

Dear Diary,

I had the most amazing day ever! So many cool things have happened and I can't wait to tell you all about it!

So today I had to go out hunting for an animal to take as a trophy. In my tribe, all the warriors wear the head of an animal that they have hunted. The bigger and scarier the animal, the better the warrior is. If your animal is big and scary enough then you could become the tribal chief when you get older. Me and the other young warriors were really excited but nervous because none of us wanted to fail and not catch anything at all.

After a long while, I sat in a clear bit of the jungle with my catch. So, had I caught a tree boa? Or perhaps a jaguar, or maybe a fearsome caiman? Nope, I had caught...a frog. A tiny, pathetic little frog. If I took that back home as my trophy headdress the I would be laughed out of the village. I put the frog on my head out of frustration and tried to plan my next move. Suddenly, I felt something swipe the frog from my head. A thieving monkey had taken the frog right off the top of my head. Now the frog was rubbish but even that was better than going home empty handed. Angrily, I chased after the monkey.

The stupid monkey was far too quick for me and it climbed up into a tree. I know that monkeys make silly noises, but it sure felt like it was laughing at me because I had only caught a little frog AND because it had managed to steal it from me. It wasn't laughing for long though because as quick as a flash, an enormous, long, pink tongue shot out from nowhere and dragged the monkey away. This was the largest tongue I have ever seen; I didn't think that a tongue could get that big. It was like a magic trick – in the blink of an eye it had disappeared.

I tried to stay as still as a statue. I had no idea what had taken the monkey and I did not want to find out! I heard a rustling behind me and I could feel my heart beating in my chest. I was sure I was about to be eaten. I slowly turned around and saw a chameleon behind me. Now I know a lot about chameleons because there are a lot near our village. The biggest one I'd seen near the village was about as long as my leg. The one behind me was bigger than any hut in my village! It had large, round eyes that were bigger than my head and,

when it stopped being camouflaged, its skin was purple. It stood staring down at me hungrily. Then it spat out the monkey and my pathetic frog. It looked at me with a curious expression and when it didn't then try to immediately eat me, I assumed it was friendly.

The chameleon kept staring at me. Without any warning, it wrapped its tail around me and placed me gently onto its back. He then took off! He was running so quickly I thought I was going to fly off but I managed to cling on. I think the chameleon was enjoying having someone to play with. Suddenly, his tongue shot out and grabbed a pretty blue bird with a big yellow beak. It was better than my frog so I put it on my head. I think the chameleon understood what I was trying to do (find an animal to wear as a trophy) because he kept firing his tongue out and catching everything he could, each animal bigger than the last. He grabbed a cunning caiman, a terrifying tiger and a enormous elephant. The only animal he didn't try to get was a rather confusing bird of paradise (it was doing a funny dance and I think the chameleon was a little freaked out by it). It didn't matter in the end – the net I had brought with me was fit to burst, full of impressive animals that would make my tribe proud.

The chameleon kept going faster and faster, until we were moving so quickly it was more like flying than running. We jumped through the trees and came to a crashing halt – chameleon had hit a net! I recognised the trap because they were what my village used to catch animals. Sure enough, I could hear drums and the sound of footsteps getting closer. The hunters from my village were sure to see the chameleon in the net – he wasn't even camouflaged any more, he kept changing colour in fear. I'll be honest (and I'm not proud of this) for a second I did think I could claim it as my catch – I could take the head as my trophy and I would be widely praised in my village. I quickly put that thought out of my mind and started to cut the chameleon out of the net with my knife.

Letting it go was the right thing to do. The chameleon disappeared the moment it was clear of the net. I was so keen to let it free that I forgot to grab my net full of animals, so once again I was left with the frog. I actually didn't mind, my incredible adventure was worth it. I heard a noise behind me and the chameleon reappeared! I was so happy to see it. I was once again sat on its back, setting off on more adventures. I'll tell you what happened next time!

Toki