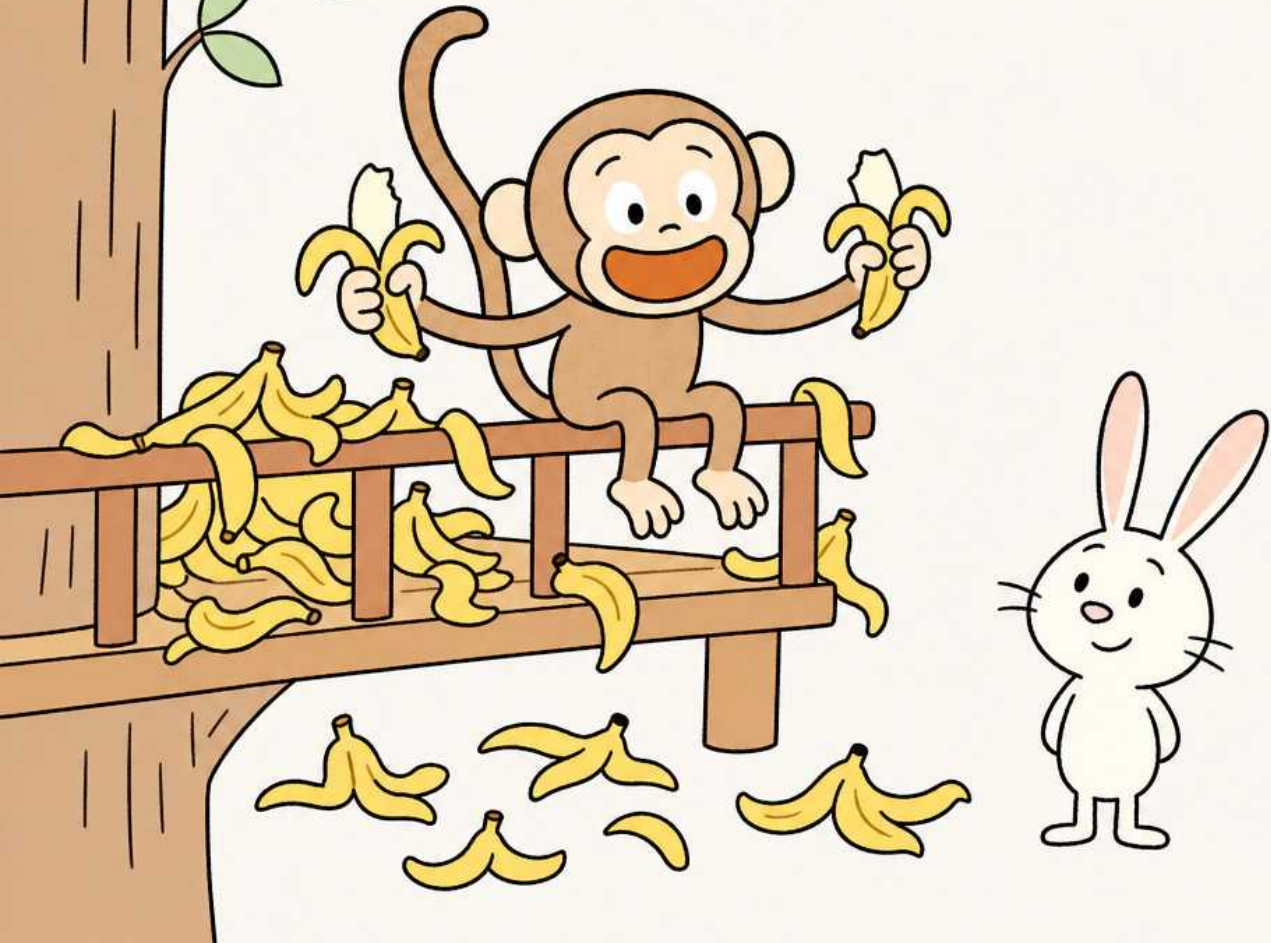


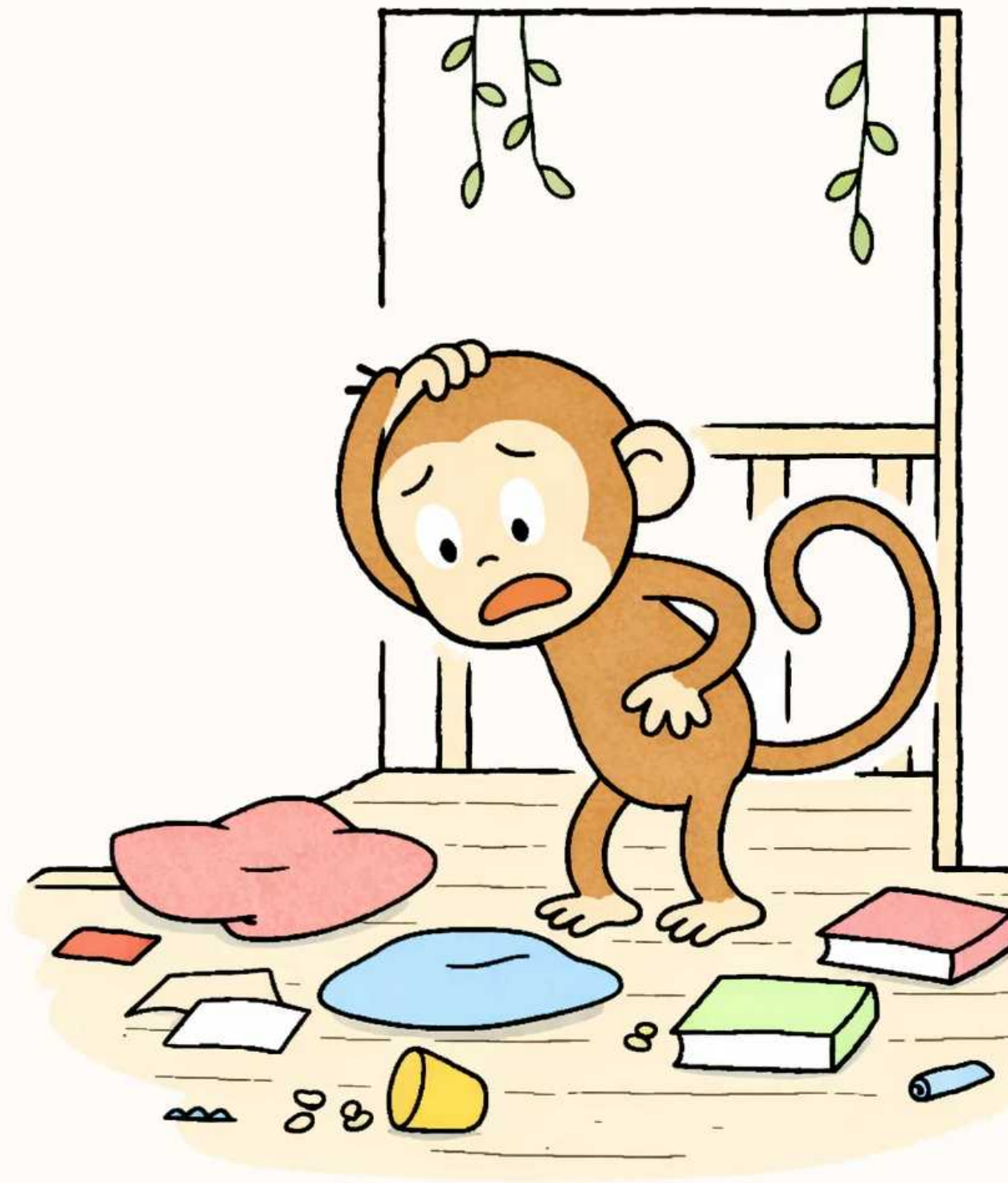
The Shameless Banana Thief

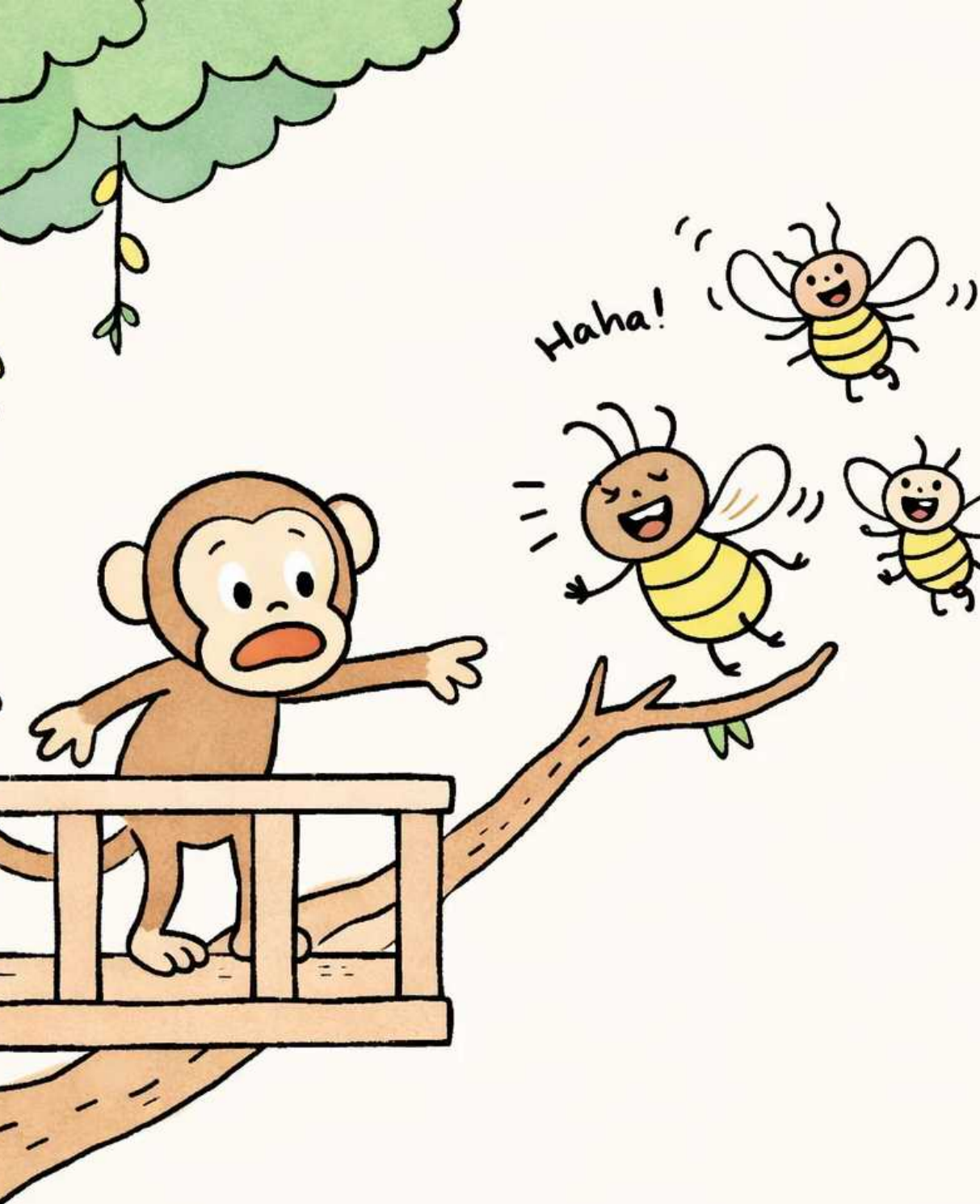




High in a tree, **tucked** in the **branches** with yellow **flowers**, there was a treehouse. And in that treehouse **lived** Monkey. Monkey **loved exactly** three **things: bananas, bananas,** and more **bananas**. He ate them for breakfast. He ate them for lunch. He ate them for dinner. And if his tummy **rumbled** at night, he **gladly** ate one more.

One morning, Monkey woke up with the **loudest** rumble in his tummy. He **smacked** his lips. 'Breakfast time!' But when he **reached** for his bunch of **bananas**, they were gone. He **looked** under his pillow. He **looked** behind his **books**. He **tossed** soft **pads** and **dishes** across the floor. No **bananas**. Not a single one. 'A thief,' Monkey **whispered**, his **eyes going** wide, 'took my breakfast.'





Monkey **leaned** over the railing and saw a little bee **buzzing** by the yellow **flowers**. 'Excuse me!' he **called loudly**. 'Did you take my **bananas?**' The bee had such a giggle that her **wings wobbled** and she almost fell off the branch. 'Me? Lift a big bunch of **bananas?**' She **wiped** a tiny drop from her eye. 'I can **only** lift a drop of honey!' Monkey **frowned**. She had a point.

Then he saw Snake, **coiled** on a branch just above him.

'Excuse me, Snake,' Monkey said, **trying** to be polite. 'Did you, by any chance, eat my **bananas?**' Snake **looked** down with a slow, hissy grin. 'I eat **rats**, not fruit. Do I look like a beast who **peels bananas?**' He let out a long hiss. 'With what **hands?**' Monkey **frowned harder**. Snake had a point.



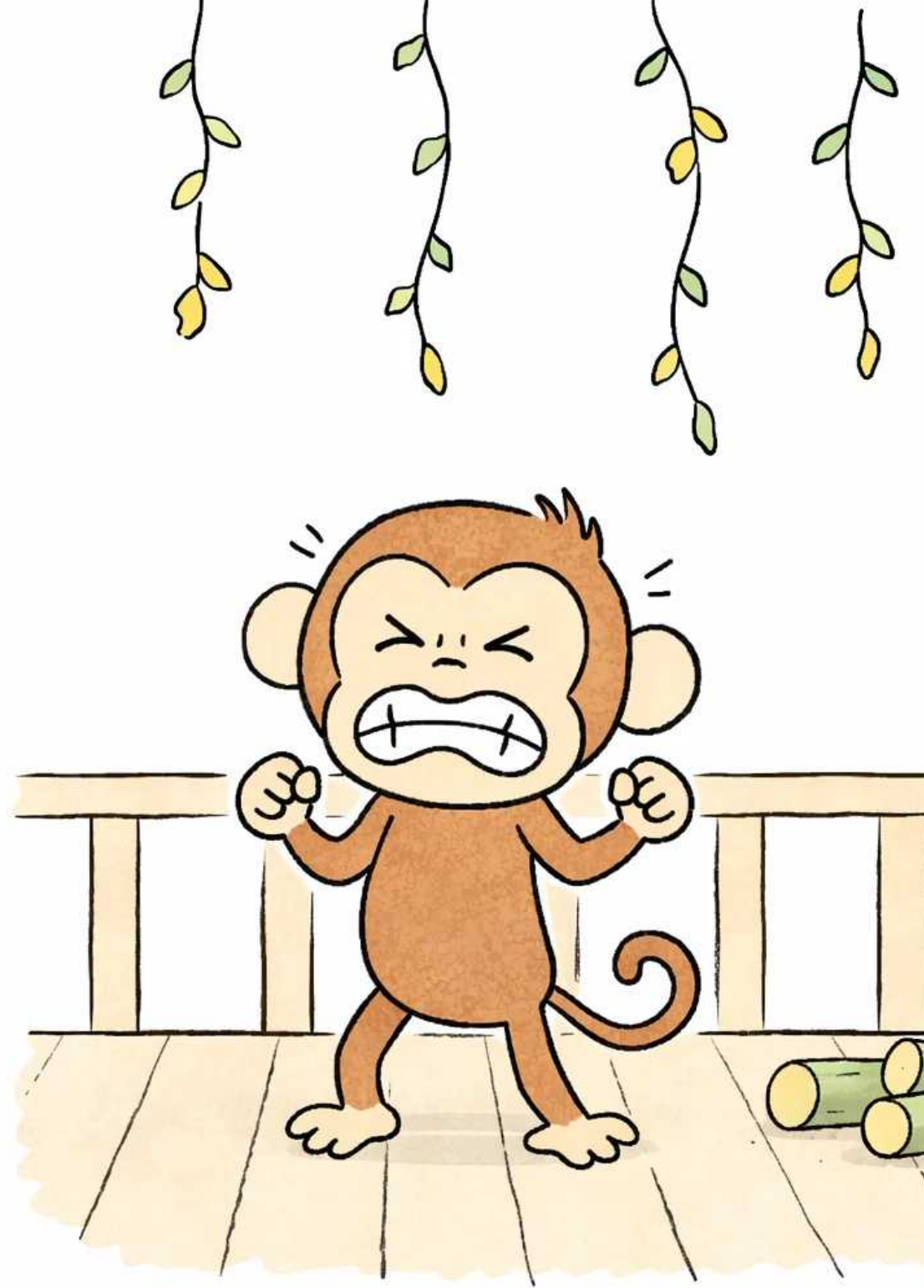


Monkey swung in the **branches** and hung upside down from a vine. His tummy **squeezed** and **groaned**. 'A thief!' he **wailed**. 'A **sneaky** thief stole my **bananas**! And I am **going** to find them!' But it is very hard to be a good **thinker** when you are upside down and your brain **runs** on zero **bananas**.

Monkey **stomped** back to his treehouse deck. He bit down hard. He **squeezed** his **eyes** shut. He **clenched** his **fists**.

'When I find out who took my **bananas**,' he **muttered**, 'there are **going** to be **dreadful, dreadful things**.'

His tummy **growled** again, even **louder** this time. It **sounded** like it **agreed**.





When Monkey **opened** his **eyes**, he saw something that made them go wide. Down on the grass below his tree, there was a trail. A trail of bright yellow **bananas**, **leading** away from the trunk, one by one, like little **clues** left behind by a **shameless** thief.

'Yes!' Monkey **gasped**. 'I have got you now!'

He **followed** the trail with his **eyes**, and there at the very end sat a white rabbit. A white rabbit **having** a **lovely** little picnic. A white rabbit right beside a big bunch of **bananas**. Monkey **reached** for the railing and **leaned** so far out that his feet left the deck. 'You bad, bad thief!' he **shouted**. 'You stole my breakfast! Those are my **bananas!**' Rabbit **looked** up and blinked.





Rabbit did not look upset. Not even a little bit. He **lifted** a banana in one paw and **pointed** to a small banana plant **growing** just behind him. 'These?' Rabbit said with a **playful** grin. 'These are mine! I grew them in my own garden. You can come and look if you like.' Monkey **opened** his mouth. Then he **closed** it. Then he **opened** it again. No **words** came out.

But Rabbit did something
Monkey did not expect. He
smiled and **tied** a big bunch
of **bananas** to a vine that
hung from the treehouse. 'It
has been a very big harvest,'
Rabbit said **kindly**. 'Take this
bunch!' Monkey stared down
from his treehouse. Just a
minute ago, he **called** Rabbit a
thief. Now Rabbit was **giving**
him a gift. His **cheeks** went
hot.





Monkey took the bunch of **bananas** and **looked** down at Rabbit. 'Thank you,' he said **softly**. 'But I still never found out who took mine.' Rabbit **tilted** his head. 'Try to **retrace** your **steps** from last night. Look **closely** at what you did before you blame a thief.' Monkey **closed** his **eyes**. Last night. What did he do? He was in his treehouse. It was dark. His tummy was **growling**. He **reached** for a banana and then...

'No!' Monkey **opened** his **eyes** wide. He **looked** at the banana **peels** all around the treehouse railing. Peel after peel after peel. 'I woke up in the night with a **growling** belly!' he **cried**. 'I ate them all! Every single one!' He **clapped** a hand over his mouth, then broke into a wide grin. 'The banana thief was me!' And down below, Rabbit let out a **joyful** hoot.





The Shameless Banana Thief

High in a treehouse tucked among the branches, a monkey loves bananas more than anything, so waking to find his whole bunch gone is a disaster. He questions a bee and a snake, but neither one took his breakfast, so who could the sneaky, shameless thief be? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 106: Affixes Review 1), this book practices words like 'branches', 'dreadful', 'gladly', 'shameless', 'loudest'.

Phonics Focus: Affixes Review 1

agreed, bananas, books, branches, buzzing, called, cheeks, clapped, clenched, closed, closely, clues, coiled, cried, dishes, dreadful, exactly, eyes, fists, flowers, followed, frowned, gasped, giving, gladly, going, groaned, growing, growled, growling, hands, harder, having, joyful, kindly, leading, leaned, lifted, lived, looked, louder, loudest, loudly, loved, lovely, muttered, only, opened, pads, peels, playful, pointed, rats, reached, retrace, rumbled, runs, shameless, shouted, smacked, smiled, sneaky, softly, sounded, squeezed, steps, stomped, things, thinker, tied, tilted, tossed, trying, tucked, wailed, whispered, wings, wiped, wobbled, words

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