

Level  
4

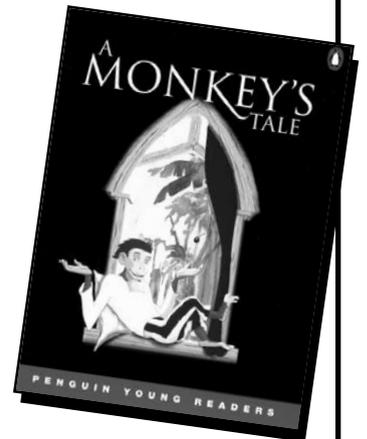
## Penguin Young Readers Factsheets

# A Monkey's Tale

Teacher's Notes

### Summary of the story

Kom is a teenage monkey who lives in Woonkoland, high up in the trees. One day he falls out of the trees and is rescued by the King of the Laankos, monkeys who have very different customs. He becomes the King's jester and is befriended by Gina, a Laanko servant girl. Sebastian, the King's Chancellor, wants to be king and is slowly poisoning the King's daughter Princess Ida. Kom cannot save the King, who dies when he falls through the melting ice of the lake, but together Kom and Gina cure the princess who is crowned Queen. Because of Kom, the two communities of monkeys are reunited.



### Background to the story

The story is taken from the animated feature film by Frenchman, Jean-François Laguionie, which was produced entirely in Europe. The story is written by Norman Hudis.

### Topics and themes

**Animals.** The story contains two groups of monkeys. It also mentions horses and tigers.

**The Country.** In the story, the country is jungle with tall trees, lakes and tigers. What other tropical animals and plants do the pupils know? What is their own countryside like?

**Friendships.** Gina and Kom, despite coming from different places, become friends. How do pupils make new friends; what do they do together; What makes a 'good' friend?

**Monsters.** Who are the bad guys? Who is the worst?

**Schools.** Schools for monkeys who live in the trees or on the ground. What will they learn?

**Travel.** Kom and Gina travel to one another's countries and this can be basis for work on geographical vocabulary. The story also mentioned different transport methods; horse, ship, plane. What other methods do the pupils know?

**Weather/Seasons.** Snow turns to rain and ice is melted by the sun. How does the weather change with the seasons in the pupil's experience?

### Making use of the Reader

**What's my move?** Prepare a set of cards using verbs of locomotion from the story - jump, climb, swim, run, fall, lift, lie, walk, stand. Pupils take turns to pick a card and mime the verb, while the others guess what it is.

**A new country.** Tell the pupils that after the story, Kom and Gina use the flying machine to cross the lake. They discover Seenkoland. Ask the pupils to work in pairs or small groups to describe in English how the Seenkos live and what their country is like. They can illustrate them too. What do Kom and Gina think of the Seenkos and Seenkoland? Display the pictures and descriptions.

**Laankos and Woonkos.** Divide the class into two groups. In turns, they say why their life is better e.g. We live in a building, not a tree. (Laankos). We can climb (Wookos).

**Collecting pictures.** Pupils can collect pictures of different forms of transport and stick them on card. Label a number of large boxes or baskets, using different categories each time, e.g. fastest, fast, slow, slowest; air, land, sea, river; cheap, expensive; quiet, noisy; alive, not alive; favourite, least favourite. Ask the pupils to sort their pictures into different boxes. Discuss their choices.



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### Using the accompanying audio cassette

**During watching and listening** – whole class prediction. Play the audio cassette all the way through. During the second playing, stop just before a dramatic event (such as on p. 8 when the tree breaks, or p. 19 when someone shouts Fire) and ask the pupils to tell you what happens next, then listen to see if they are right.

**Record the Woonko cries.** Working in pairs or small groups, the pupils can invent the Woonko cries, e.g. for danger, for something beautiful or wonderful, for food, for love. Record them on audio cassette, and then pupils can vote for the best in each category.

**Listening for specific information** The pupils can signal, by putting up their hand, whenever Princess Ida is mentioned or speaks.

### Notes on the activities in the Factsheet

**Activity 1.** Ask the pupils to look at the pictures of Korkonak and Master Martin and then read the story. Then tick the boxes against any sentence that fits the person.

**Activity 2.** Cut out the sentences boxes and put them in order of the story. Alternatively, lines can be drawn from one to the other to connect them.

**Activity 3.** This is a pair-work activity. Pupils should use a pencil only. Check that the pupils understand all the vocabulary, then ask one in each pair to draw a picture of these things in the grid. Then this partner hides his picture from his partner and describes what the second partner should draw on their own grid, using grid references such as 'draw the flower in 2b'. When they are finished, see if the pictures look the same.

**Activity 4.** This is a true/false activity. The pupils can do this individually, in pairs with one reading out the sentences and one deciding if they are true or false, or as a whole class activity with you or a child reading the sentences and the whole class deciding.

### Answers to the activities

#### In the back of the Reader

##### Before you read

2. In the jungle is the correct answer, but as the pupils have not yet read the story they could have other acceptable answers.

##### After you read

3. In order, the sentences are spoken by Korkonak (given), The King, Master Martin, Kom, Gina, Sebastian.

4. a. cure; b. hunting; c. kill; d. servant.

#### In the Factsheet

**Activity 1.** Korkonak: He lives in trees. He has no clothes. Kom learns from him.

Master Martin: He stands up straight. He covers his ears. Kom learns from him.

**Activity 2.** d, b, f, e, a, c.

**Activity 4.** 1. F. 2. F. 3. T. 4. F. 5. T.



# A Monkey's Tale

Name.....

## Activity 1

Here are two people from the story. Put a tick in the box next to the picture when the sentence is true.



- |                          |                        |                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | He stands up straight. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | He lives in trees.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | He covers his ears.    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | He wears no clothes.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kom learns from him.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |



## Activity 2

Cut out the sentences and put them in order.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✂ | a. The King and his soldiers crossed the ice.           |
| ✂ | b. Kom learnt all about the Laankos from Master Martin. |
| ✂ | c. Princess Ida was crowned Queen.                      |
| ✂ | d. Kom fell down, out of Woonkoland                     |
| ✂ | e. Kom picked the blue flower.                          |
| ✂ | f. Kom became the King's jester.                        |



# A Monkey's Tale

Name.....

## Activity 3

On the grid draw a blue flower, a ship, a tree, a crown, a monkey.

	a	b	c	d	e
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

## Activity 4

True or false? Put T or F in the box.

- 1. The Laankos all swam and sailed on the lake.
- 2. The Laankos used the lake water to put out the fire on the King's ship.
- 3. Master Martin wanted to stop the King crossing the ice.
- 4. Sebastian was kind to Princess Ida.
- 5. Kom cured the Princess with the blue flower.

