

Who's at the Zoo?



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“There’s one!” shouted Sinéad from the back of the car. She was eagerly watching out of the car window to spot signs for the zoo. Sinéad was so excited. It felt like she’d be waiting for her birthday treat forever!



The car park was almost full but Mum managed to find a space. Dad rummaged in his pocket for some change for the parking meter and Sinéad put the ticket on the dashboard. twinkl.com

As they walked towards the entrance, Sinéad clung tightly to her dad's arm. It was a lovely, sunny Saturday so the zoo was busy.

"Three tickets, please," asked Mum politely at the entrance. A smiling man in a green uniform handed her three tickets and a map of the park.

As they walked through the turnstile, Sinéad unfolded the map and began to search excitedly for the animals she wanted to see.

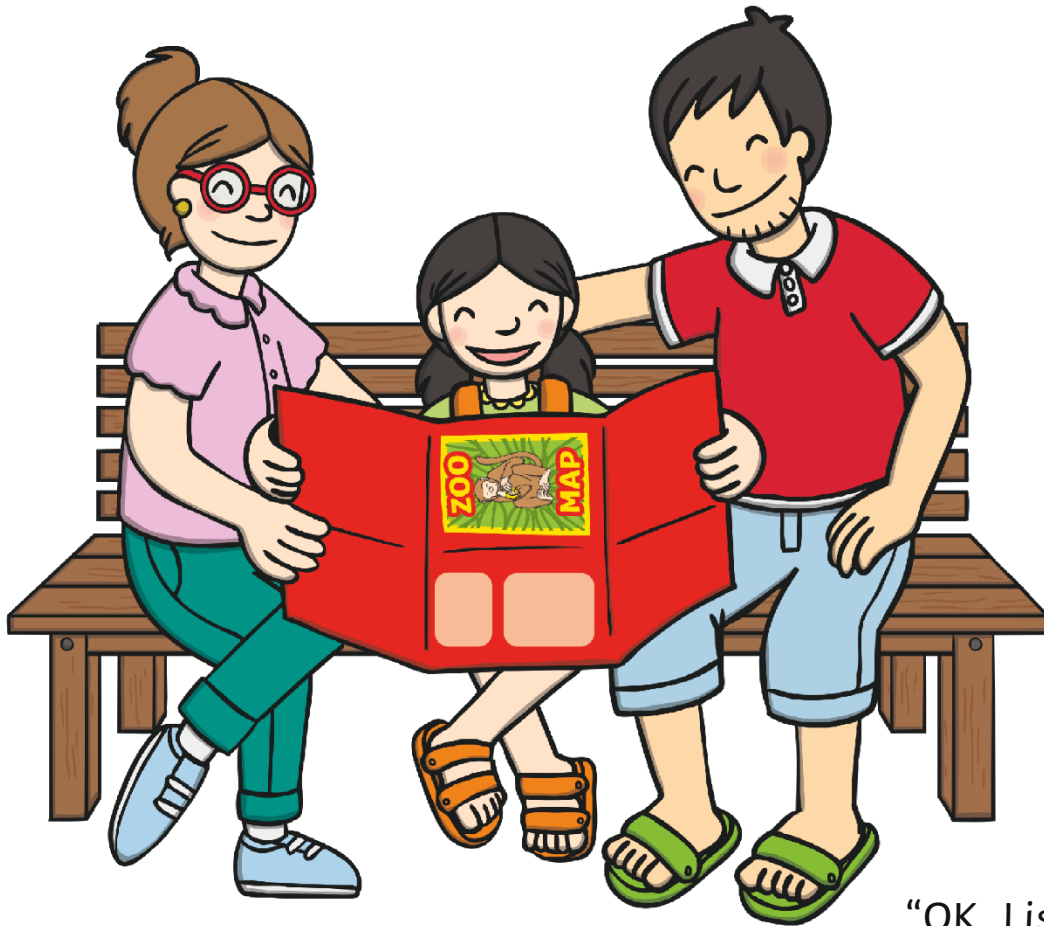
ZOO

TICKETS & TOURS



They sat down together on a nearby bench and Dad explained that he had a surprise for Sinéad.

“I thought we’d do something different today so I’ve written some riddles to get us round the zoo,” he beamed.

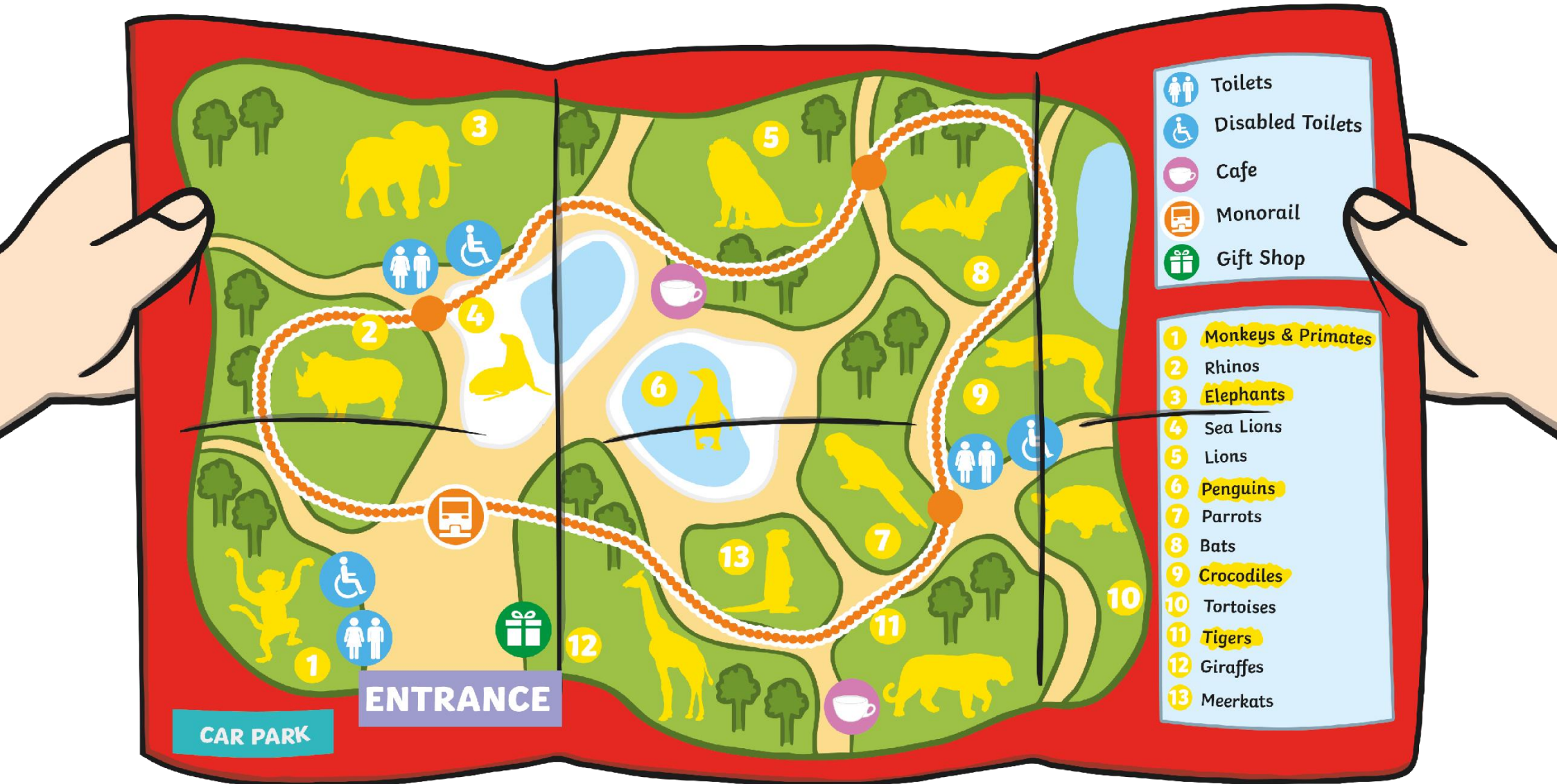


“Cool! What’s the first riddle?” squealed Sinéad, clapping her hands together.

“OK. Listen carefully. I have ears that are huge but don’t have a mane. I have a trunk but not to take on a plane,” Dad said cryptically.

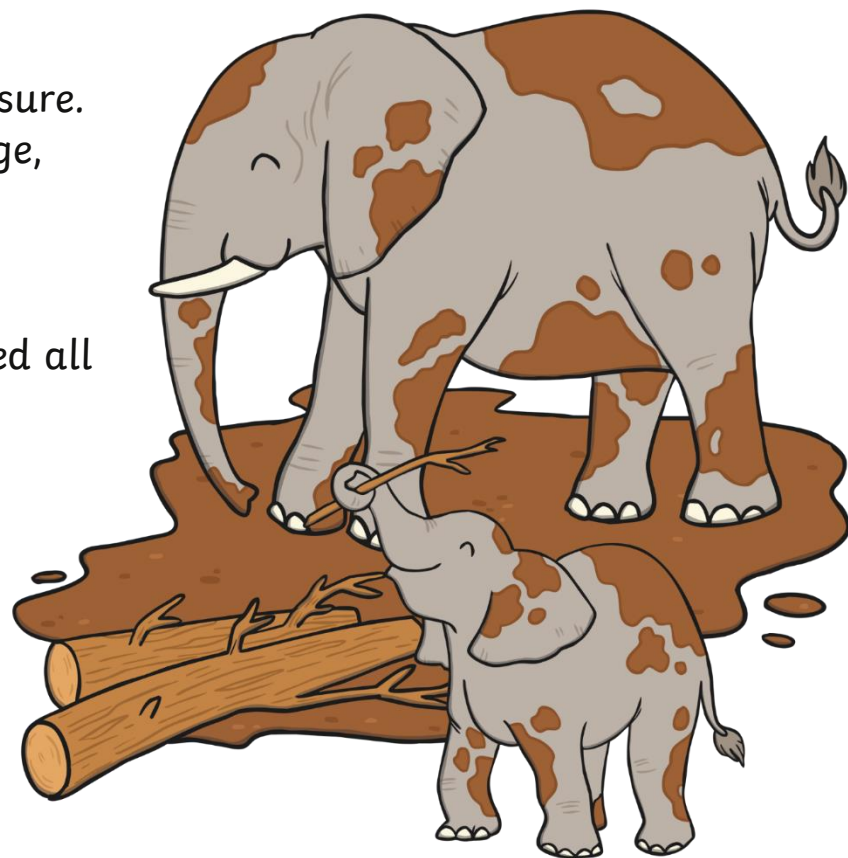
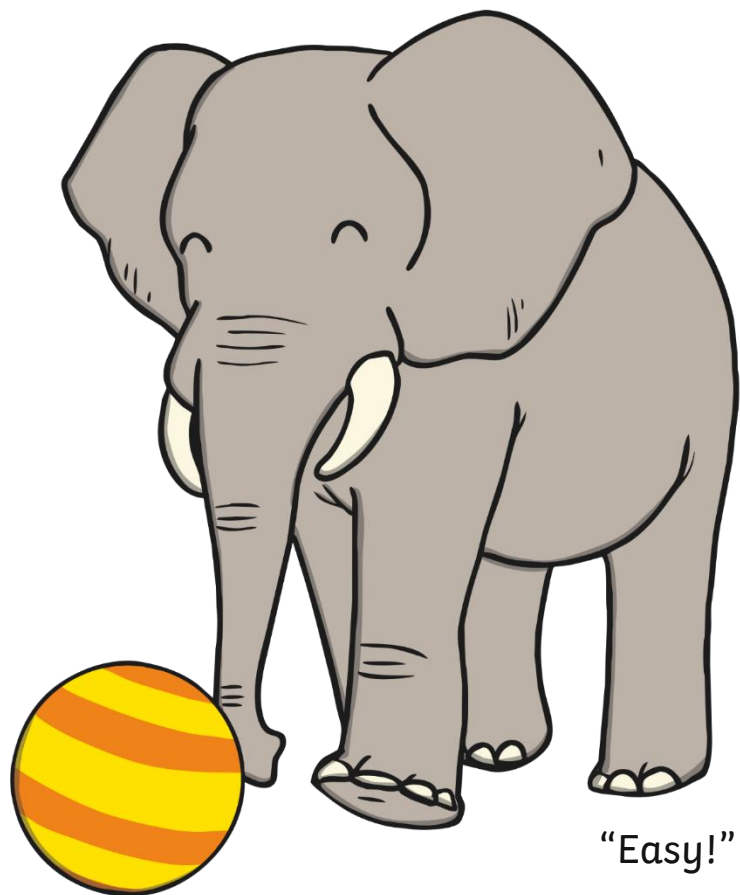
Sinéad studied her map carefully while she thought about Dad's riddle. She scanned the different enclosures for animals that fitted with his description.

The minute she heard 'mane', she had thought of lions, but she knew that wasn't right. "I've got it!" grinned Sinéad, leaping off the bench and leading the way using the map to guide them.



“It’s an... elephant!” she grinned, pointing to the huge enclosure.
The elephants had lots of space to roam around and a huge,
deep pool to drink from or even swim in.

There were balls, logs and lots of fruit and vegetables scattered all
over, to keep the elephants happy and entertained.



As Sinéad watched the elephants enjoying a mud bath,
Dad started to tell her the next riddle.

“My coat is striped to let me hide but on me you could
never ride. I have sharp teeth and pointy claws, but I
am not found near the boars,” whispered Dad.

“Easy!” shouted Sinéad, grabbing her parents’ hands and racing off.

“It’s a... tiger!” she cheered as she peered into the enclosure. After looking carefully at the long grass and tall trees for what seemed like hours, Sinéad still couldn’t see a tiger!
“The stripes on a tiger camouflage them. That means they’re really difficult to see,” explained Mum.



From the corner of her eye, Sinéad saw a flash of dark orange, weaving through the long grass.
“Look there!” she squealed. “I saw one!”

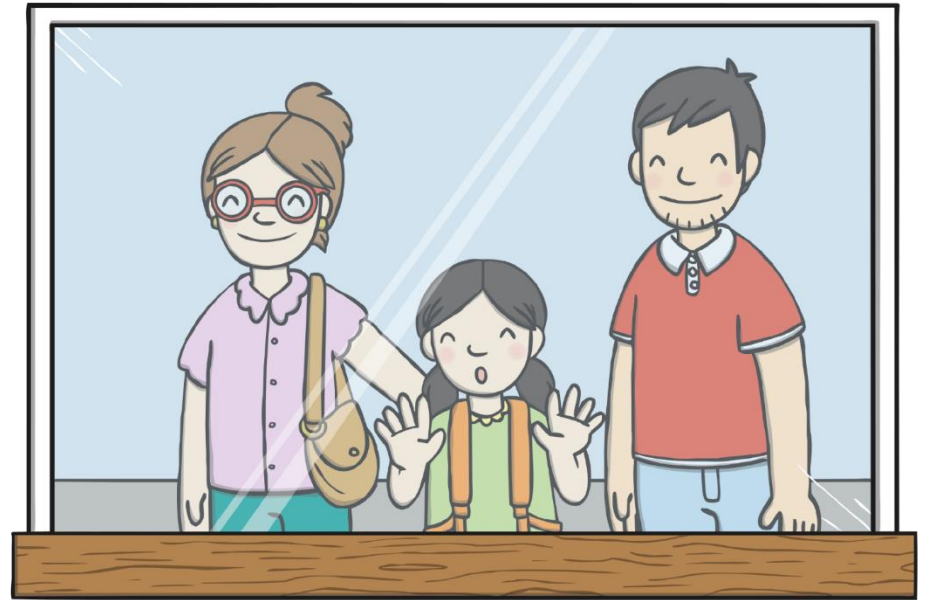
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“Great spotting,” said Mum. “Time for another clue, I think.”

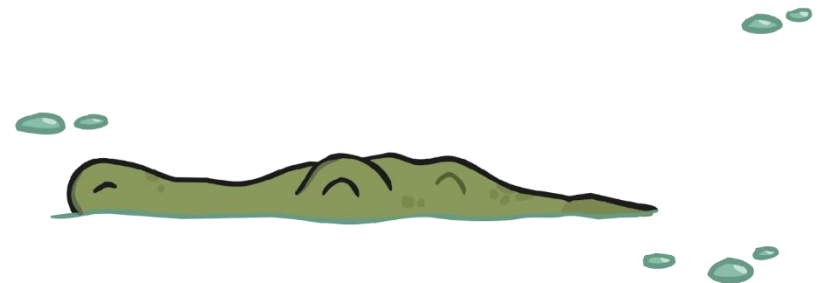
Dad smiled, “The next one is in the reptile house.”

“Right then. See if you can find the right animal in here. I am old, as old as the dinosaurs. I have rough skin, love water but have no coat or paws,” Dad said mysteriously.
“As old as the dinosaurs...” Sinéad repeated. “I only know one animal like that. It’s a... crocodile!”

The reptile house was terribly hot, but Dad explained that reptiles have cold blood, so they need to be kept warm to stay healthy.



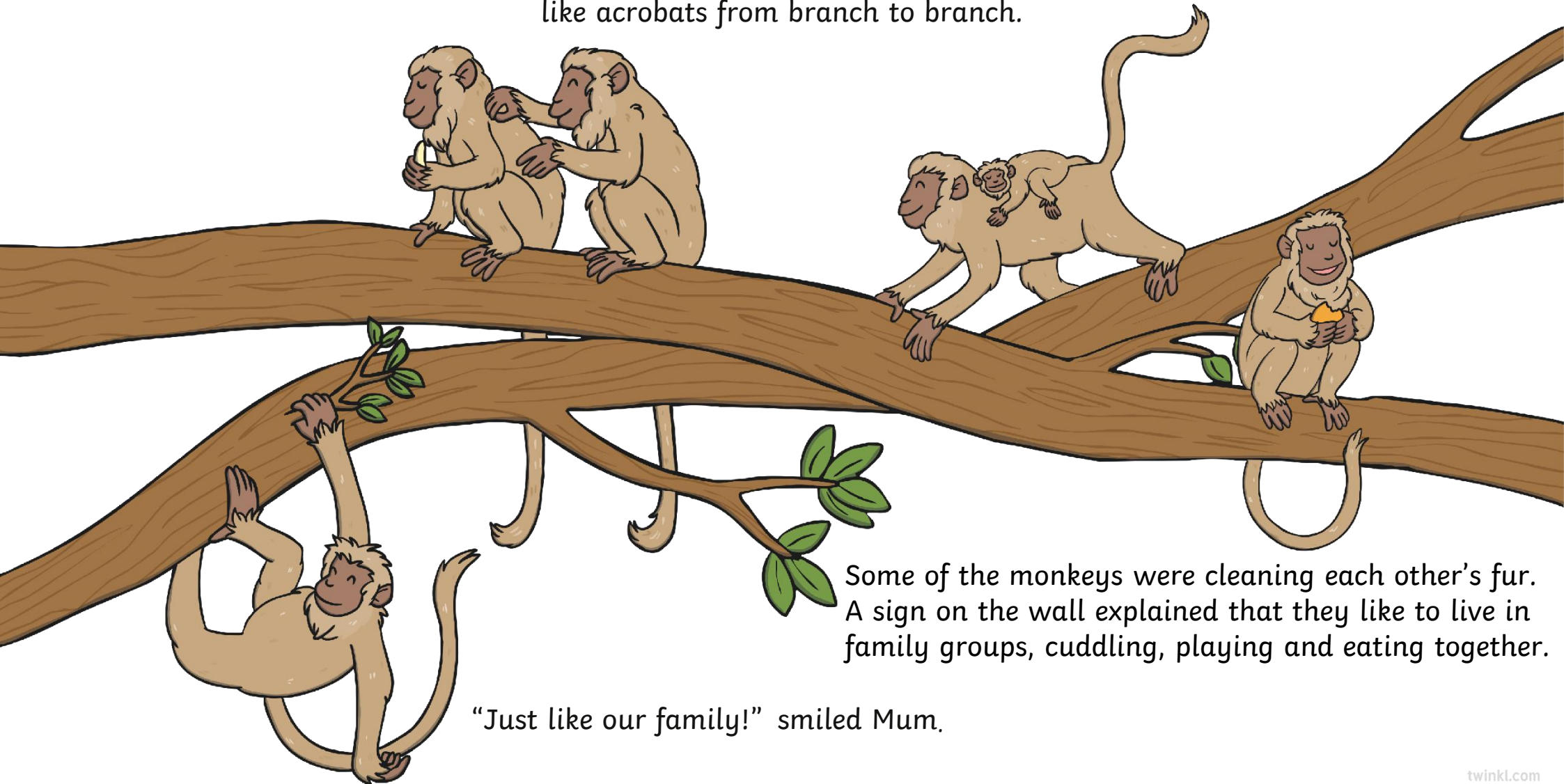
‘They’re like statues,’ thought Sinéad as she pressed her nose up against the glass.



“Time for a really tricky riddle,” said Dad. “I’m cheeky, furry, small and loud. I like to hang out in a crowd. I chew on fruit and veg for dinner and at climbing, I’m a winner.”

“It has to be a... monkey!” Sinéad said triumphantly.

Some dangled from ropes by their tails. Others sat munching on fruit whilst a few swung like acrobats from branch to branch.



Some of the monkeys were cleaning each other’s fur. A sign on the wall explained that they like to live in family groups, cuddling, playing and eating together.

“Just like our family!” smiled Mum.

“I’ve almost finished my riddles,” announced Dad. “Just two left! Ready for the next one? Some of me is black and some is white but I don’t hunt and fly at night. I love to eat and to dive but I don’t live inside a hive.”

Sinéad looked at the map again, focusing on black and white animals. ‘Not zebras or pandas,’ she thought to herself. Suddenly, a whiff of fish made up her mind.



“It’s a... penguin!” Sinéad beamed.

The penguins waddled clumsily at the edge of the pool and swam like rockets under the water. A zookeeper was in the enclosure too, throwing fish into the pool. The penguins dived in gracefully and snatched the fish from the water.

“They eat the fish whole,” explained the zookeeper. Sinéad just loved the penguins!

“Last riddle, please, Dad,” said Sinéad.

“OK,” said Dad. “This clue isn’t for an animal so think carefully. I’m in the sky but I don’t fly and at my end, all the animals lie.”

Sinéad knew straight away this time - she’d seen it on the map, wrapping right around the zoo. “The monorail!” she exclaimed.

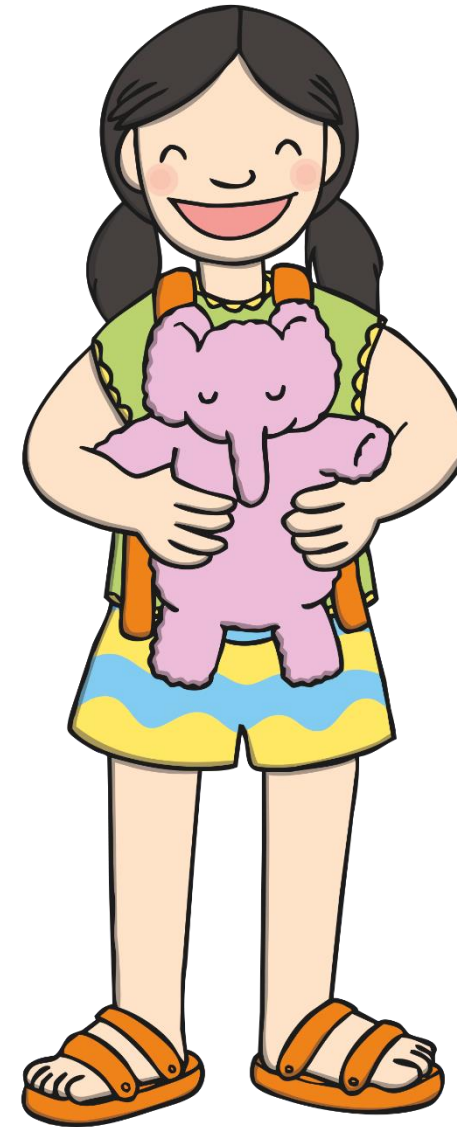
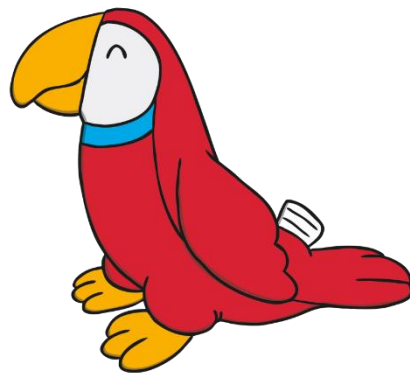
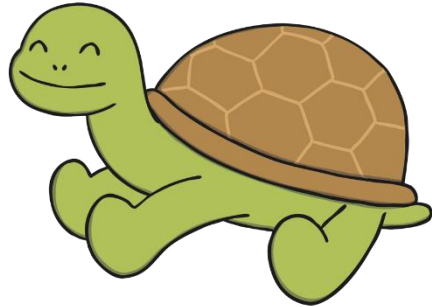
They climbed on board and sank into the seats. Sinéad felt like she could see the whole zoo. In the distance, she spotted the lion enclosure and saw a lion with a bushy mane give a huge, toothy yawn.

“Here we are,” announced Mum as the carriage came to a halt.



“Where all the animals lie...” repeated Sinéad. “I don’t get it, Dad.”
“Maybe you should look in there,” he smiled, pointing to the gift shop.

The gift shop was the best shop Sinéad had ever been in!
She could see every toy animal imaginable. Not only that, but there were balloons, mugs, jigsaws and so much more. Sinéad had known what she wanted since the first animal they had seen that day...



She found a wonderfully soft and cuddly elephant, pulled her pocket money from her purse and paid for it at the till. She couldn’t have been happier.

Soon, they were back in the car and heading home. Even in the car park, the howls of the monkeys were loud and clear. Dad checked Sinéad's seatbelt before they set off and they headed for home.

“One last riddle?” Dad suggested.
What is happy but now asleep, drifting off
without a peep?”

Mum grinned and looked into the back seat.
Sinéad was fast asleep, cuddling her new toy elephant
with a big smile on her face.



