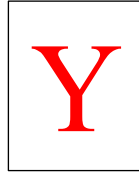


## Monkeyshines

by Michael Salinger

Do not feed the monkey!  
Don't look him in the eye.  
Don't smile,  
even if you're happy.  
Let me tell you why.  
Monkeys are greedy  
and bad company.  
One treat won't satisfy.  
If you feed the monkey,  
monkeys are not shy.  
They reach into your pockets,  
pry your glasses  
from your eyes.  
They've got sticky little fingers.  
You can kiss your bananas goodbye.  
Do not feed the monkey.  
Don't look him in the eye.



## Monday

- 1. Reading fluency:** Read, re-reread, listen to the author read. Text highlights Y sounds. Fun fact: Y can either be a vowel or a consonant. It has a variety of pronunciations. It can be pronounced EE (*monkey*), AI (*satisfy*), AA (*they*), U (*your*), or like a short I (*syndrome*). Basically, if you are confused, it's best to ask a native speaker how to pronounce it or listen to the word on a video. This poem is a bit bossy, so try reading it with hand motions. **Fun Fact:** Y sounds like a question, and in math it stands for an unknown. Coincidence?
- 2. Content comprehension:** Ask: What is this text about? (It's a warning.) Background information: If you show your teeth to a monkey, the animal may see that as a sign of aggression. Don't smile! Discuss some characteristics of monkeys (they are mischievous, they pick your pockets and can pull glasses from your eyes). Ask: what else in life acts like a monkey? If we look at the monkey in this poem as a symbol, what could the monkey be a symbol of?

## Tuesday

- 3. Vocabulary words:** *Greedy, satisfy, pry*. Discuss the use of the words in context and practice reading again. Use research tools if necessary, and come to a consensus about the word meanings.
  - *Greedy* (adj.) being selfish and grabbing more than is needed. Compare to the next word, *satisfy*. Add an -ly to make it an adverb (*greedily*). Try it out – you need to add a letter for it to work!
  - *Satisfy* (v.) to be happy with what you have. Ask: is it possible for a greedy person to ever be satisfied?
  - *Pry* (v.) to leverage with force. Demonstrate or ask a student to show how to pry. Practice variations: prying (v., adj.), pried (v.). Note the change in spelling). How does

this word relate to *prying* open a can of paint? What does it mean to *pry* into someone's personal business?

4. **Share Sheet:** Distribute Share Sheets. Then read them aloud and review the discussion ideas.

**Discussion ideas:**

1. Have you ever had an experience with a real monkey? Trade stories.
2. Rehearse the phrases YOUR MONKEY and THEY SATISFY 3 times before reading the poem again aloud. This is kind of a bossy poem. Be bossy!

## Wednesday

5. **Social-emotional learning lesson:** Journal entry about 4-5 minutes. Choose from below or make another personal connection:

- Have you ever had personal contact with a monkey? How did that work out for you?
- If you look at “monkey” as a symbol of a danger, what is a monkey in your life you don't want to feed?
- After writing, ask students to read their writing aloud. Some options:
  - everyone reads aloud at the same time (a seat symphony)
  - read one line of their writing aloud
  - read what they have written to a partner

## Thursday

6. **Literary terms and conventions:** *Monkeyshines* uses the monkey as a **symbol**. Ask: What could the monkey be a symbol of? It could be something negative, such as (rumors), mischievous (a distraction such as video games), an annoyance (an internet troll) or even dangerous (addiction). Compare “do not feed the monkey” to the adage “do not poke the bear.” Discuss.

7. **Quick Write:** Review sample text that uses a backpack as a symbol. Co-construct a short text that contains a symbol. (ideas: a flag, an open sky, a blank piece of paper). Ask students to follow directions on the slides.

- Working with a partner or on your own, think of an object that could be viewed as a **symbol** and use it to explain something you know is true.
- **Reminder:** A **symbol** is a **concrete** object (something you can touch) that means more than its literal meaning. It has an **abstract** meaning (something you can't touch).
  - Hints: look around the room and out the window for things you can touch (concrete objects). Ask yourself, what could that pencil, flagpole, or bookcase be a symbol for? What abstract ideas do they represent?

**Sample:**

**Object (concrete):** A backpack

**Symbolism (abstract):**  
Responsibility

**Version 1:**

I'm so tired of carrying this overloaded backpack around with me everywhere I go. This backpack is full of responsibilities, and it's dragging me down. I can't gain any traction in the race of life carrying all this weight.

## Friday

**8. Audio Challenge:** Ask students to choose from options on the slide.

- Record yourself reading *Monkeyshines* alone or with a partner. This poem is pretty bossy. Let your voice and hand motions reflect that.
- Record yourself reading your journal entry.
- Record your quick write alone or with a partner.
- Rehearse and share!