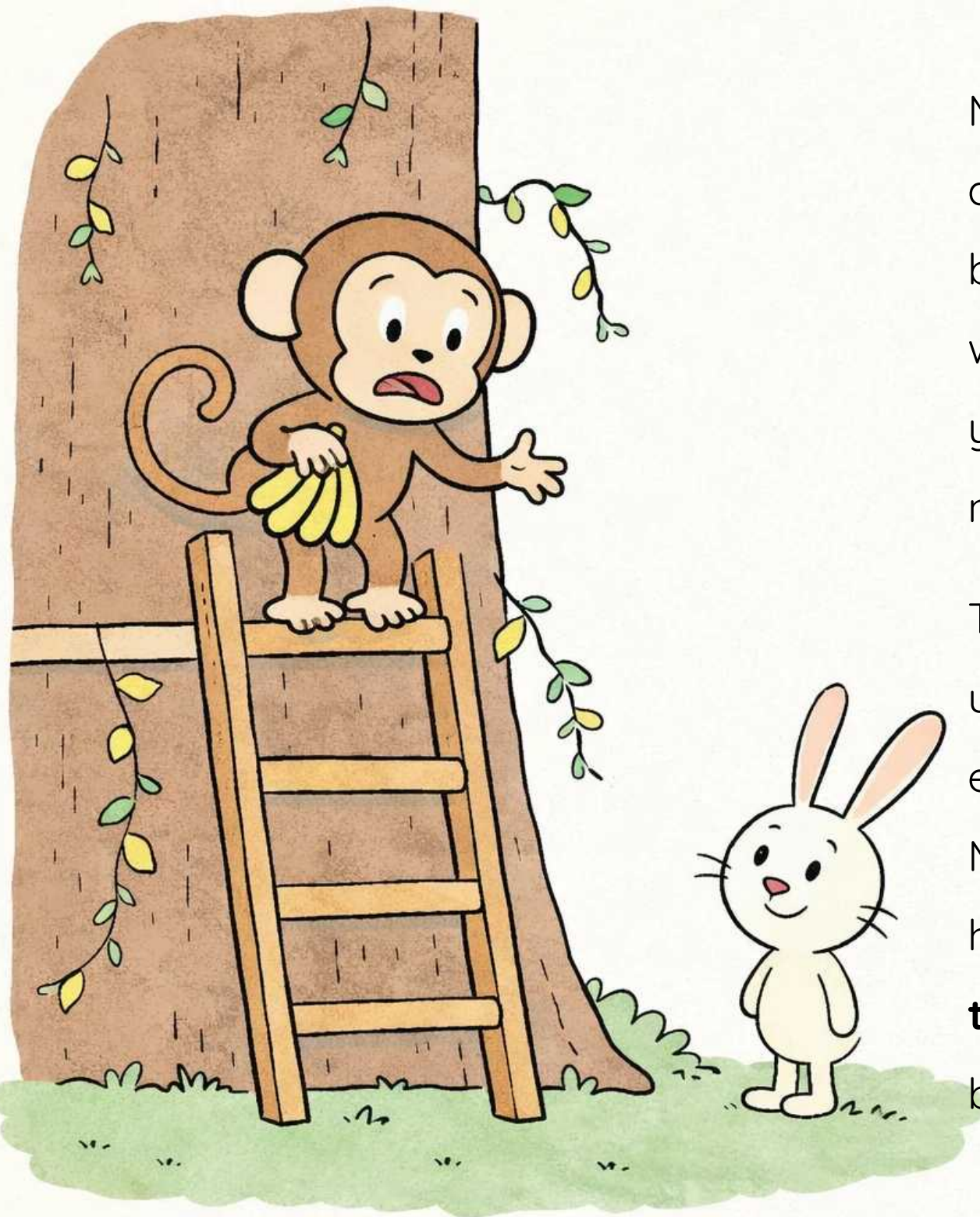


The rabbit doesn't seem worried at all. He holds up a banana and points toward a small banana plant growing nearby.

'Oh, these are mine,' says Rabbit with a **laugh**. 'If you look over there, you will see that I **taught** myself to grow my own bananas. I have been growing them all year!'

But Rabbit does something Monkey does not expect. He smiles, reaches up, and ties a bunch of bananas to a vine. 'It has been a big harvest,' Rabbit says with a **laugh**. 'Here, have this bunch!' Monkey stares down, **caught** off guard, and a surprised, grateful smile spreads across his face.





Monkey stands on the ladder against his tree, holding the bunch of bananas with a worried look on his face. 'Thank you very much,' he says, 'but I never found the bananas I lost.'

The rabbit's calm voice drifts up: 'Try to remember everything you did last night. Maybe you will recall what happened. My mother always **taught** me to think carefully before blaming someone.'

'Oh yes! You are right. I remember now!' Monkey shouts with a wide grin and a thumbs up. Banana peels are scattered all around his treehouse railing. 'I got very hungry in the middle of the night and had a midnight snack. I already ate my bananas!' He bursts into **laughter**. What a **naughty**, silly monkey he had been!





Who Stole My Bananas?

Monkey wakes up hungry - his bananas are GONE! Who could have taken them? He asks a giggling bee, a hissy snake, and finally spots a trail of yellow peels leading to a rabbit having a picnic. But is Rabbit really the sneaky thief, or is something else going on in the treehouse? Swing into this silly jungle mystery to find out! This decodable reader practices the 'augh' sound in words like 'caught,' 'naughty,' 'laugh,' and 'taught.'

Reading Skills: <augh>

caught, distraught, haughty, laugh, laughing, laughs, laughter, naughty, taught

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