

LEVEL 1

Banana Boy Slides Again

by Damian Harvey

Genre Humour

Values Self-esteem, autonomy, confidence, family, bravery

Chapter 3. Monkey Business

Banana Boy is faced with his worst nightmare – the only thing that frightens him. But what is this monstrous creature up to? And can Banana Boy get over his fears to save a little girl?

Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science
and technology skills



Cultural awareness
and understanding



Personal, social and health
awareness and citizenship



Organisation
and evaluation skills

CONTENTS

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class.



READ

Reading lab



Obtain and interpret information within the text

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension questions



WRITE

Writing workshop



Develop the art of creative writing

- Inspire words
- Giant monkey
- Compound words



TALK

Space for debate



Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group

- Discuss the options
- Discuss the characters



EXPLORE

Creative studio



Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research

- Wordsearch

ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions in class.

1

Remember the story so far. Read up to the break. Find words that tell you that the monkey is huge: *monstrous, giant, great, big, towered*. Ask: What is Banana Boy not frightened of? (spiders, dragons and zombies) Find the pattern in the language: [the monster] with their [description] didn't [the effect].

2

Together, create some matching phrases with this pattern, for example: Vampires with their dripping fangs didn't make his blood run cold. Ask: What is the problem that Banana Boy has with monkeys? (They eat bananas.) Find phrases that show how scared Banana Boy is: *scream in horror, legs turned to jelly, etc.*

3

Read up to *Then it grinned again*. Ask: What does the word *peered* tell you about the monkey? (It's interested in Banana Boy and it seems bigger than him.) Find other descriptions: *one huge eye, toothy grin*. Why does the monkey scratch its head? (It is confused by Banana Boy saying he's not frightened.)

4

Read up to *I've got you covered*. Enjoy the jokes together. Ask volunteers to tell the jokes, using the opportunity to talk about talking to an audience (clear loud voice, not talking too fast, looking at the audience, looking engaged). If appropriate, allow the children to share other favourite jokes.

5

How does the monkey feel when Banana Boy says that its jokes aren't funny? (angry) Agree that the monkey does not seem very clever. Ask: Does being angry make the monkey more or less dangerous? (It might not think clearly when angry; it might be more violent when angry.) Read to the end.

6

Suggest comic book sound effects for the monkey stamping and the ground shaking. (THUD, BOOM and so on) Ask: Who do you think the girl might be? (It could be Ben's sister, Millie.) Ask: Why do you think that? (Millie loves dressing up and Banana Boy thinks there is something familiar about the girl.)



READ

Reading lab

Name:

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

1 Find and copy words that tell you that the monkey is huge.

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2 Find and copy two phrases that tell you how Banana Boy feels.

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3 What does the word *peered* tell us about the monkey?

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READ

Reading lab

Name:

4 What does *I've got you covered* mean?

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5 How does Banana Boy make the monkey angry?

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6 Who do you think the girl might be, and why do you think that?

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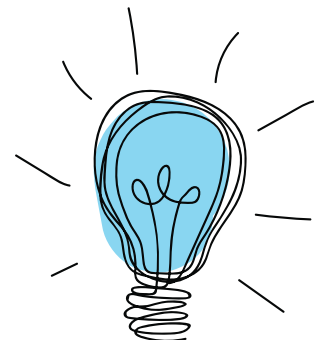
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Inspire words

Find these words in the story. Look at how they are used. Cut up the words and put them in a bag. Take turns to pull out a word and use it in a sentence.

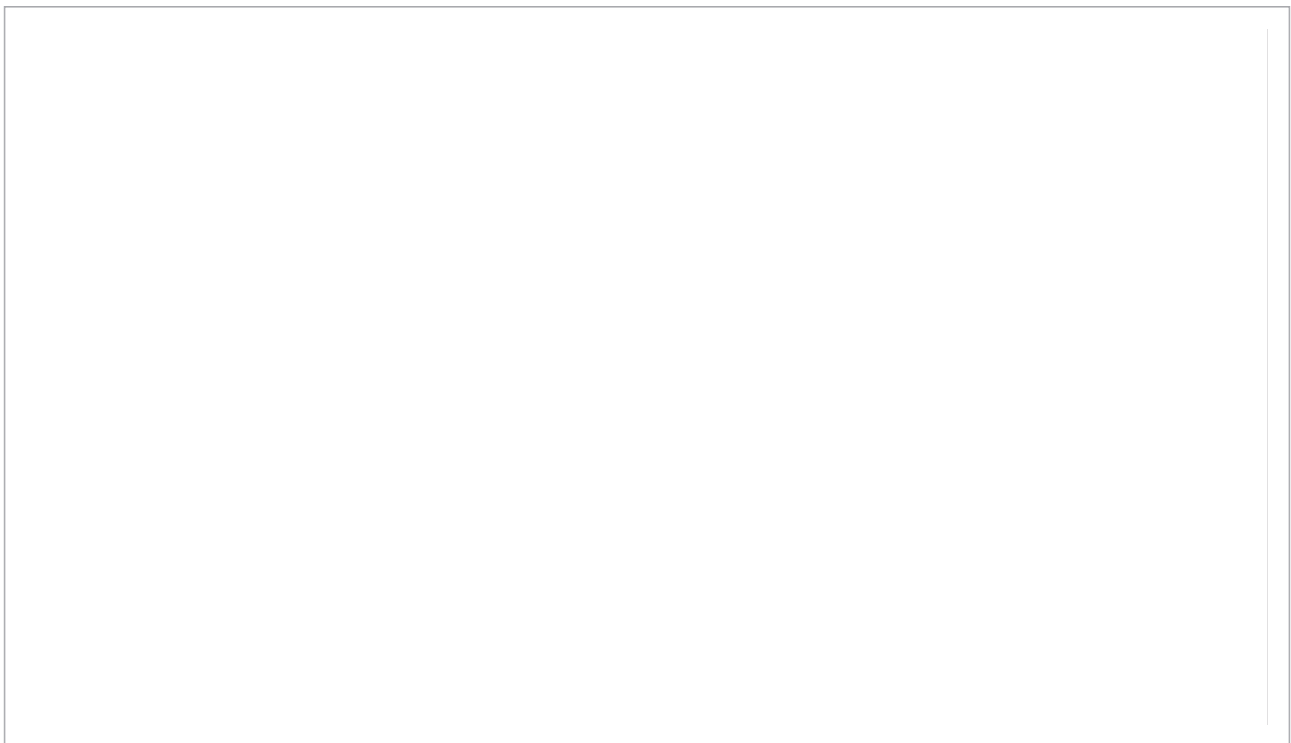
bother**familiar****peered****reminded****shiver****skipping**

 **WRITE**
Writing workshop

Name:

Giant monkey

Draw a cartoon of the giant monkey in the space below. Then, write as many noun phrases to describe this character as you can in five minutes, such as *huge*, *hairy feet*.



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**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Compound words

Compound words are made when you join two words together. Can you make eight different compound words by joining the words below?

cow

shelf

egg

fly

book

boy

super

house

star

market

dragon

ball

light

fish

foot

cup

**TALK**

Space for debate

Name:

Discuss the options

Discuss in class which of the three options you find most interesting to continue the story and why. Here's a reminder of the options and some key points for each one:

What does the monstrous monkey do next?

A

It stamps on the pink unicorn

We think that the pink unicorn could be Millie. Do you think the monkey would have done this on purpose or by accident because it is so big? Would the unicorn be alright after this?

B

It drops Banana Boy into its mouth

The monkey is described as a monster, but it tells jokes and does not seem clever. Would it be angry enough to eat Banana Boy? Remember, monkeys do eat bananas, so perhaps it just gets confused!

C

It tells one more joke

The monkey really seems to like telling jokes. Do you think it might finally tell a joke that makes Banana Boy laugh? Will it continue to tell jokes until Banana Boy finds one funny? What joke might it tell?

Discuss the characters

In a group, discuss one of the characters. You could choose the monkey, Banana Boy / Ben or Millie.

Think about everything you have learned about this character so far in the story and talk about why he, she or it has behaved in a particular way.

What do you predict we might learn about this character as the story develops?





Name:

Wordsearch

Find and circle the words from this chapter in the wordsearch.

O	O	E	I	T	M	W	N	O	A	S	M
G	O	E	N	F	P	O	S	A	R	L	O
U	D	L	A	B	R	R	D	O	O	O	V
N	E	E	M	A	R	L	F	Y	Y	W	E
R	N	P	Y	N	Y	D	N	I	S	L	E
N	E	T	E	A	G	S	Y	S	C	Y	M
I	T	I	K	N	I	I	O	D	W	A	L
Y	H	H	N	A	A	S	I	A	F	T	T
K	G	E	O	E	N	E	E	N	R	T	O
G	I	K	M	Y	T	N	S	A	T	T	T
L	R	E	O	E	Y	H	E	E	D	T	R
E	F	W	S	N	S	A	T	U	E	V	L

- BANANA
- EYE
- FRIGHTENED
- GIANT
- MONKEY
- MOVE
- SLOWLY
- WORLD

J L n S
 e r A Z
 B g

ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

For example:

1. monstrous, giant, great, big, towered.
2. *scream in horror, legs turned to jelly, too frightened to move, frozen to the spot*
3. It tells us that the monkey is interested in Banana Boy. It also makes it seem as if the monkey is much taller than Banana Boy as it peers down at him and has to look hard to see him.
4. It means that I am covering you like a blanket or I am protecting you from danger.
5. Banana Boy tells the monkey that its jokes aren't funny.
6. The girl could be Ben's sister, Millie, as we know she loves dressing up, and Banana Boy thinks there is something familiar about her.

Compound words (p. 8)

cowboy / eggcup / bookshelf / supermarket /
starfish / dragonfly / lighthouse / football

Wordsearch (p. 10)

O	O	E	I	T	M	W	N	O	A	S	M
G	O	E	N	F	P	O	S	A	R	L	O
U	D	L	A	B	R	R	D	O	O	O	V
N	E	E	M	A	R	L	F	Y	Y	W	E
R	N	P	Y	N	Y	D	N	I	S	L	E
N	E	T	E	A	G	S	Y	S	C	Y	M
I	T	I	K	N	I	I	O	D	W	A	L
Y	H	H	N	A	A	S	I	A	F	T	T
K	G	E	O	E	N	E	E	N	R	T	O
G	I	K	M	Y	T	N	S	A	T	T	T
L	R	E	O	E	Y	H	E	E	D	T	R
E	F	W	S	N	S	A	T	U	E	V	L