

The monkey and the mango

Once upon a time there was a nervous little monkey. He was lying beneath a mango tree thinking about what would happen if the earth was to open up and swallow him. And as he was thinking this thought there was loud BANG! Terrified that the earth was about to swallow him up, the monkey ran and ran and ran until he met a rabbit.

"What are you doing, running so fast?" called the rabbit.

"The earth's going to open up and swallow us. We have to get away!" panted the monkey.

"Yikes!" cried the rabbit. "I better run too."

So the monkey and the rabbit ran and they ran and they ran until they came to a goat.

"What are you doing, running so fast?" asked the goat.

"The earth's going to open up and swallow us. We have to get away!" ...[repeat]

...So the monkey and the rabbit and the goat ran and they ran and they ran until they met an ostrich. *"What are you doing, running so fast?" called the ostrich...*

...So the monkey and the rabbit and the goat and the ostrich ran and they ran until they met a hippopotamus. *"What are you doing, running so fast?"...*

...So the monkey and the rabbit and the goat and the ostrich and the hippo ran until they met an elephant. *"What are you doing, running so fast?"...*

...So the monkey and the rabbit and the goat and the ostrich and the hippo and the elephant ran and they ran until they met a lion. The lion roared an almighty roar and all the animals stopped, terrified. *"What are you doing, running so fast?"* The elephant told lion that the earth was about to swallow them all up.

"How do you know?" asked the lion.

"The hippo told me," replied the elephant.

"The ostrich told me," said the hippo....

And so the lion followed the trail back to the monkey who told lion the story of how he was sitting beneath a mango tree worrying about how the earth might one day open up and swallow him when he heard a loud bang.

"Get on my back," said lion, "We'll go and investigate this bang." Lion took the nervous little monkey back to the place the whole story began, the mango tree. There the lion pointed with his paw to a freshly fallen mango. *"Do you think, little monkey, that perhaps this mango could have fallen and made that bang?"* he asked. Monkey was relieved. *"So the earth really isn't going to open up and swallow me,"* he thought.

He ate the mango and it tasted sweet.

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