

# The Heart of a Monkey

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book  
Word Count: 383

## Connections

### Writing

Write three causes from the story and their effects on six index cards.

Trade with a partner.

Match each cause to its effect.

### Social Studies

Draw and label a map of the important places in the story.  
Compare your map with a partner's.

Reading A-Z

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LEVELED BOOK • J

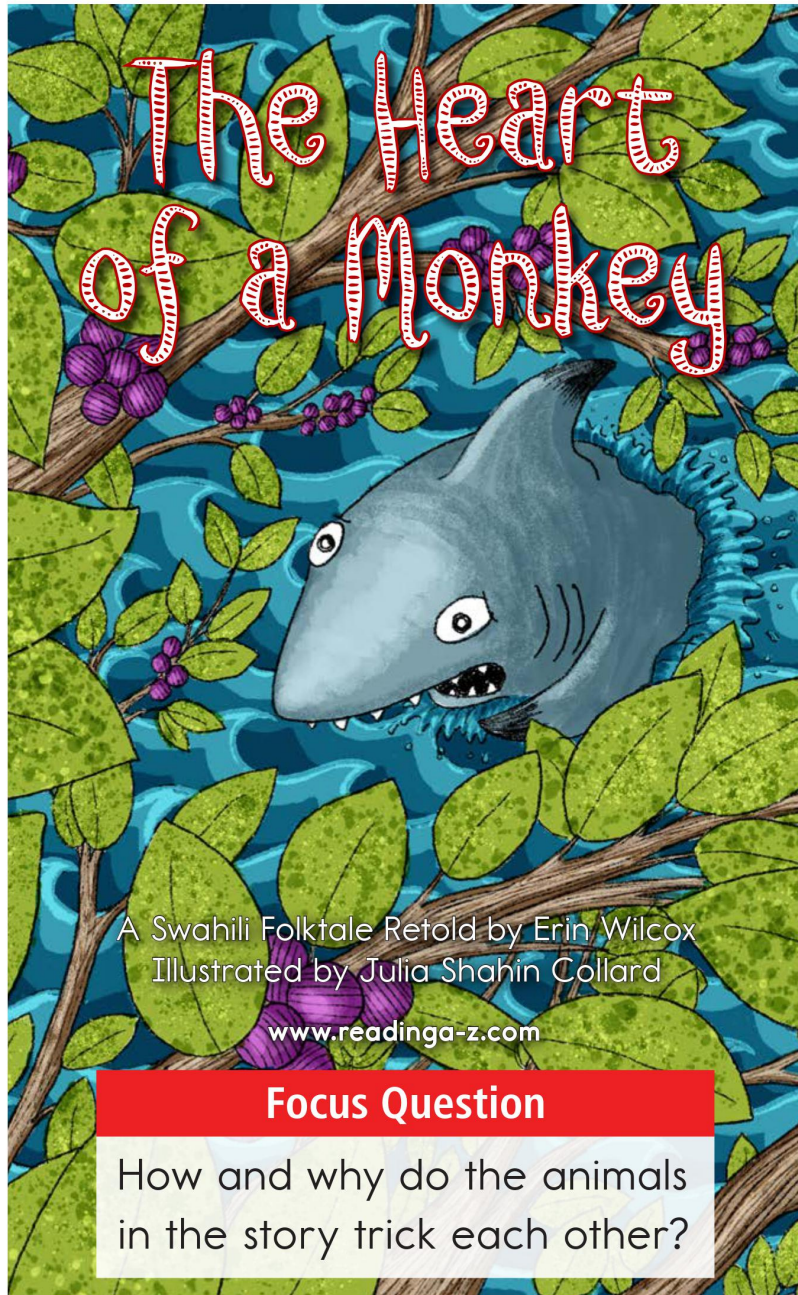
# The Heart of a Monkey



A Swahili Folktale Retold by Erin Wilcox  
Illustrated by Julia Shahin Collard

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## Words to Know

cure

journey

scrambled

sultan

survive

trick

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Level J Leveled Book  
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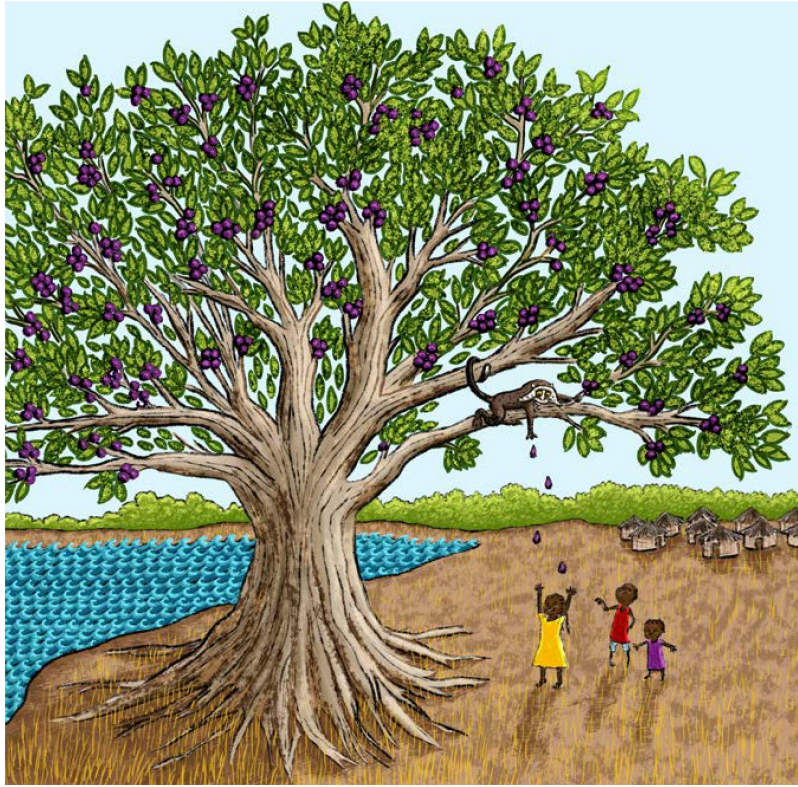
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## Correlation

### LEVEL J

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18





There was once a friendly monkey who lived by the sea. Her home was a great mkuyu (muh-KOO-yoo) tree. She liked to share its kuyu (KOO-yoo) fruit with the people from a nearby village.



One day, the monkey picked the last bit of fruit that hung over the land. To get more, she climbed onto a branch that hung over the sea. “Hey you, monkey!” called a voice from the water. “Toss me some of that kuyu fruit,” the voice said.



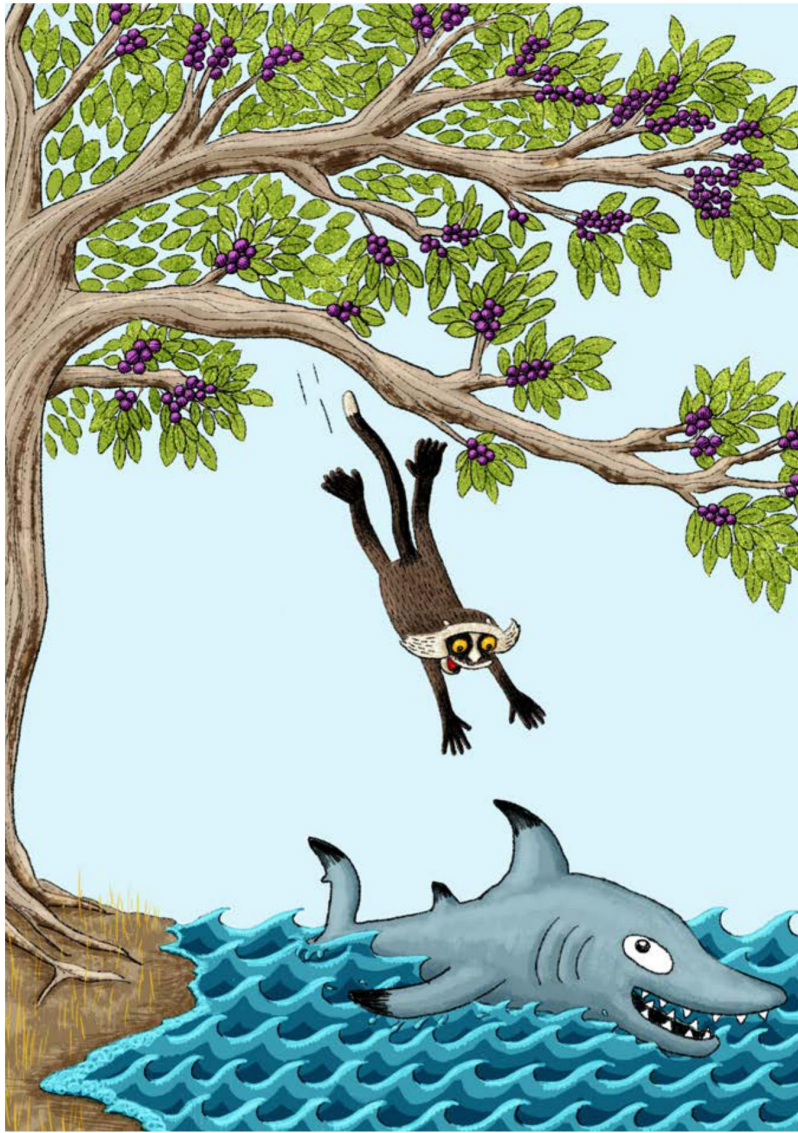


It was a shark swimming in the sea.  
The monkey dropped a fruit  
into his open mouth.  
“Delicious,” the shark said.  
“I would thank you with a gift,  
but my home is far away,” he added.

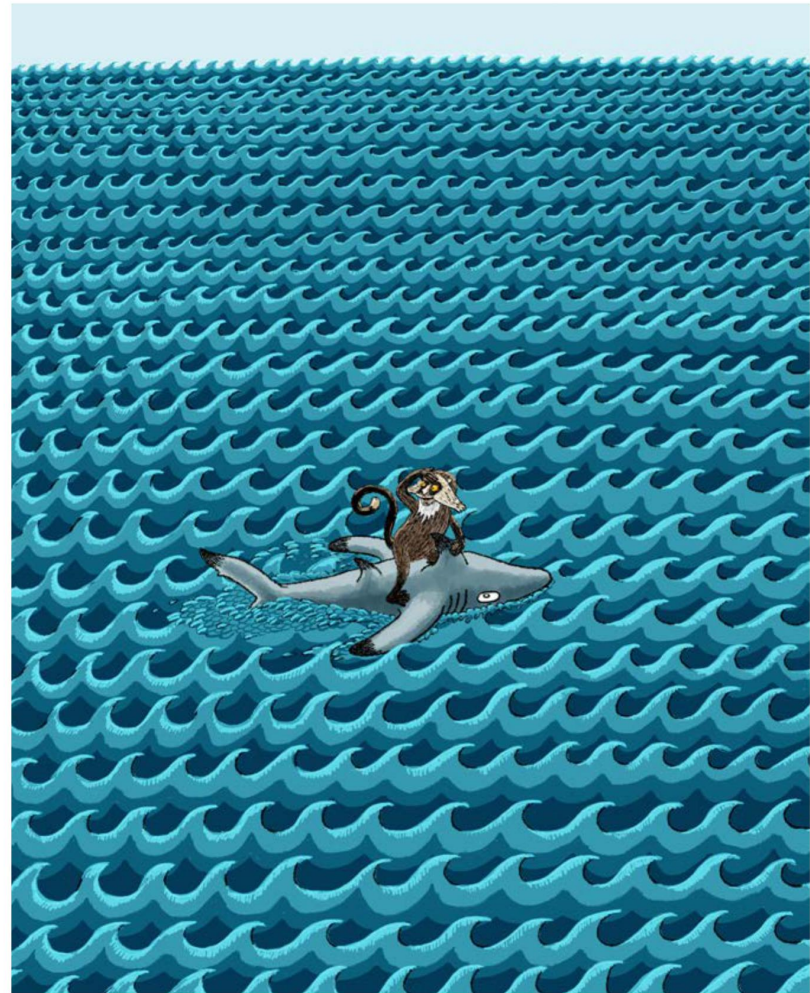


The shark told the monkey all about  
his home across the water.  
It contained many treasures.  
He offered to take her there.



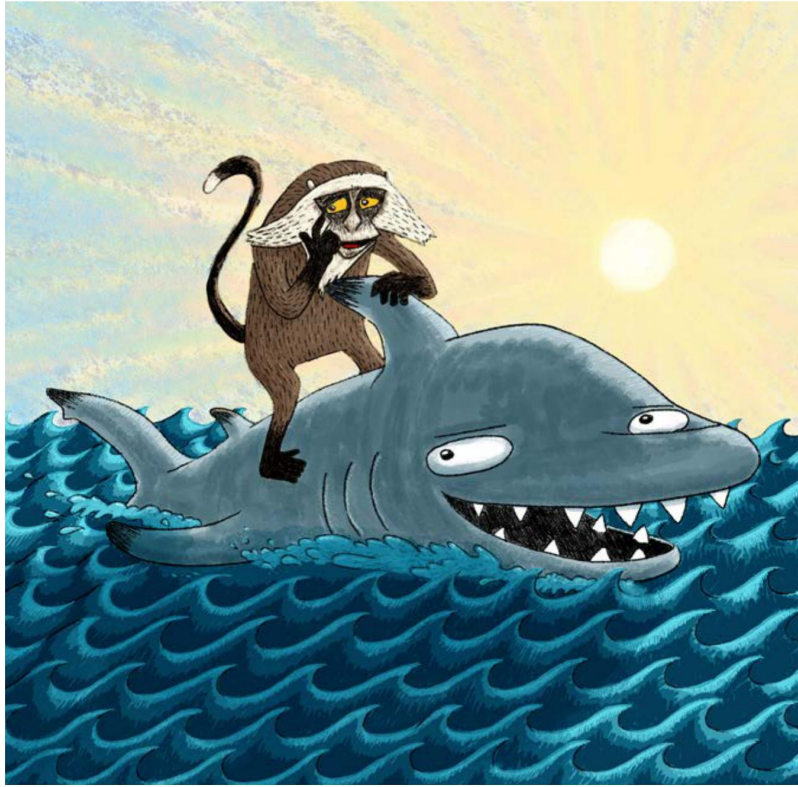


“Just hop on my back,” he said.  
The monkey leaped down.



The shark swam and swam.  
When the monkey looked behind her,  
she couldn't see land anymore.  
“Is it much farther?” she asked.





“A ways,” the shark replied.  
“I searched the whole ocean  
to find you,” he explained.  
“Why?” the monkey asked.  
The shark said, “My **sultan** is ill,  
and the only **cure** is a  
monkey’s heart.”



Now the monkey understood that  
this had all been a **trick**.  
If she was to **survive**, she must trick  
the shark in return.  
“Your poor sultan!” the monkey cried.  
“If only you had told me, I would  
have brought my heart along,”  
she said.



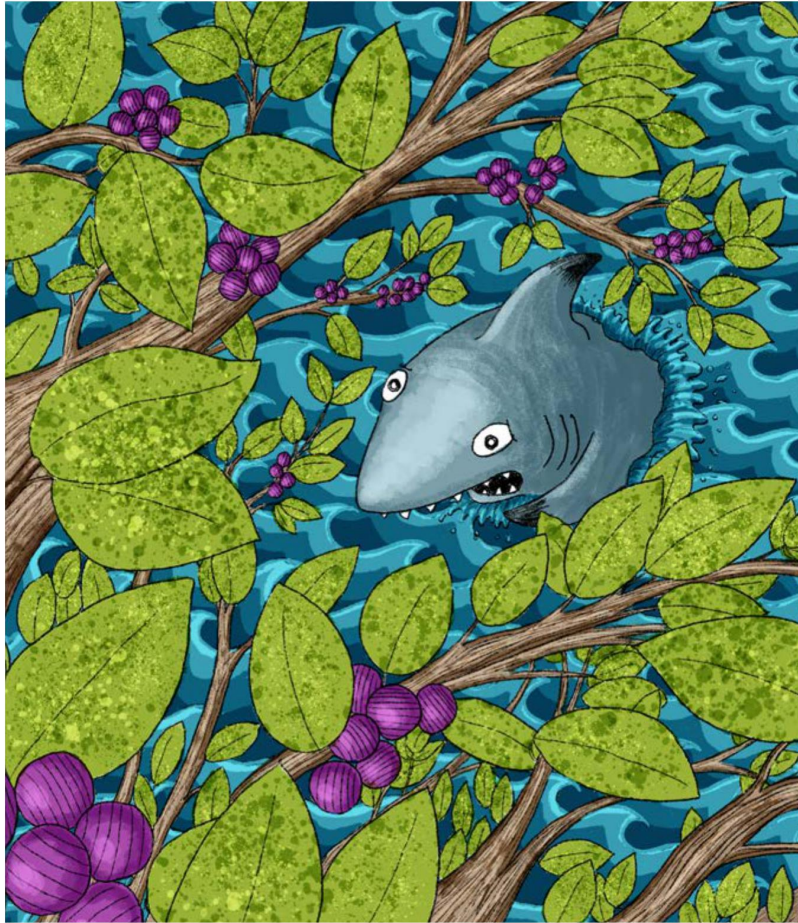


The shark slowed down.  
“Your heart’s not here?” he asked.  
“I put it in a bag and hung it  
from my tree,” the monkey said.  
“What a shame the shore is so far,  
or I would get it,” she added.  
“It’s not too far,” the shark said.  
He started swimming back.



The Sun was low in the sky when  
the mkuyu tree came into sight.  
They swam beneath a low branch.  
The monkey leaped up  
and **scrambled** away.



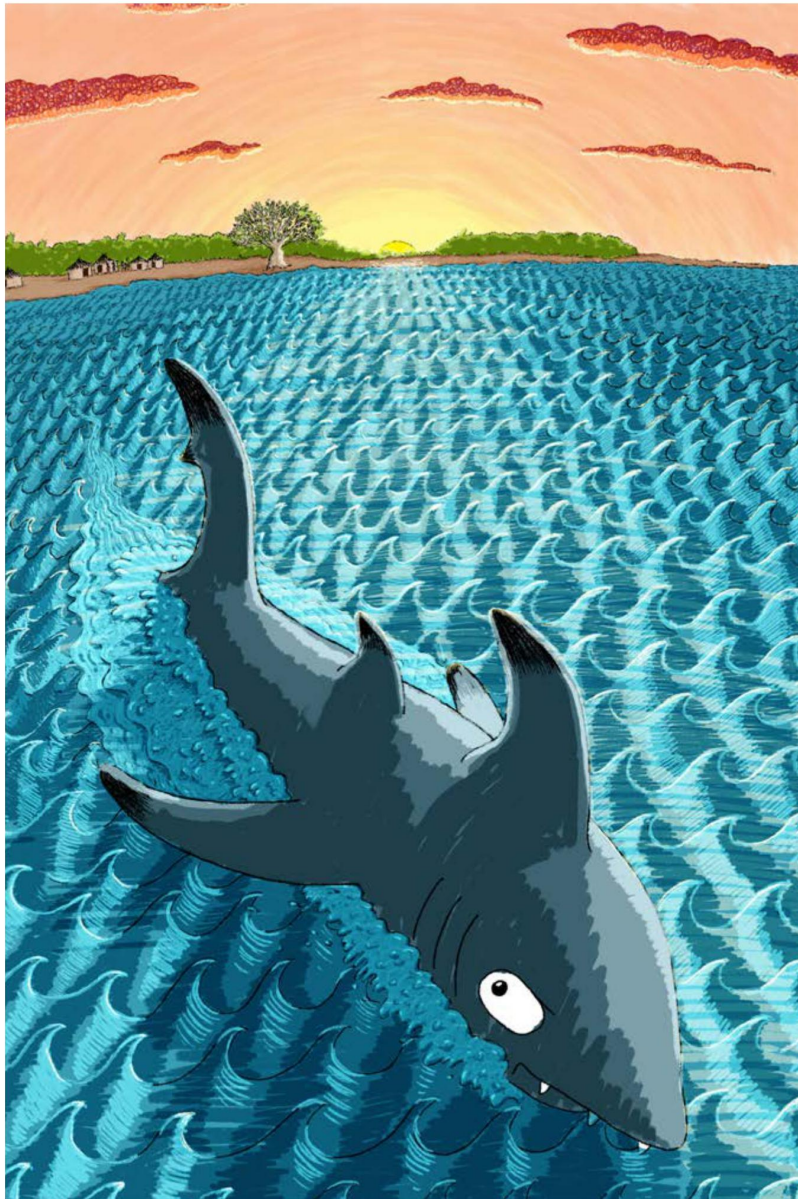


“Where are you?” the shark asked.  
“It’s late!” called the monkey  
from behind the leaves.  
“You’d better begin your long  
**journey** home,” she told him.



The monkey climbed down  
onto land.  
She walked toward the low huts  
to warn her village friends  
about the shark.





The shark swam away, all alone.

## Glossary

<b>cure</b> (n.)	a medicine or treatment that gets rid of an illness (p. 9)
<b>journey</b> (n.)	a long trip (p. 13)
<b>scrambled</b> (v.)	moved in a hurried way, usually on all fours (p. 12)
<b>sultan</b> (n.)	a ruler, often of a Muslim country, who is similar to a king or emperor (p. 9)
<b>survive</b> (v.)	to stay alive (p. 10)
<b>trick</b> (n.)	an act or plan that is meant to fool or cheat someone (p. 10)