



The Monkeys and the Green Parrot

★ *Tell the story and/or act it out with two toy monkeys.*

One day some monkeys got a letter delivered by a green parrot. They were very excited and opened it up. It said that they had won a competition: a lifetime's supply of bananas!

(Ask the children: How they would feel?)

The next day a man arrived with a big truck and delivered their first instalment of bananas.

(Again ask the children how they would feel)

The monkeys were delighted, and ran around, counting them, eating lots.

But they ate so many that they felt ill.

(How do they feel now?)

The next day, though, they felt much better. They began to eat the bananas again, deciding not to eat so many today.

(Ask: What might they do with spare bananas?)

The next week the banana man brought another load.

The monkeys were very happy, ate some bananas, and gave some away.

(Ask: Were the monkeys were completely happy having the bananas? If not, why not? Maybe they get fed up with bananas, maybe they miss climbing trees to find them, maybe they go bad!)

The next week the banana man comes and says there has been a mistake, and they didn't win the competition after all, and he needed to take all the bananas away!

(How do they feel now?)

A year later the monkeys are playing in the jungle. (Ask, do you think they are more happy, less happy, or just the same when they remember the bananas.)

Questions to reflect on the story

- *Do you feel like one of these monkeys sometimes?*
- *Do you ever eat so much you feel sick?*
- *Is there something you really liked eating in the past and now not anymore?*
- *Do you think happiness/happy feelings are in the bananas or in yourself?*