

# The Animals in the Forest

A long time ago, in the centre of the Island of Madagascar, lived five very special animals. There was a stinky skunk, a majestic peregrine falcon, a noisy parrot, an enormous fossa, and a little sea cucumber. Now if you happened to walk past the group of friends you would hear them arguing about who was the very animal.

The skunk said "Clearly I'm the best. I can do handstands and shoot out stinky sprays that keep my enemies away".

The peregrine falcon replied "well I am the fastest animal in the world and I am known for my amazing dives, you can't do that Skunk".

The parrot said "I'm better than you both, I can mimic any animal in the world".

The big fossa walked up to them, very slowly and scarily and said "I am the biggest mammal on this island, and I can run fast and catch lemurs".

The sea cucumber, who was very small, began shouting so that everybody could hear him "No Skunk, I'm the very best, look at me, I can transform from a liquid into a solid and then back again, and I'm the ONLY animal that can do that. I think you will find that I am the best animal in the world".

The Skunk looked at them all, and instead of replying, he just turned around and let out a big stinky smell. It was disgusting. Everybody ran. He laughed.

The King of the Forest, the old and wise Lion, smelt something awful. He wiggled his nose and followed the smell, to see the Skunk dancing around by himself. He wanted to know what had happened. He Skunk told him and then he said to the

King “See I am the best, I got rid of everybody with one little smelly spray, shall I show you?”.

“That will be enough Skunk” said the Lion. “I know what we will do. We will all meet in the centre of the Forest and we will have a competition where every other animal in the Forest can vote for who they think is the best animal, and the animal with the most votes will win. The prize will be a giant bag of bananas”.

Well, on hearing this, Monkey came along and said “That’s the best prize ever, I want to enter the competition. I don’t have any special talents but I can say Ooh Aah Aah better than anybody I know!”. The Skunk didn’t like what he was hearing as he didn’t need any more competition, so he went up to the Monkey and let out a stinky spray. The Monkey ran away. Skunk laughed.

And so the competition began at the edge of the Forest and next to the sea. And each Animal showed off their skill. The skunk let out his biggest and stinkiest smell, and the fossa chased him and his stinkiness away with a fast chase and a huge growl. Next the peregrine falcon flew high into the air and dived down at high speed, whilst the Parrot sat mimicking everybody in the audience, even the King! And the little sea cucumber swam to the shallow part of the sea where he could be seen and kept on changing from a solid into a liquid and back into a liquid again. Everybody gasped! The crowd cheered.

Then, all of a sudden there was a disaster. Some woodcutters had come into the Forest and they were chopping down the trees! All the animals ran away.

And the Lion said “You five think that you are the best animals on the Island, well this is your chance to prove it. You will all stay here and fight off the woodcutters and protect the Forest”. Then he left.

“Quickly animals we need to work as a team” said the Peregrine Falcon. He flew up into the air so he could see what was happening. There were lots of wood

cutters. He could see that most of the woodcutters were at the top of the Forest near the sea so he told the other animals. The Lemur ran at great speed into the woodcutters and growled. They ran away scared.

Then the Falcon dived down at great speed and grabbed some of the woodcutters axes so quickly that they didn't even notice! They ran off too.

Finally they were done!

But Oh No more woodcutters arrived by boat from the sea. The sea cucumber needed to keep them busy so he quickly started turning from a liquid into a solid and back again. They were amazed and sat there watching him instead of going into the Forest. Then the Parrot started mimicking the sound of a ghost, and he told them that the Forest was haunted! So they sailed back into their boat into the sea never to be seen again.

There were only a few woodcutters left, so the Skunk ran about, spraying out his deadliest and most stinky disgusting smell. The woodcutters hated it and ran away quickly.

And then there was only one woodcutter left and just as he was going to chop down a tree, a big bunch of bananas fell onto his head. He looked up and it was Monkey. Then he slipped on something, and he looked down. The sea cucumber had come out and turned into a liquid beneath his feet. He fell onto his bottom. The woodcutter ran away with a very sore head and bottom!!

Then at the end all the animals gathered together laughing. They had won and the Forest was saved.

"Team work makes the dream work" they all said together.

By Anthony E, 7