Sarvesh lazily tapped the button on the alarm clock. The buzzing stopped. The bedroom was quiet again.

Sarvesh rolled over. He pulled the quilt over his head. He thought about dozing off again.

Sarvesh threw off the quilt and sat up in bed.

‘What am I thinking about?’ he said to himself. ‘It’s Sunday! No school! We’re going to the zoo!’

Sarvesh scrambled out of bed and raced downstairs in his pyjamas.

Sarvesh’s sister, Ambika, and his parents, Mr and Mrs Sridhar, were having breakfast.

‘Ah, Sarvesh!’ said Mrs Sridhar. ‘Have you forgotten where we’re going today?’

‘No, Mum. Sorry I’m late,’ replied Sarvesh, taking his place at the table.

‘Are you going dressed like that?’ asked Ambika.

‘If you go like that,’ said Mr Sridhar with a grin, ‘please don’t get too close to the zebra cage. People might mistake you for one of them!’ Ambika giggled. Mrs Sridhar pushed a bowl towards Sarvesh.

‘Very funny, Dad,’ replied Sarvesh, putting a puri on his plate. ‘I’ll change after breakfast.’
‘Don’t change into a giraffe,’ said Ambika.

They all laughed at her joke.

‘Eat up, please,’ said Mr Sridhar. ‘If we get there late, it will be too hot. The animals will be asleep, and you will see nothing.’

Sarvesh finished his *puri* and *channa* quickly.

‘Thank you, Mum!’ he shouted as he raced to get changed.

‘You’re welcome,’ she replied with a smile.

An hour later, the family were at the zoo. Mr Sridhar parked the car. Mrs Sridhar bought the tickets, and the four of them entered the zoo.

The children were excited and hopped around like monkeys. In fact, it was the monkeys that they wanted to see most.

The monkeys were in a large caged area. Four monkeys were sitting on a log. Mr and Mrs Sridhar, Sarvesh and Ambika stood in a row in front of the four monkeys.
‘Look, Sarvesh,’ said Mr Sridhar, pointing, ‘that one looks exactly like you.’

Ambika giggled. Sarvesh giggled too.

‘And the big one looks like you, Dad,’ he replied. ‘He’s scratching his head just like you do.’

Ambika giggled some more.

Sarvesh made a funny face. The monkeys made funny faces, too.

‘Isn’t it odd?’ said Mrs Sridhar. ‘The monkeys do what we do. They copy us.’

‘Yes,’ agreed Mr Sridhar. ‘Sometimes, humans are like that too.’

‘What do you mean, Dad?’ asked Sarvesh.

‘Humans copy,’ explained Mr Sridhar. ‘Sometimes, they copy other people without understanding why they are doing so.’

‘I still don’t understand,’ sighed Ambika.

The family had a lovely day at the zoo. The children rode on an elephant. A kind zookeeper gave them some hay to feed to the bison. They had lunch in a café beside a lake and watched the pelicans and flamingos.

Soon it was time to go home. They walked out of the exit gate, and headed for the car park. Many other people were leaving at the same time. Suddenly, Mr Sridhar stopped. He looked up at the sky. He pointed to something far, far away and started making strange noises.

‘Oooh! Aaaaah! Wah wah!’ he cried, hopping from one foot to the other.

Mrs Sridhar, Sarvesh and Ambika all looked up into the sky, too.

‘Do you see it?’ cried Mr Sridhar.

‘What?’ asked the others.
It! It!’ replied Mr Sridhar, in excitement.

Soon, a large crowd gathered. Everyone looked up into the sky to where Mr Sridhar was pointing. Some people started shouting like Mr Sridhar.

‘Oooh! Aaaaah! Wah wah!’ they cried, and hopped about.

Mr Sridhar stopped as suddenly as he had started. He continued on his way to the car park. The family followed.

‘What was all that about?’ asked Ambika.

‘Yes, Dad,’ said Sarvesh. ‘What were you pointing at?’

‘Didn’t you see it?’ asked Mr Sridhar.

‘No!’ answered the children.

‘Humans!’ said Mr Sridhar. ‘Many of the people who stopped with us saw what I saw. They shouted just like I did. They hopped too. But there was nothing for them to see, was there?’

‘Monkey see, monkey do!’ cried Mrs Sridhar, clapping her hands.

The children laughed all the way home. When they got home they cried: ‘Thanks, Mum! Thank you, Dad, for a wonderful day!’

Nicholas Horsburgh
Words to Know

bison
café  a small restaurant where drinks and snacks are sold
caged  enclosed behind a cage or bars
exactly  the very same in every way
flamingo
gathered  collected together in one place; assembled
odd  strange; not usual or ordinary
pelican
quilt
scrambled  moved or climbed quickly

Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Sarvesh do when he woke up?
2. Did Sarvesh go downstairs slowly? How did he go downstairs?
3. How was Sarvesh dressed?
4. Why did Sarvesh’s father say: ‘People might mistake you for one of them!’?
5. What did the family do first inside the zoo?
6. What did Sarvesh tell his father about the monkeys?
7. What did Mrs Sridhar find odd about the monkeys?
8. How did Mr Sridhar show that sometimes humans behave like monkeys?
**WORKING WITH WORDS**

Learn to spell these words from the story. Use them in sentences of your own.

1. monkey  
2. dozing  
3. pyjamas  
4. scrambled  
5. exactly

**LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE**

**THE APOSTROPHE**

We use this mark ’ (the apostrophe) to show:

a. that a letter is missing.
b. that something belongs to someone.

Examples:  
Ambika’s a good girl. (Ambika is a good girl.)
Sarvesh’s sister is Ambika. (the sister of Sarvesh)

1. Change the following and add an apostrophe.

a. the face of the monkey  
b. the words of Mr Sridhar  
c. the giggles of the children  
d. the pyjamas of Sarvesh  
e. the cries of the men

2. Now answer these questions about the story.

a. Whose alarm sounded?  
b. Whose pyjamas were striped?  
c. Whose words made Ambika giggle some more?  
d. Whose funny face made the monkeys make funny faces too?  
e. Whose actions made the people stop and copy them?

3. Say what the following stand for, then use them in sentences of your own.

a. I’ve  
b. can’t  
c. don’t  
d. couldn’t  
e. there’s  
f. she’s  
g. they’re  
h. shan’t

**LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

We usually write:

*we are, they are, she is, he is, I am, you are, I have, you have, we have, etc.*
But when we speak, we join the words: we’re, they’re, she’s, he’s, I’m, you’re, I’ve, you’ve, we’ve, etc.

Your teacher will tell you to do some actions, and ask questions. Give answers using the expressions above.

**COMPOSITION**

**POLITE WORDS**

Make a list of the polite words and phrases used in the story. Think about when you would use them. Use the words and phrases in a short dialogue (conversation) of your own.

For example, you are late for class. You knock on the classroom door. You and the teacher have a conversation, using the polite expressions (that you have found in the story).