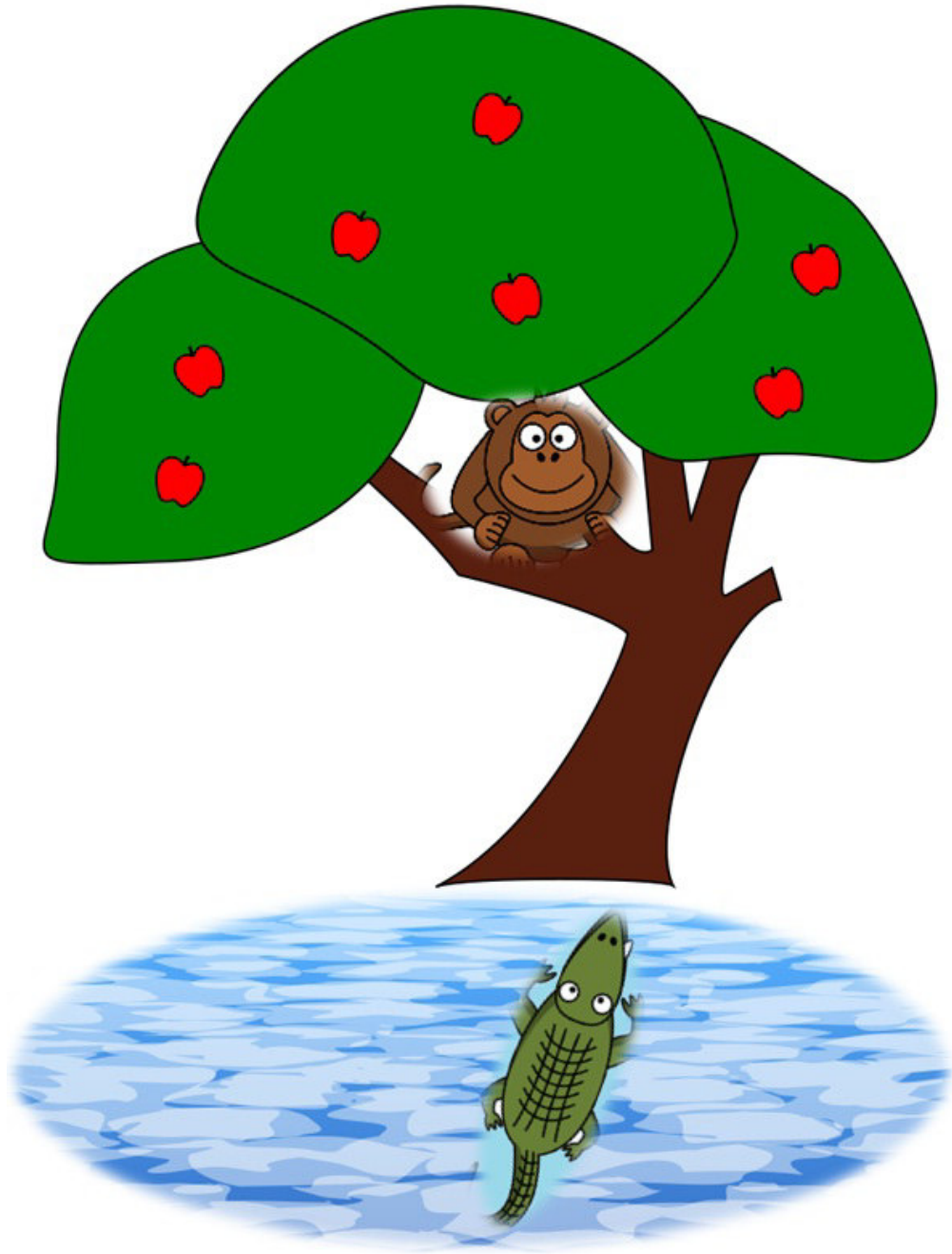


Name: _____

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The Monkey and the Crocodile

(A Panchatantra Fable)



Once upon a time there lived a monkey named Chatura, on an apple tree by the side of a river. The tree was always full of fruits, which were as sweet as nectar. He was happily passing his days jumping from one tree to another and eating apples from the tree.

One day a crocodile named Lalchi swam near the bank of the river to rest under the monkey's tree. Lalchi was very tired and hungry. He asked Chatura "Do you know where I can get some food?"

Chatura said, "I have plenty of red – rose apples in my tree. Would you like to try some?" He threw some down to the crocodile. The crocodile was so hungry that he ate up all the apples even though crocodiles don't eat fruit. He loved the sweet fruit and asked whether he could have some more. "Of course", replied Chatura generously, throwing down more fruit. The crocodile ate them and thanked the monkey for his kindness and went home.

Lalchi started coming on shore every day. As the crocodiles can't climb the tree, so Chatura would always pluck apples for him. Soon they became good friends. Both of them started spending time with each other. One day, Chatura plucked lot more apples. Lalchi asked Chatura "Can I take some apples for my wife?" Chatura happily gave the fruits to him. Lalchi took the fruits cheerfully to his wife and also recounted the whole story to her.

After eating the fruits, Lalchi's wife was overjoyed and said to her husband, "Dear, if these fruits are so tasty, then the monkey who eats these fruits must be very tasty. Why don't you bring the heart of this monkey for my meals?" The crocodile was astonished to hear such words from his wife. He replied, "The monkey is my friend. It would not be fair to take his heart". His wife was greedy and pleaded with her husband that she would like to eat the monkey's heart, as anyone who eats such tasty fruits must have a heart filled with nectar. Lalchi was angered and did not agree to deceive his friend. But she then insisted on not eating anything till he brought her his friend's heart.

Lalchi was left with no other option, but to bring monkey's heart for his wife. He was

afraid that how could he ask for such thing from his friend. He started making plans for killing his friend. Chatura was waiting for his dear friend for the daily meeting. Reaching ashore, Lalchi invited Chatura to his home. He said, "My wife and I invite you to our home for a dinner. My wife is very angry with me for not having invited you earlier". He stated that his wife is anxious to meet such a nice friend.

Poor Chatura didn't know about the plan and believed the story of his friend. He asked Lalchi "I accept your invitation, but how will I go with you? I don't know how to swim?" The crocodile replied, "Don't worry. Come and sit on my back. I'll take you to my house." The monkey happily sat on the back of the crocodile and they started their journey. Suddenly, Lalchi entered in the deep waters with an intention to kill his friend. Chatura got scared to see water all around and asked his friend to move slowly.

Lalchi thought that now he could reveal his real intentions to the monkey, as it was impossible for him to escape from the middle of the river. The crocodile foolishly said to the monkey, "I am taking you to my home to please my wife. She wants to eat your heart. She says that since you eat tasty apples every day, your heart must be very tasty than those apples."

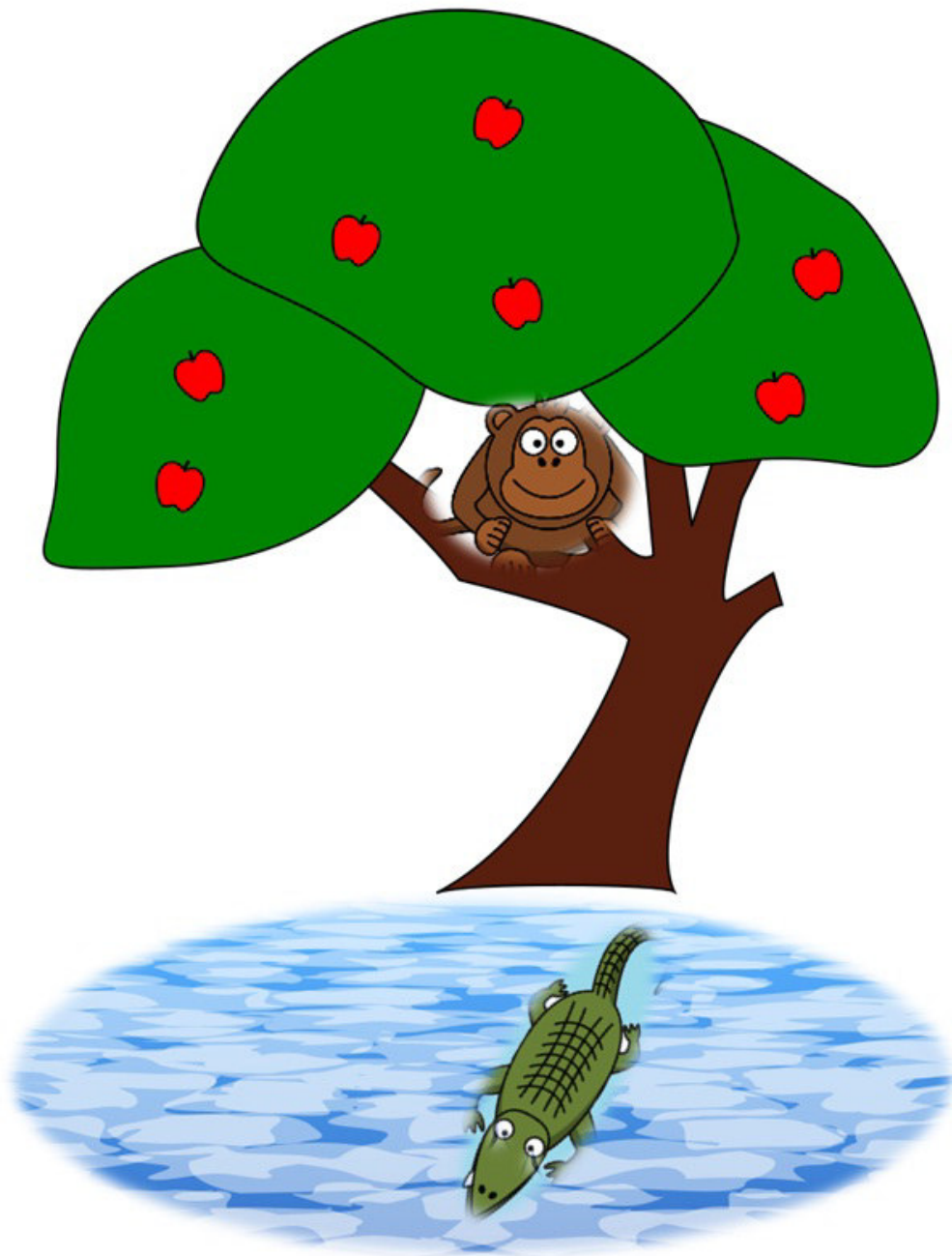
Chatura was horrified to hear these words. He had never expected this type of a request from a friend. What could he do to save himself? He thought quickly and said, "Oh dear! Why didn't you tell me earlier? It would be my pleasure to offer my heart to your charming wife. But I have left my heart behind on the apple tree. In order to serve my heart to your wife, I have to go back to get my heart."

The foolish Lalchi swiftly then swam back to the tree where Chatura lived. On reaching the bank Chatura quickly jumped off his friend's back and climbed up the tree. Lalchi waited impatiently for the monkey to bring his heart. He asked "What is the delay? Get your heart. My wife will be very happy."

Chatura laughed and answered, "My dear foolish friend. You've deceived me as a friend. Can anyone take out his heart from the body and keep it separately on the

tree. My heart is inside me, come up here and get it if you can. It was all a trick to save my life and teach a lesson to an unfaithful friend like you. Now go away and don't ever come back." The monkey saved his life by remaining calm and acting quickly.

The crocodile was ashamed for his act. He had lost a good friend. A tear fell down his cheek as he swam back to his wife.



The Monkey and the Crocodile

1. On which tree did Chatura live?

2. Who was hungry and asked for food from Chatura?

3. What did the crocodile's wife demanded from her husband for the meals?

4. What plan did Lalchi made to take Chatura to his home?

5. How Chatura saved himself from being killed?

6. What is the moral of the story?

Vocabulary Activity

Write the antonyms for the vocabulary words from the article.

1. Happy _____
2. Deep _____
3. Foolish _____
4. Horrified _____
5. Impossible _____
6. Sweet _____
7. Friend _____
8. Quickly _____
9. Greedy _____
10. Kindness _____

The Monkey and the Crocodile – ANSWER KEY

1. On which tree did Chatura live?

Chatura lived on an apple tree.

2. Who was hungry and asked for food from Chatura?

Lalchi, a crocodile was hungry and asked for food from Chatura.

3. What did the crocodile's wife demanded from her husband for the meals?

Crocodile's wife demanded monkey's heart for the meals.

4. What plan did Lalchi made to take Chatura to his home?

Lalchi invited Chatura to his home for a dinner and asked him to sit on his back for going into the river.

5. How Chatura saved himself from being killed?

Chatura saved himself from being killed by tricking the crocodile. He said he has left his heart behind on the apple tree and will have to go back to get his heart.

6. What is the moral of the story? (Answer may vary)

The moral of the story is to remain calm and act quickly in adverse situations.

Vocabulary Activity – ANSWER KEY

Write the antonyms for the vocabulary words from the article.

- | | | |
|-----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Happy | <u>Sad</u> |
| 2. | Deep | <u>Shallow</u> |
| 3. | Foolish | <u>Wise</u> |
| 4. | Horrified | <u>Pleased</u> |
| 5. | Impossible | <u>Possible</u> |
| 6. | Sweet | <u>Sour</u> |
| 7. | Friend | <u>Enemy</u> |
| 8. | Quickly | <u>Slowly</u> |
| 9. | Greedy | <u>Generous</u> |
| 10. | Kindness | <u>Cruelty</u> |