

310 words, column #7
Java Talk
(for June 7 to June 13, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

Don't Mess with the Elders

Stories are told, in all sorts of ways, for different audiences and purposes. I've even heard stories told to a seasoned storyteller who said she could use a story, in the same way that someone else might have said they could use a stiff drink!

An example might be the story about the elderly lady who took her old poodle, Cuddles, on an African photo safari. Cuddles got lost, while chasing butterflies, and was soon stalked by a leopard. The quick-thinking poodle, however, saw a pile of bones and pretended to chew on them. Then, just as the leopard was about to leap, she said, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?"—which scared the leopard away.

A monkey, watching from above, told the leopard how the dog had tricked it, in exchange for its own protection. "Monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!" said the furious cat.

Meanwhile, Cuddles suspected the monkey was up to something when it took off after the leopard. She pretended she didn't see them returning, and when they were close enough to hear, she said, "Where is that monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

In the end, the monkey jumped up into a tree; the leopard ran into the woods; and Cuddles and the old lady found each other again, and lived happily ever after. The moral of the story is, "Don't mess with elders. Age and cunning will always overcome youth and skill. Brilliance only comes with time and experience."

Anyway, if you would like to hear some stories, the last Victoria Storytellers' Guild "Stories at Fern," until September, will be on Monday, June 11, 2007, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at 1831 Fern Street. (Adults \$5, Students \$3).

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