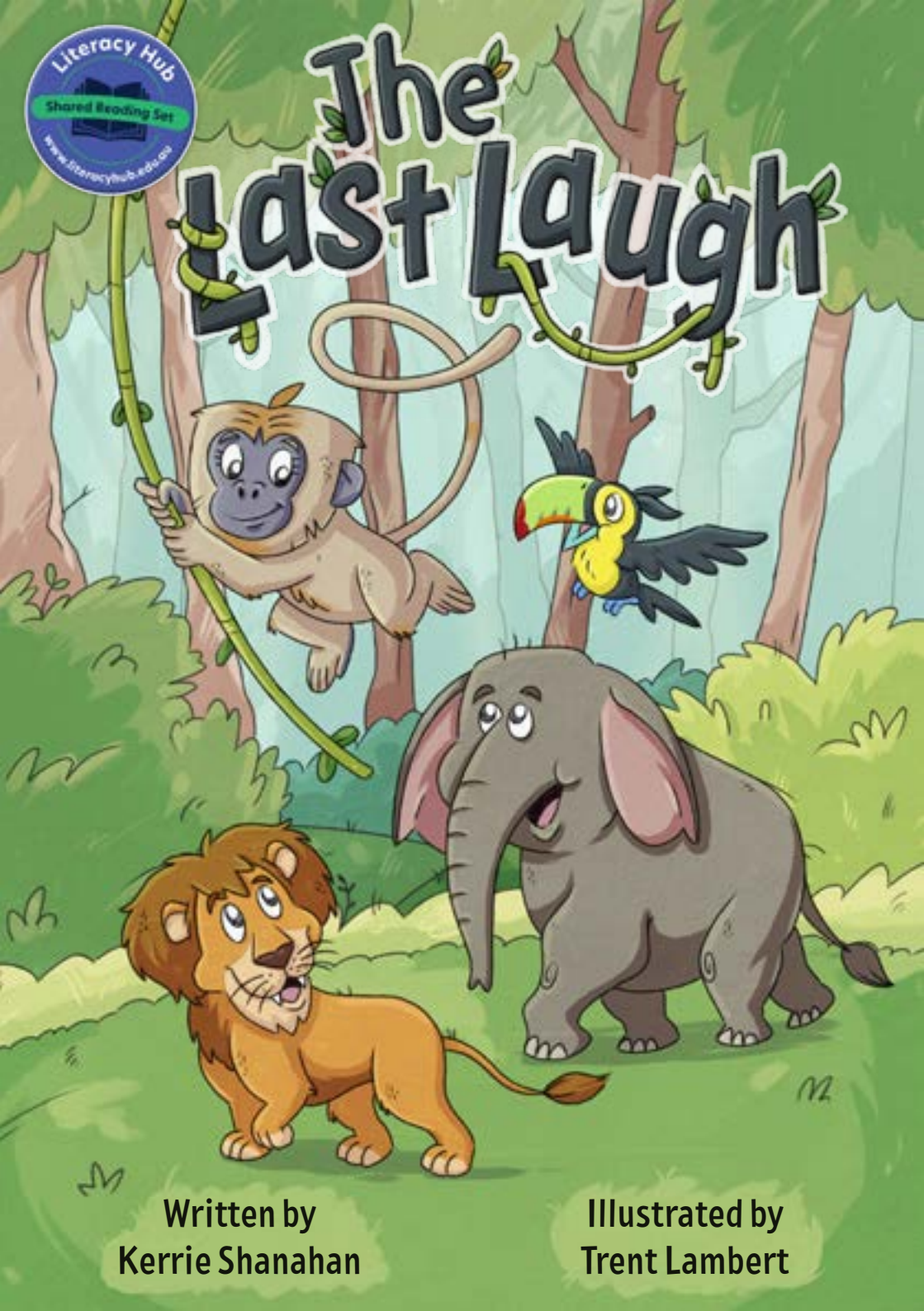




The Last Laugh



Written by
Kerrie Shanahan

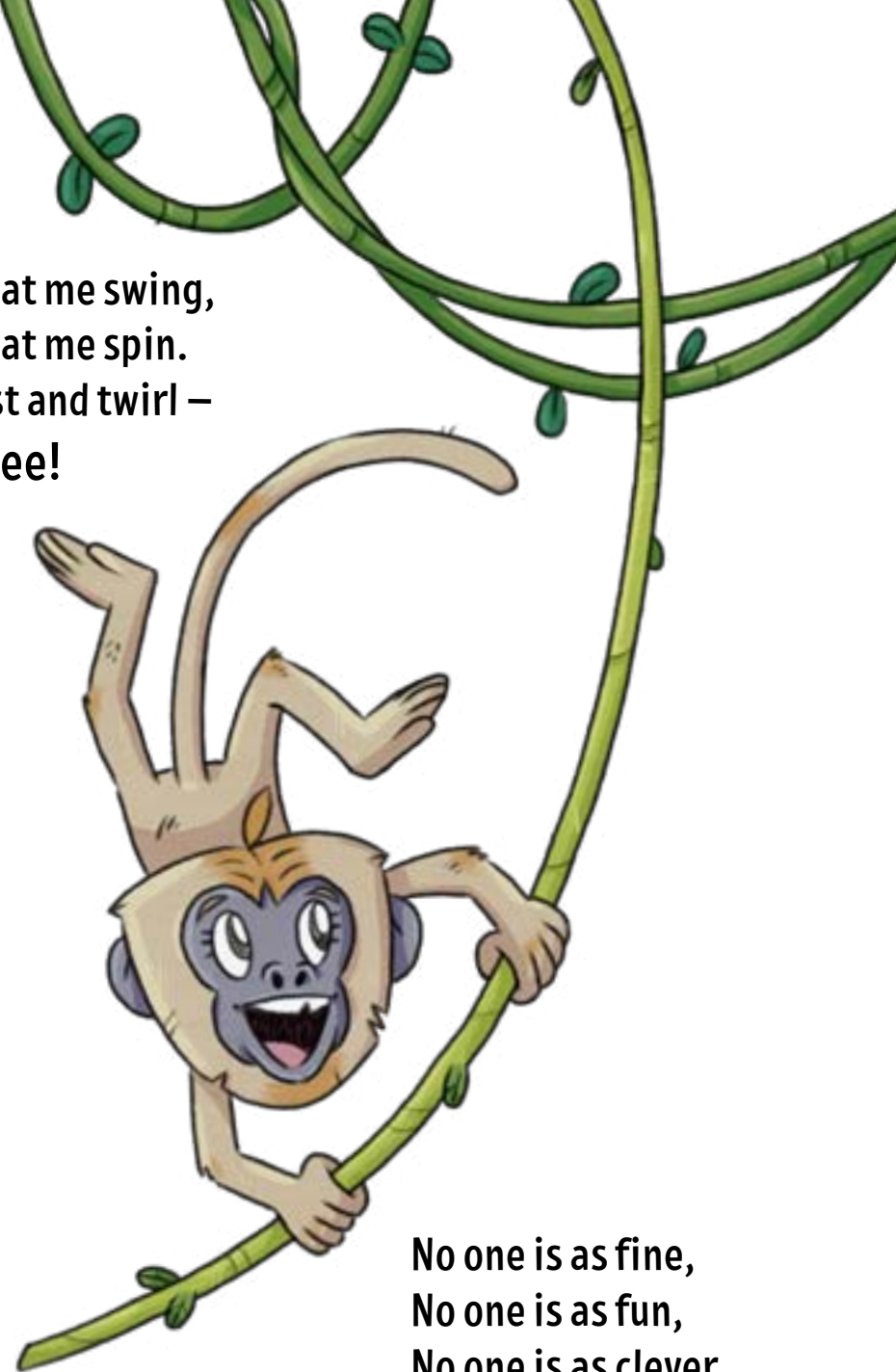
Illustrated by
Trent Lambert

Monkey loved to play.
She loved to swing in
the trees.

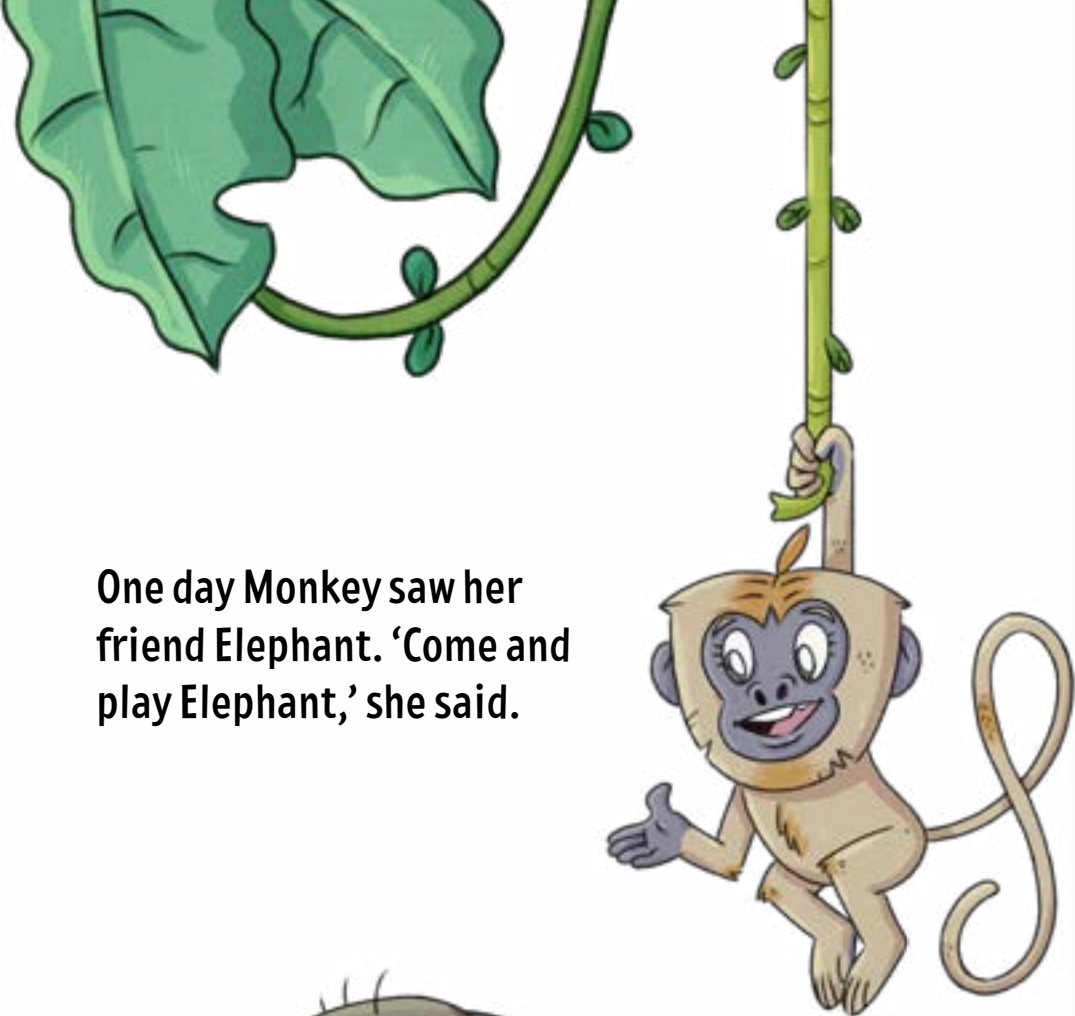


And as she did she would
always sing ...

Look at me swing,
Look at me spin.
I twist and twirl –
Yippee!



No one is as fine,
No one is as fun,
No one is as clever
as me.

A cartoon monkey with a blue face and brown body is hanging from a green vine. The monkey is smiling and looking towards the left. The vine has several green leaves.

One day Monkey saw her friend Elephant. 'Come and play Elephant,' she said.



So off they went,
into the forest.
Monkey was fast ...

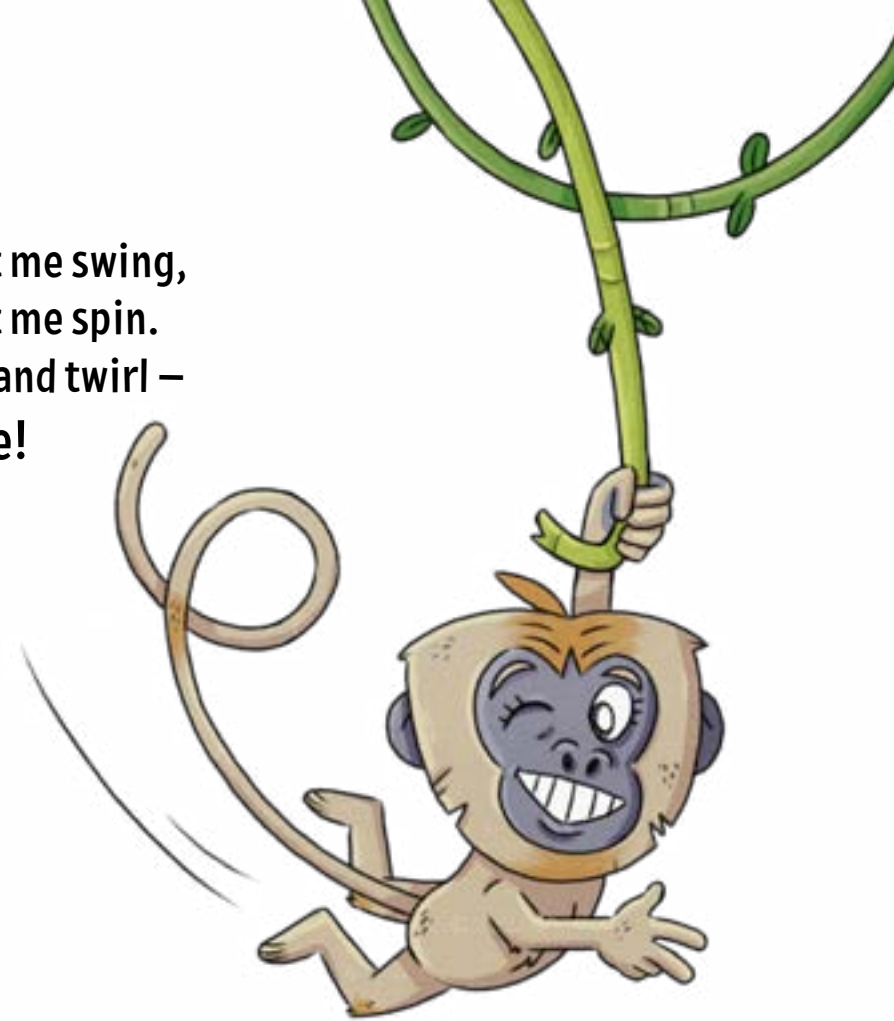


but Elephant was slow.
'You can't keep up with me Elephant,'
laughed Monkey.

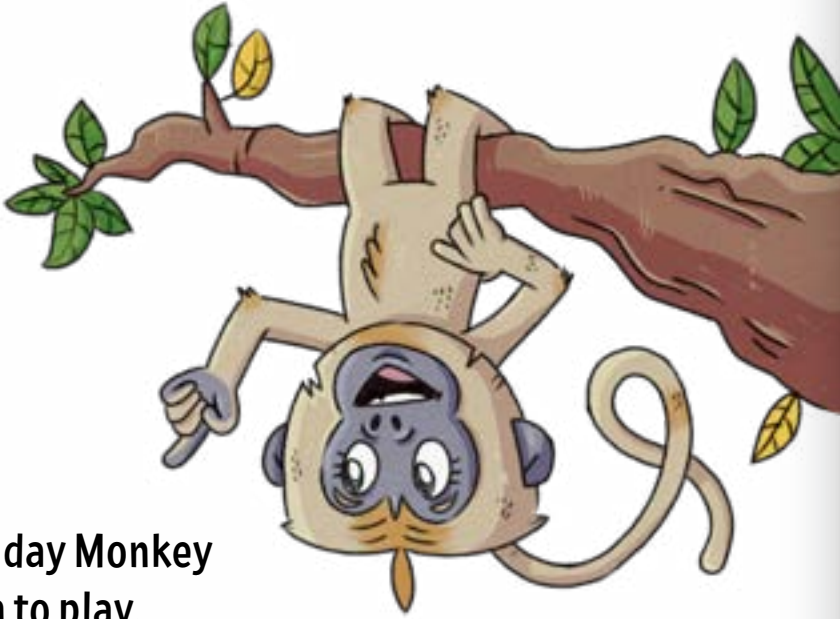
Monkey swung through
the trees leaving
Elephant far behind.



Look at me swing,
Look at me spin.
I twist and twirl –
Yippee!



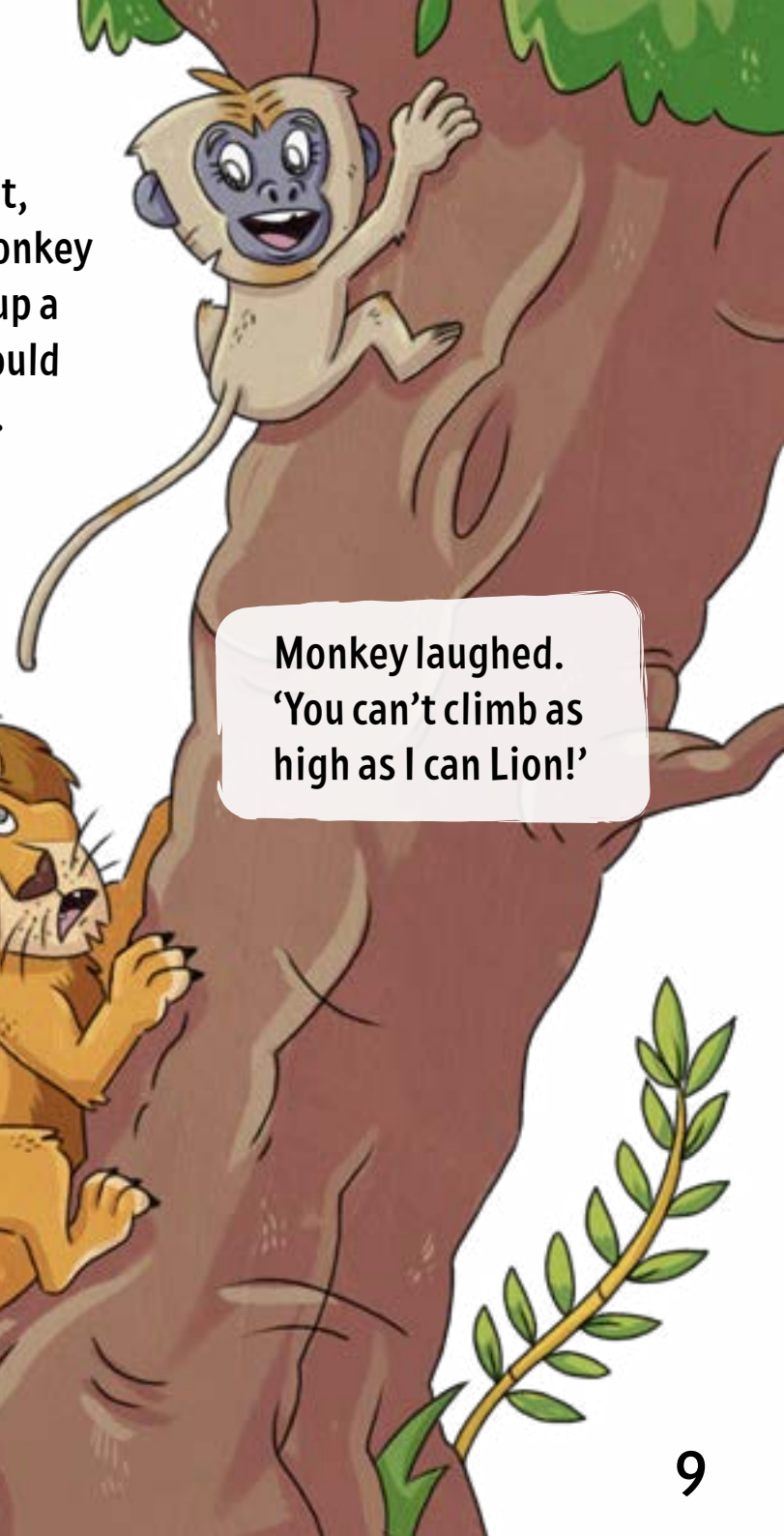
No one is as fine,
No one is as fun,
No one is as clever
as me.



Later that day Monkey asked Lion to play.



Lion was fast, but when Monkey scampered up a tree, Lion could not keep up.



Monkey laughed. 'You can't climb as high as I can Lion!'



A large, brown tree trunk dominates the center of the page. To the left, a lion with a brown mane sits on a patch of green grass, looking towards the right. To the right, a monkey with a blue face and body is swinging happily on a green vine. The monkey is holding the vine with both hands and has a long, thin tail trailing behind it. The background is plain white.

Monkey swung through the
trees leaving Lion all alone
at the bottom of the tree.

Look at me swing,
Look at me spin.
I twist and twirl –
Yippee!

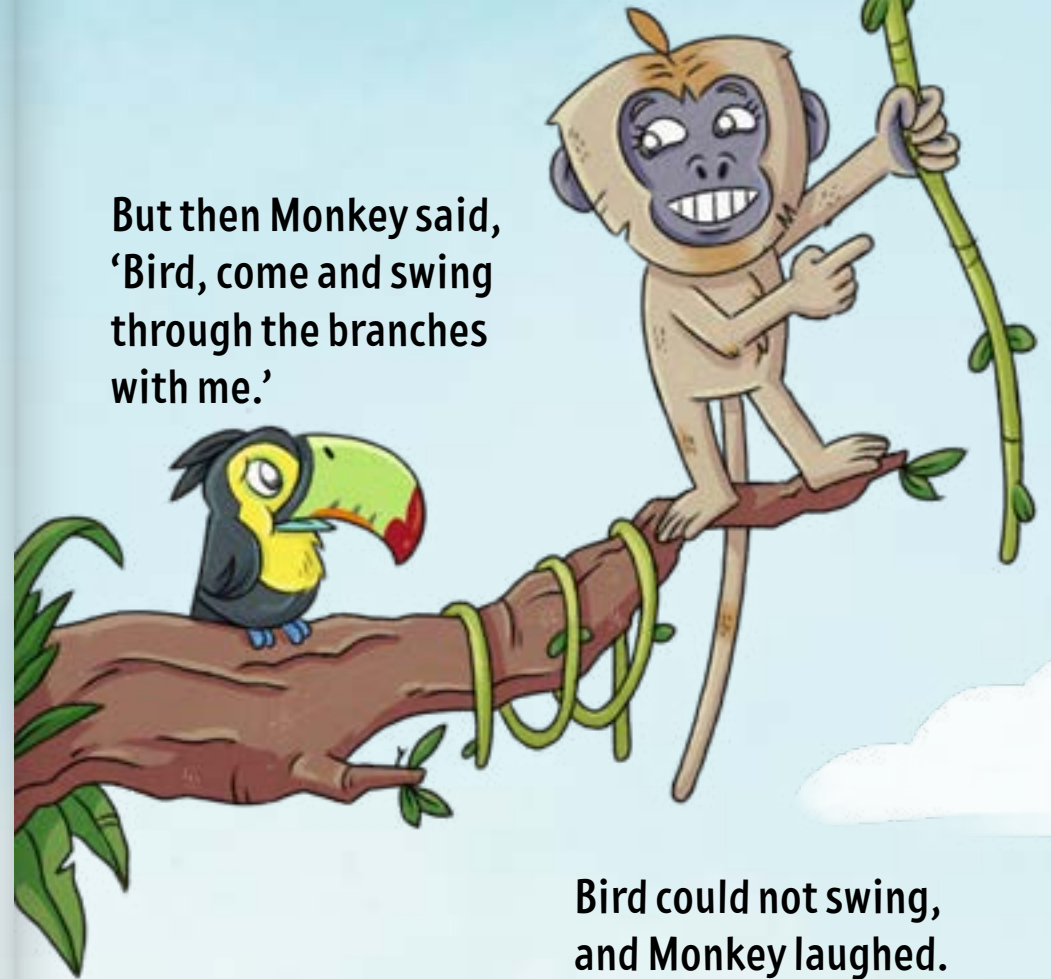
No one is as fine,
No one is as fun,
No one is as clever
as me.

The next day Monkey saw Bird.
'Bird you are fast, and you go up high in
the trees. Come and play.'



So Monkey and Bird played
happily together.

But then Monkey said,
'Bird, come and swing
through the branches
with me.'

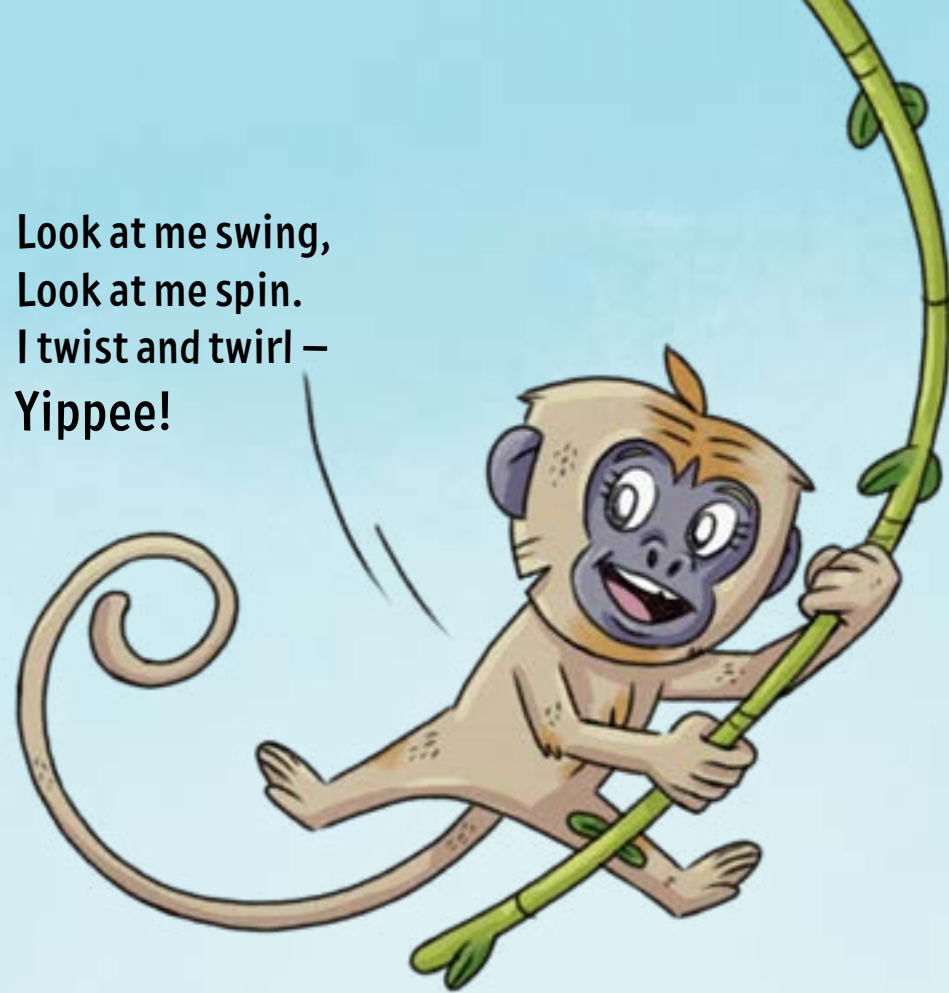


Bird could not swing,
and Monkey laughed.

Monkey swung through
the trees leaving Bird
alone on a branch.

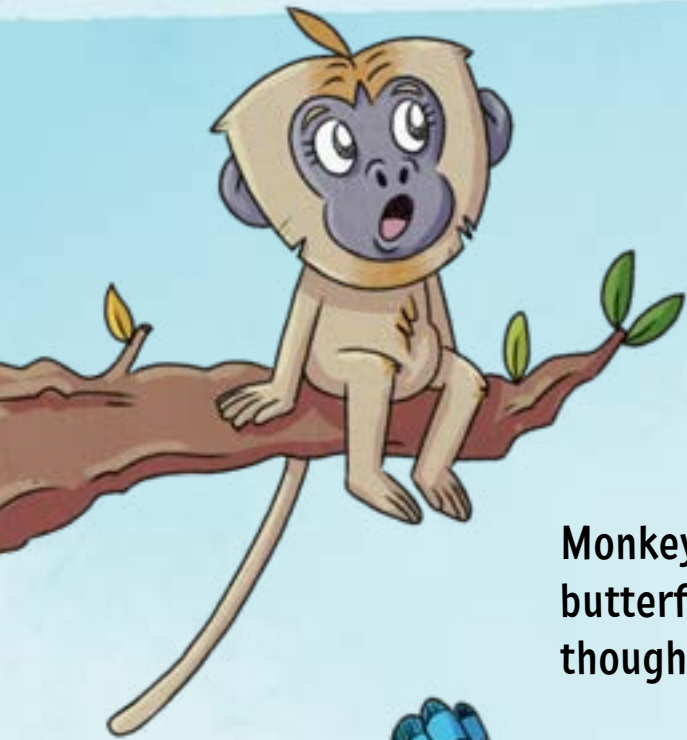


Look at me swing,
Look at me spin.
I twist and twirl –
Yippee!



No one is as fine,
No one is as fun,
No one is as clever
as me.

Sometime later Monkey was swinging through the trees, when she saw a beautiful butterfly.



Monkey followed the butterfly as it flitted through the forest.



She followed, and followed, and followed; up and down, around and around.



Suddenly Monkey was high up in a tree. She looked for the butterfly, but it was gone.



Monkey turned to climb down ... but something was stopping her.

'Oh no,' cried Monkey.
'My tail is tangled in this vine.'

Monkey wriggled and pulled, and pulled and wriggled, but she could not move.



Monkey was stuck!

Time passed. Light was fading. Monkey was tired and scared.



Then, just as the sun was setting, Monkey saw Bird high in the sky.



'Bird! Bird!' called Monkey. 'Help me!'

Bird flew down and saw what was wrong. She quickly pecked at the vine with her strong beak.



Peck. Peck. Peck.
Bird cut the vine loose from the tree.

'Can you climb down now?'
asked Bird.
'No,' sobbed Monkey.




'The vine is still tangled around
my tail. I will fall, if I can't use
my tail.'



Bird thought quickly.
'I'll be back,' she said,
and off she flew.

Monkey waited
... alone in the tree.



Bird finally
returned, and
Elephant and Lion
were with her.

Elephant held a very long branch in
his strong, agile trunk.

‘Monkey,’ called Elephant. ‘Grab
hold of this.’



Monkey clung tightly to the branch as Elephant
slowly and gently lowered it to the ground.

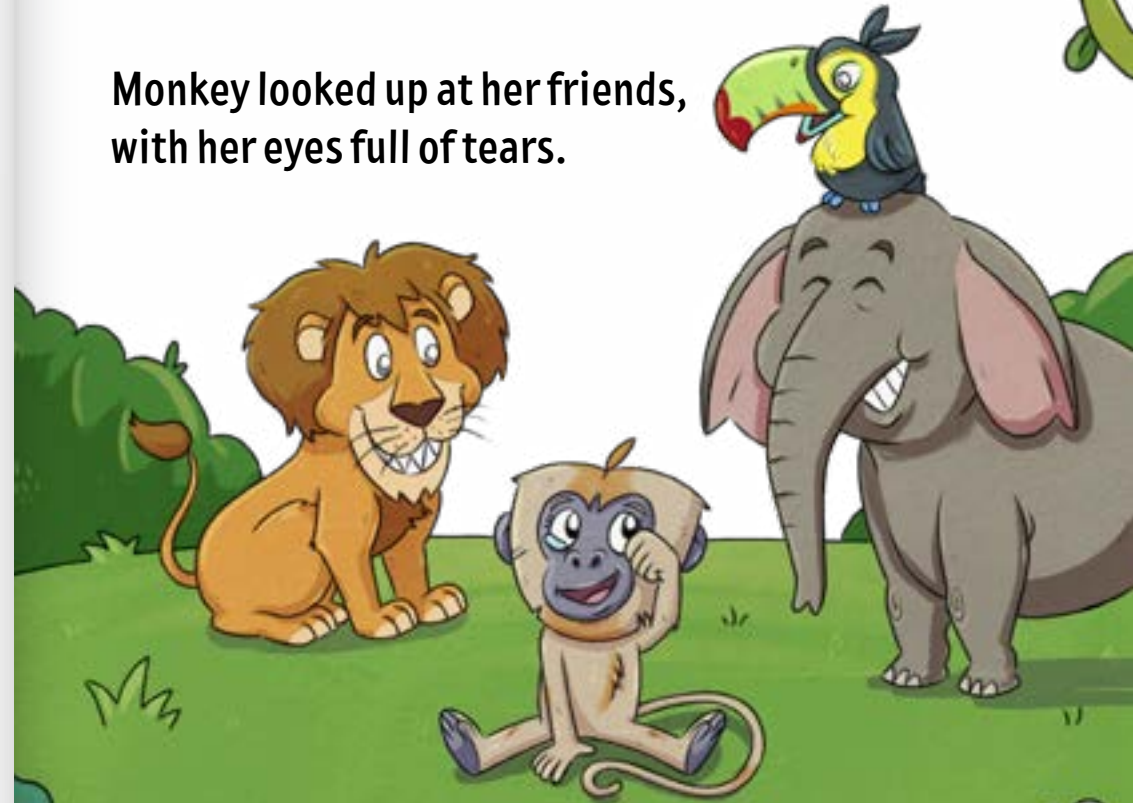
Monkey was safe, but the vine was still wrapped tightly around her tail.

'My poor tail!' Monkey wailed.



'I'll fix it,' said Lion. And ever so gently Lion used his razor-sharp teeth to cut the vine off Monkey's tail.

Monkey looked up at her friends, with her eyes full of tears.



'Thank you,' she said.
'You are all very clever!'

Monkey still loves to swing through the trees, but now she sings a different song ...



Look at me swing,
Look at me spin.
I twist and twirl –
Yippee!



My friends are all fine,
My friends are all fun,
My friends are all clever like me!

The Last Laugh

Boastful Monkey is very happy with her long tail and strong arms.

She laughs at her friends who can't twist and twirl through the trees like her.

Elephant is too slow, Lion can't climb high, and Bird can't swing through the branches.

But one day Monkey realises just how special and clever her friends really are.

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