

## The Man with the Yellow Hat

Now we've all heard of H.A Rey's story "Curious George," about that little brown monkey, but what about that man with the yellow hat. Where did he come from? What was he like? How did he get to know George?

Once upon a time there was a rich businessman who owned a trucking company. His company shipped produce to "Ed's Grocery Store." He was very busy and never took the time to have any true friends. All he thought about was money and business. He was very professional and formal so he didn't have much of a personal life. When he got days off he would just wander around the zoo. The animals got bored just looking at him! Once he tried wearing a pointy yellow hat to look like a banana, but he got bit by the monkeys. Still he went on working and wandering.

At that time in the very same zoo there was a monkey who felt very confined. He would sit by the window in his exhibit and watch the bustling city go by. He longed to be free, roaming the busy streets, walking through the grocery store down the rows of bananas, smelling the fresh air. He always kept hope that someone would come and set him free, and as long as he had hope he could wait a little longer.

While the monkey continued to dream, the businessman was just finishing a big delivery deal. When he finished he took the rest of the day off and pointlessly roamed the zoo. He had been sitting by the monkeys for quite some time when one of them said, "You drive me bananas, all you do is sit there all day." Suddenly the man had an idea! It was like the monkey had thrown a match on a barrel of gasoline, and given him

this blazing idea. "Drive them bananas! Literally, drive them bananas!"

As this new idea was sparked the monkey sat nonchalantly looking out the window. Suddenly he saw a man dancing and shouting saying, "I got it! I got it! Yes! I've got it!" The next day the monkey saw a truck back up and unload thousands of bananas, bright yellow grocery store bananas. The monkey was thrilled, "The only thing that would make this better is if I were free," he thought, as he sat in the corner eating one of the gifted bananas.

Meanwhile, the businessman was being thanked. He finally felt a little bit of true friendship and was flattered when the zookeeper let him pick out a monkey. He looked and looked into the crowd of monkeys huddling around the bananas, but none of them looked friendly. Then he saw a lonely little fellow gazing longingly out the window in the corner. "I want that one," said the man, so he took his monkey home. The two instantly became friends.

The very next day the man sold his company and bought the monkey everything he needed to feel at home. The man turned from money and business and experienced true friendship for the first time. This story shows that friendship is worth more than a billion dollars. And thus we get our story of Curious George and his great friend The Man with the Yellow Hat living happily ever after. The end.

(Word Count 560)