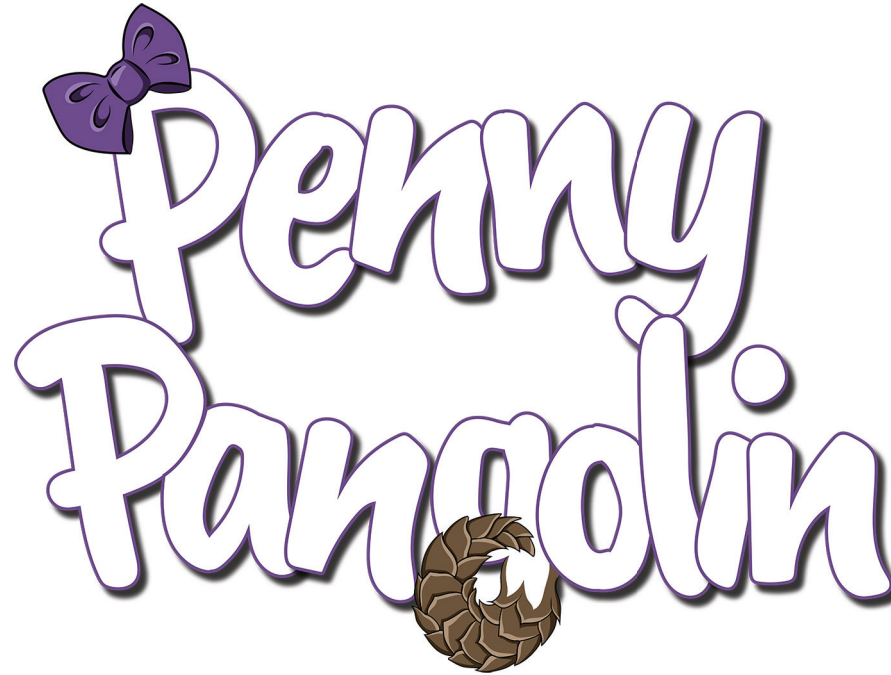




and The Baboon Bully

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

Illustrated by Jade Zivanovic



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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade

Penny Pangolin **sprang** out of bed. A new student was coming to her school all the way from Africa, and she was excited to meet him!





Penny got **dressed** and went into the kitchen for breakfast.

“Mmm, ant-cinnamon muffins!” she said, licking her lips.

As Penny walked toward the school, she heard an unfamiliar laugh. It was the **new student**. Her teacher had said his name was Bobo Baboon from the country of Benin.





He stood near Penny's friend, Edith Aardvark. From Bobo's wide smile and happy laugh, Penny could see that he enjoyed talking with Edith.

*No time like now to make a **new friend**!* Penny thought, and she walked toward them.

Then she heard what Bobo was saying.

“You look like a pig with rabbit ears!”

Edith looked humiliated.



Penny marched up to Edith's side.
"That wasn't nice! You leave her alone!"

Bobo glared at Penny. "Says the talking pinecone!" he said
as he walked away, laughing.

Penny frowned, feeling **a bit hot under the scales**.
"Ignore him," she told Edith. "He's just a big bully."



But ignoring him wasn't easy. When Penny got to her classroom, she saw that Bobo had taken the seat behind hers. To make matters worse, he spent the whole class **pulling at her scales** and poking her from behind!



At lunch, Bobo made fun of Penny's **long pangolin tongue**.
Penny could no longer
eat in peace.



At recess, he grabbed the
badminton birdie Penny was
playing with and **hid** it.



The next day was the same, as was the day after
that and the one after that.

“Stop picking on me!” Penny finally said in a stern voice.
“If you don’t, I’ll tell the teacher.”



Bobo didn't stop bothering Penny, so she told her teacher.

The teacher talked to Bobo after class, but
that only made him **angrier**.



One morning, Bobo called out, “Penny Pinecone
has rotten **bug breath!**”

Penny had finally had enough.



At lunch, she walked past Bobo's table and **smashed** his box of guava juice. It splashed all over Bobo's shirt.

SIGN UP SHEET
SWIMMING LESSONS
EDITH AARDVARK
Penny Pangolin
Sammy Snake
PATRICKA
Gaggy Gator

34th ANNUAL VILLAGE
DANCE COMPETITION



Mrs. Silverdog had seen Penny and said,
“You need to come with me.”



Penny couldn't believe it. Bobo had been bullying her
for weeks, and she was the one getting in trouble?
It was so **unfair**, she felt like screaming!

“Trying to get even will only make it **worse** for you,” Edith told her later.

Penny had to agree. After all, she didn’t want to become a bully herself.



Penny felt bad about her behavior, so she decided to try something different.

She invited Bobo to join in a game of badminton with her friends.



Bobo **frowned**, like he didn't believe her. "Do you mean it?"

"Sure," Penny replied.

Bobo shrugged. "Okay."



Penny watched eagerly as Bobo approached the court and grabbed the badminton birdie. Maybe this really would work!



Then Bobo dropped the birdie and **stomped** it to bits.
“Oops!” he said with a sneer.
Everyone gasped and cried in horror.



“You are such a **mean baboon!**” Penny shouted. “I’ll tell everyone in the village how mean you are, and then you’ll have to go back to Africa!”

That night, Penny told her parents what had happened.

“You have every right to be upset and **stand up for yourself**,” said her father. “But, sweetie, trying to hurt him back, even if it’s only with words, won’t make him a nicer baboon. And I don’t think that will make you feel any better, either.”



“You’re a **kindhearted** pangolin,” added Penny’s mother.
“Let him and everyone else see that.”



The next morning, Penny saw Bobo standing near Otis Orangutan. Otis had never **bothered** Penny before, but sometimes he could be a bit of a bully, too.

Wanting no trouble, Penny tried to walk by without being noticed.



Then she heard Otis shout, “Baboons have big, red bottoms!
It’s Red-Bottom Bobo! Ha ha ha!”

Bobo looked really **embarrassed**. “I do not!” he shouted back.





Penny knew she could just ignore them and keep going. But she'd stood up for Edith. Not standing up for Bobo too seemed wrong.

Taking a deep breath, she **approached** Otis and Bobo. "Not all kinds of baboons look the same," she said. "And, besides, there's nothing wrong with the way Bobo looks."

Penny turned to Otis. "And there's nothing wrong with the way you look, either. We all have different features!"

Bobo and Otis stared at her for a long moment, dumbstruck.

“Bobo,” said Penny, “you’ve been mean to me, but I don’t want to be that way to you.” Penny took another deep breath to calm her nerves. “My friends and I got a new badminton birdie, and we’d like to have some more players. If you can play **fair and square**, you should join us.”



That day at recess, Penny and her friends had more players
for badminton—and **more fun**—than ever before!



What is a Pangolin?

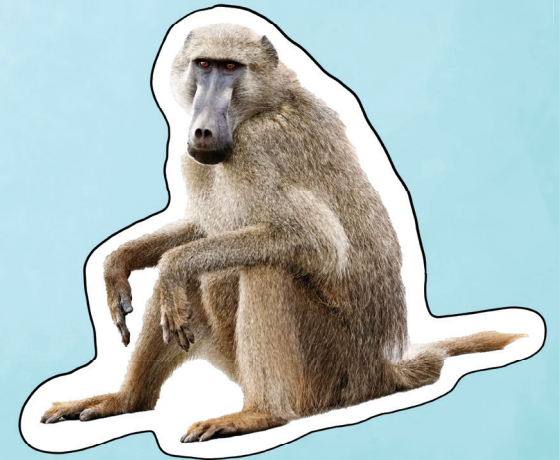


Pangolins are unique, gentle mammals with stubby legs, sharp digging claws, and hard scales that protect them from predators. If threatened, a pangolin can curl up into a ball or lash out with its scaled tail. There are eight species of pangolins, four each in Asia and Africa, all of them endangered. They are nocturnal, meaning they're most active at night, and they love eating lots and lots of termites and ants!

What is an Olive Baboon?

Bobo is an olive baboon. These baboons are usually found in the grassy savannas across central Africa, where they enjoy a diverse omnivorous diet of plants, flowers, fruits, bugs, and various small animals like lizards, birds, and rodents. Baboons are some of the largest monkey species and are often recognized by their hairless face and rump.

Olive baboons have a smaller bare patch than other species. Red bottoms are most characteristic of females.



How to Handle Bullying

Tell a trusted adult. Don't be afraid—tell as many adults as needed until someone helps.

Help others. Be a friend if you see someone being bullied. Help them get away from the situation. Your support goes a long way.

Don't become a bully. Don't bully someone back. Stay positive, stay confident, and just walk away.

Stand up for yourself. If you feel safe doing so, tell the bully to stop. If you show the bully you're not sad or scared, they might lose interest.

Be kind. If you have the opportunity, showing kindness to the bully can cause them to reconsider their behavior.



Pangolins are bullied, too! Pangolins are threatened with extinction. Many of them are illegally captured for their scales and meat. But there's good news! Some people, such as the Wildlife Conservation Network, are working to help pangolins and other endangered animals. Check out SavePangolins.org to learn more!



Look for more wildlife in Penny's story...



Black Giant
Squirrel



Glassy Tiger
Butterfly



Blue Crested
Lizard



Small Indian
Civet



Fulvous Forest
Skimmer



Rose-Winged
Parakeet



Aardvark



Orangutan



Giant Panda



CRITTER COMPENDIUM

Scan the QR Code
below to learn
all about Penny's
favorite critters.



About the Author



Wayne D. Kramer lives in the southern Indiana countryside with his wife and kids.

The idea for Penny Pangolin came to Wayne one day while discussing an interest in creating a series of children's picture books with his family. Pangolins, in particular, had always fascinated the kids. Wayne enjoys brainstorming new Penny ideas with his kids over smoothies at the coffee shop.

He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Science. He has visited nearly 40 countries and 25 states in the US. He especially loved visiting Hobbiton in New Zealand.

Wayne is also author of the "Heroes of Time" adventure fantasy novel series. All of his works, including signed copies, are available from **shop.heroesoftime.com**.

About the Illustrator



Jade Zivanovic lives in rural Victoria, Australia with her husband and pets.

Jade has always enjoyed creating pictures that help to tell a story and has studied under prominent artists, also gaining a diploma in concept art and visual storytelling.

Her works hang in private collections across Australia, the US and Europe. She has also been awarded placings in art shows, her favorite being a People's Choice Award, as she always considered herself an artist for the people.