



Second stage

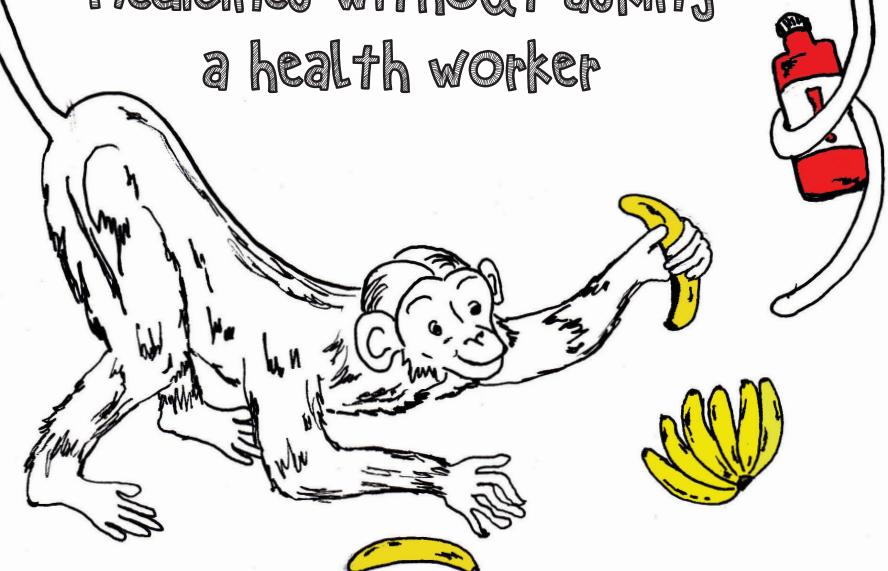
a hanging Library book



Story and illustrations by Ruth Herbert.

bad Medicine

and why you should
never monkey about with
medicines without asking
a health worker



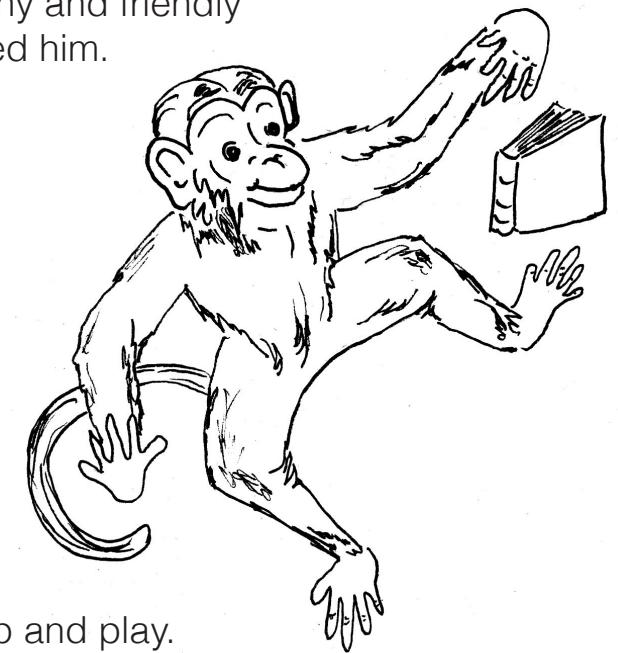
READING IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

These books have been developed from an idea by Hugh Hawes and Sam Muwonge and used since 2007 in schools in and around Kampala. The books have been revised since 2014 and new titles created.

We would like to thank Violet Mugusa and Jones Kyazze for their generous time and energy in facilitating visits in 2015 to Makindye Junior School, The Light Primary School Bulenga, Busaabala Primary School and Nakyessanja Primary School.

Our thanks go particularly to the schools for their feedback and especially their suggestions on how to improve the project.

Moke and his family lived in a big tree.
Moke was a naughty little monkey.
He didn't listen to his mother.
He didn't listen to his father.
He didn't listen to his big sister.
But Moke was funny and friendly
and everyone loved him.



Moke liked to jump and play.
Moke didn't like to sit and read.
'It's too much hard work,' he said.
He liked to swing in the trees and dance in the branches.
He didn't like to work, even a little.
He liked to monkey about and sometimes make fun of people.

Most of the time he was happy and well but once when he was very sick the doctor gave his mother some red medicine for him and it made him better.

Downstairs, under the tree lived Mr and Mrs Hippo. Mr Hippo was slow and old and ill.

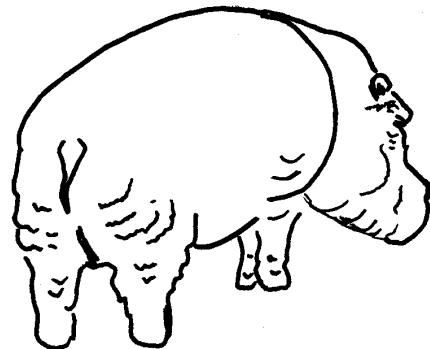
Moke walked round the tree slowly, bent over like Mr Hippo and made his sister laugh.

Mrs Hippo grew bananas and made Mr Hippo eat one every day. He didn't like bananas but Mrs Hippo said they were good for him.

Moke ate a banana and made a cross face. His sister laughed some more.

Mrs Hippo also gave Mr Hippo medicine. Green medicine for his stomach, yellow medicine for his legs, white medicine for his itches and red medicine for luck!

Moke curled leaves to make pretend medicine bottles and gave them to his big sister. They laughed and laughed.



bad Medicine

5 Questions

1. When Moke was ill, where did his mother get the medicine that made him better?
2. Where did Mrs Hippo get the medicines for Mr Hippo?
3. Why did Moke drink Mr Hippo's red medicine?
4. What happened to him after that?
5. What did the Doctor tell him?

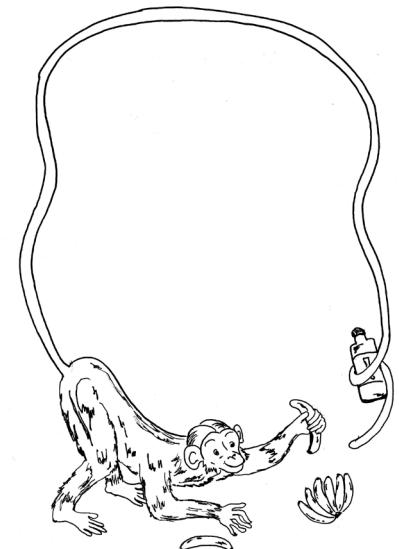
Something to do

Go to the market and look for stalls selling medicine. What do they say the medicine is for?

Do you think this is true?

Tell your little brothers and sisters the story of Moke.

In your house make sure all medicines are out of reach of little children.



'Bah! Medicine for sale in the market,' he said.

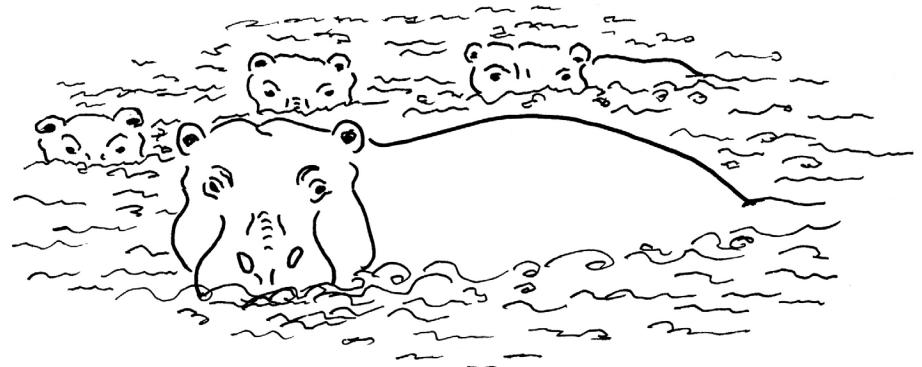
"People pay a lot of money for it. They say it will cure everything. Sometimes it cures nothing but doesn't make you any worse. Sometimes it is very, very dangerous. Sometimes what can't hurt a big hippo is bad for a little monkey!"

At home Moke's sister curled the leaves round to make pretend medicine bottles. She drank the pretend medicine and pretended to be dizzy and itch. She laughed and laughed.

Moke didn't look at her, he was too busy reading his new book!



One sunny afternoon the bananas on Mrs Hippo's tree hung ripe and ready.



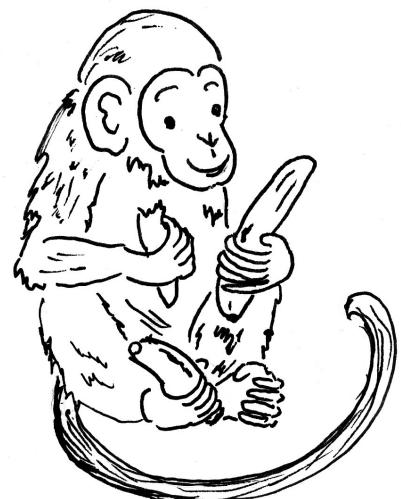
The sweet smell drifted up to where Moke swung free and easy.

Moke looked down through the branches, Mr Hippo was in the mud down in the river with his old friends. Mrs Hippo was out in the market buying more medicine.

No one was home.

Moke slid down his tree.
'Just one banana,'
he thought, 'no one will
notice.'

One, two, three, four, five, six,
seven, eight, nine ...



Those bananas tasted so good. So, so good.

Moke started to feel sick. His stomach hurt and he wanted to vomit.

He remembered the red medicine that had made him feel better.

He remembered Mrs Hippo's basket of medicine and slipped into her kitchen to find it.



'Just what I need,' he thought,
'it looks like the medicine I had before.'
Now as you know, Moke didn't like reading or hard work.

The label on the bottle had a lot of very long, hard words and a big red !

But Moke didn't read it. He just drank from the bottle.

Climbing back up his tree was hard. His arms and legs ached. His head hurt. His eyes pricked. He felt dizzy and itchy.

He lay down on a big branch of the tree and cried. His big sister came and looked at him. There were little red spots all over his body.

She called their mother.
'Where have you been and what have you eaten?' asked his mother, worried.

First he told her about the bananas.
'Just bananas?' she asked. 'There must be more!' Then he told her about the medicine.

Mrs Monkey bundled Moke onto her back and rushed to the hospital.

They made Moke vomit up all the bananas and all the bad medicine.

Poor Moke felt worse than ever. Mrs Monkey had to pay a lot of money.

The doctor shook his head.

