

Hippo was the strongest of all the animals, so he said he should be Chief. The other animals didn't want Hippo as their Chief. He was too grumpy and moody.

"If I can get you out of the pool, then I should be Chief," said Monkey.

"If you can get me out of the pool, then you can be Chief," said Hippo, "But if I get you into the pool, you will be my servant – for ever!"



Off went Monkey to get a really strong rope. "Hold tight to the rope," said Monkey, "but don't pull until I shout."



Monkey ran into the trees with the other end of the rope. Monkey tied the rope to a big, strong tree trunk. "Pull!" shouted Monkey. "Pull!" "This will be easy," thought Hippo to himself.

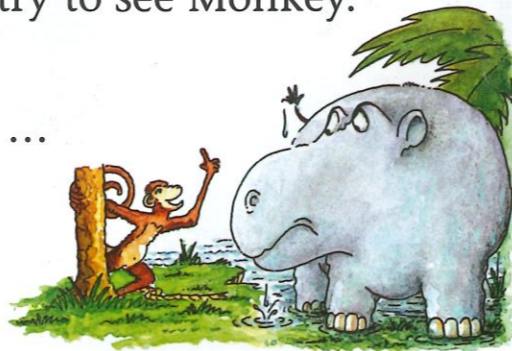
All day and all night Hippo pulled, while Monkey sat and ate bananas, and snoozed!

Hippo was getting very tired and cross, very cross indeed.

Slowly he climbed out of the pool, to try to see Monkey.

Just as Hippo took his last foot out of the pool, Monkey ran out of the trees ...

**Nigerian folk tale**



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

1. Monkey wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_. (chief, servant)
2. Hippo liked to sit in the \_\_\_\_\_ all day. (mud, pool)
3. Monkey tied the rope to a \_\_\_\_\_. (tree, log)
4. Hippo thought getting Monkey into the pool would be \_\_\_\_\_. (hard, easy)
5. Monkey played a \_\_\_\_\_ on Hippo. (trick, game)

## More to think about

Sort the words in the box into two lists.

Two have been done to help you.

brown grey  
huge fat clever  
moody grumpy  
small thin

Words that  
describe Monkey

Words that  
describe Hippo

brown

grey

## Now try these

1. Why do you think the animals didn't want Hippo to be their Chief?
2. Imagine that Monkey is telling the other animals that he is Chief. What do you think they said? Write a conversation between Monkey and the other animals.