

“You Silly Monkey!”

Characters: Narrator, Babu (Boy Monkey puppet which makes a noise when you hit his nose), Ngarla (Girl Monkey)

Props: Bananas, banana skins (the rest can be pretend)

Note: Words in quotation marks are spoken by the Narrator to the puppets or on behalf of the puppets.

Narrator: Once upon a time, in a deep, dark part of the jungle in Cambodia, there lived two little monkeys, Babu and Ngarla.

“Babu! Babu!” Can you kids help me call out his name so we can find him?

(eventually Babu shows up, dancing around with a banana skin on his head until he falls over and his banana skin goes flying into the audience) “Babu, what have you been doing? You silly monkey!” *(narrator taps Babu on the nose, and Babu says “Ouch” and shakes his head – this happens every time we say the words “you silly monkey”)* Kids, can you say hello to Babu? Let’s say, “Hello Babu, you silly monkey” *(as they do, the narrator taps Babu on the nose again, “Ouch”)*.

That was kind of fun! Shall we do that again? “*Babu, you silly monkey*” *(taps him again, and again he says “Ouch”, maybe repeat this a few times if you get a good reaction)*

“Babu, have you been getting yourself into trouble yet again?” *(shakes his head)*.

Yes, as you can see, Babu was nearly always getting himself into trouble. Now when you’re getting into trouble, you always need someone sensible who can help you get out of trouble!

(Ngarla comes out with a beautiful ribbon around her head and a big bow).
“Hello Ngarla” *(she delicately waves and blows the narrator a kiss)*.

Ngarla was Babu’s friend. She’s such a nice monkey isn’t she? Kids, can you say hello to Ngarla, “Hello Ngarla. What a lovely monkey!”

Now, Ngarla and Babu both really like bananas *(monkeys jump up and down when shown bananas)*. Does anyone here like bananas?

Well, Ngarla had been asking Babu for a very long time when he was going to ask her over to his tree to eat bananas *(Ngarla makes signs like she’s asking to come over)*.

But Babu didn't want her to come over because he was very messy and he didn't want his friend Ngarla to see how messy his tree was (*Babu shakes his head, NO*).

Then one day, Ngarla said to Babu, "Stop being such a silly monkey!" (*she taps him on the nose*) What did she say? (*kids repeat "Stop being such a silly monkey!", tap Babu's nose each time*). That's right. Ngarla said to Babu "Stop being such a silly monkey! (*taps his nose again*) I'm sick of waiting and I'm coming over to your tree today at 10 o'clock. We're going to eat bananas together, and you're going to show me where you live." (*Ngarla acts like she's telling Babu off*)

Well, as you can imagine, Babu was very worried about this (*starts shaking and acting very scared*) ... but he knew better than to argue with Ngarla.

He hardly had any time! He ran back to his tree and started to clean up a little (*frantically runs around pretending to clean up*). But before long, he heard Ngarla's voice saying, "Babu! Babu! I'm here! I'm coming up and I hope you've got those bananas ready!"

There was no time left. Babu couldn't do anything else to clean up his messy tree. So he just sat down and waited for Ngarla to climb up ... which only took a second ... you know how fast monkeys can climb!

When she arrived, the first thing she said was, "You have a lovely view from your tree Babu. I can't believe how long it's taken you to invite me over to your tree to eat bananas! But before we start eating, I'd like a tour of your tree because I've never been here before!"

Well, Babu knew better than to argue with Ngarla so he said, "OK" and started the tour.

"This is where I sleep," he said, pointing to one part of his tree. "And over here ..."

But Ngarla interrupted him and said, "You sleep on a big pile of banana skins?"

Babu was a little bit embarrassed, "Well, I had breakfast in bed today."

"Hmmm," said Ngarla. "You really are a silly monkey! (*taps him on the nose*) You shouldn't leave your food scraps in your bed because they go all yucky and can make you sick! Take those outside right now!"

So Babu cleaned up his bedroom and threw all the old smelly banana skins out of his tree.

“That’s much better,” said Ngarla. “Now, let’s continue the tour.”

The next part of Babu’s tree they came to was his table. Now, let me tell you about Babu’s table! It had lots of dirty banana leaves stacked up as high as the next branch, with food scraps and little bugs crawling all over them ... and it was really, really smelly!

Ngarla said to Babu, “This is a mess! Don’t you ever clean up your table? Don’t you know how sick you can get from leaving this big mess here, you silly monkey (*taps his nose again*). You need to clean this up too!”

So Babu cleaned up his table, and threw all the old, smelly banana leaves out of his tree.

“That’s much better,” said Ngarla. “Now, let’s continue the tour.”

“Well, there’s not much else to show you,” said Babu. “I only have a small tree ... but it has a great view! How about we eat some yummy bananas now?”

By now, Ngarla was getting really hungry so she said, “That sounds great Babu. Where can I wash my hands?”

“Well,” said Babu, “There’s a little stream just over there that you can use but why do you want to wash your hands? They look clean to me!”

Ngarla was horrified and said, “Do you mean to tell me you don’t wash your hands before every meal, you silly monkey (*taps his nose again*). That’s so yucky! Don’t you know you can get very sick unless you wash your hands before every meal? You are such a silly monkey (*taps his nose again*).”

So both Ngarla and Babu climbed down the tree, went over to the stream, and washed their hands.

“Now,” said Ngarla as she and Babu climbed back up Babu’s tree. “Isn’t that much better? Let’s eat!”

“OK,” said Babu, “But I really need to go to the toilet first otherwise I might burst!”

By now, Ngarla was even more hungry so she said, “Well, OK. But hurry up – I haven’t eaten for a long time and I’m really hungry for some yummy bananas.”

So Babu went over to where he had all his bananas and squatted down. Ngarla was watching.

“Hey Babu. What are you doing?” she said. “I thought you were going to the toilet?”

“I am,” said Babu. “Can’t you give a little monkey some peace and quiet? I need to concentrate!”

Well, poor Ngalala was just horrified! “Babu! I can’t believe you’re going to the toilet right next to the bananas we’re about to eat! You silly silly monkey (*taps his nose many times*). Don’t you know how sick you can get if you go to the toilet where you eat your food? Yucky yucky yucky!”

Babu stopped what he was doing and came back over to Ngalala, “I’m sorry,” he said. “Sometimes I get hungry when I’m going to the toilet so I thought it might be nice to eat a few bananas at the same time. Maybe I’ll use my outside toilet from now on.”

Little Babu climbed down his tree and went off to find his other toilet while Ngalala cleaned up the mess in his house. Because even though Babu said he’d cleaned things up, he really didn’t do a very good job.

First of all, she cleaned up where he was sleeping and made sure there weren’t any food scraps left, then she cleaned his table and threw out the mess he’d left behind. And lastly, she cleaned up where he had been going to the toilet.

When she’d finished all this cleaning, she climbed down out of the tree, went over to the stream, and washed her hands again just to make sure they were clean.

She arrived back just in time to find Babu sitting down in his beautifully clean tree. “Now can we eat some bananas? I even washed my hands on the way back!” said Babu.

“Yes,” said Ngalala, “I think we’re ready to eat. Where you sleep is clean, where you eat is clean, we’ve both washed our hands, and where you go to the toilet is nowhere near your food ... we’re ready.”

“OK good,” said Babu. “I don’t suppose you brought any bananas did you? I had a closer look when I was trying to go to the toilet the first time and all the ones I have are too green to eat!”

And can you guess what Ngalala said? That’s right, “Babu!! You are a SILLY MONKEY! SILLY, SILLY SILLY!” (*taps his nose each time*).

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