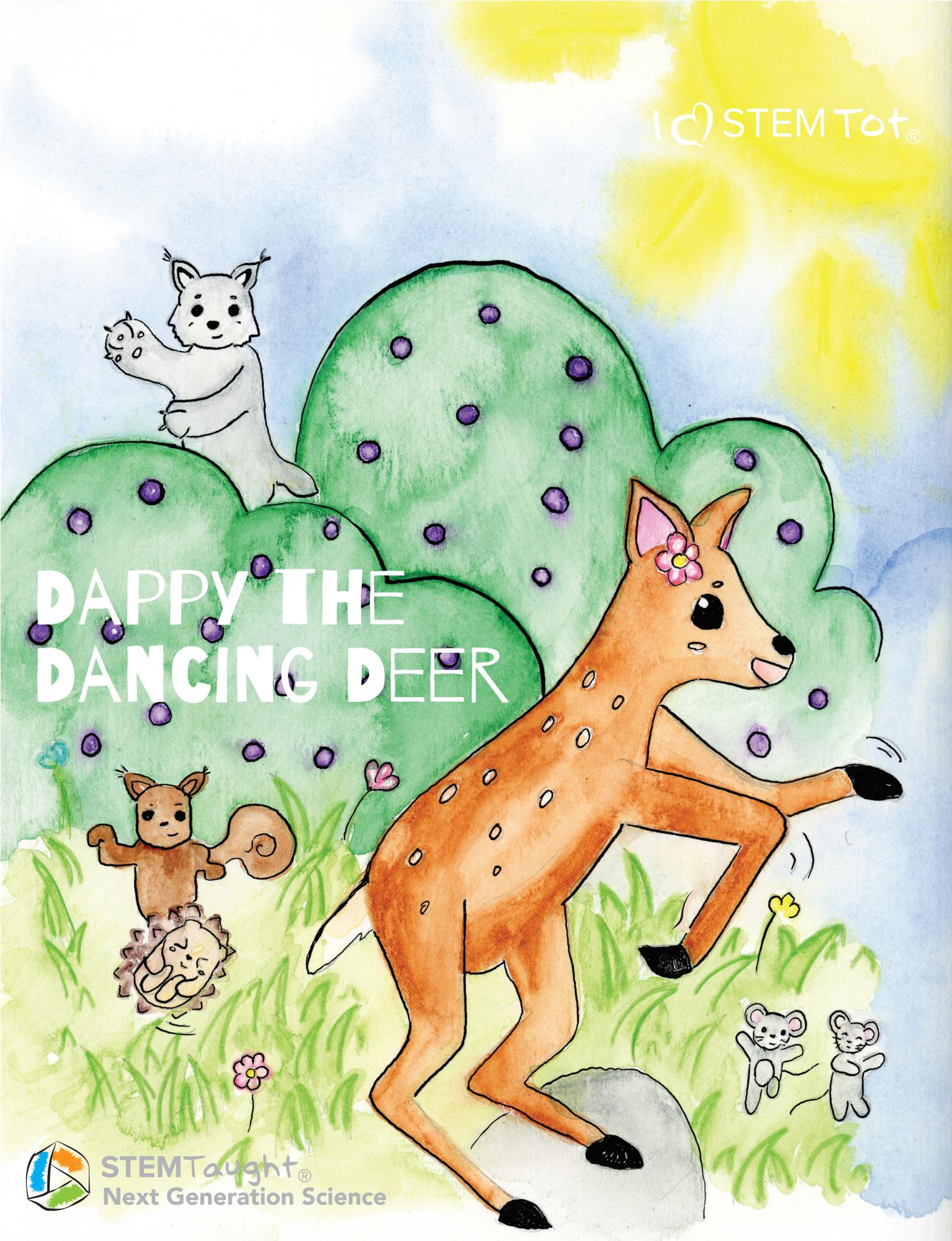


# DAPPY THE DANCING DEER



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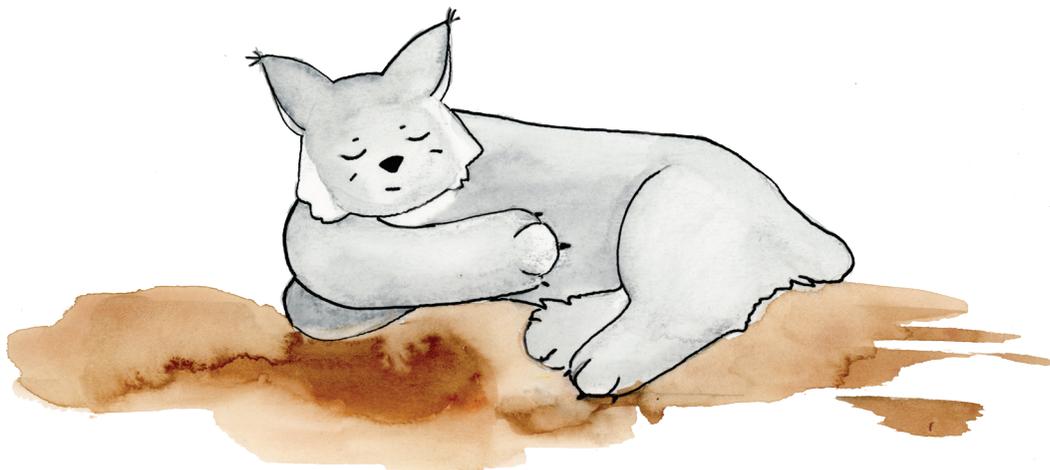
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## STEMtaught® Grade 1 Next Generation Science

**1-LS1-2 From Molecules to Organisms, Structures and Processes:** Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.





## DAPPY THE DANCING DEER

A mother deer took her fawn through the beautiful wood. The fawn was wobbly, but she walked, and life seemed so good.

“Dappy, you’re safe now,” the mother told her deer. “You must hide in plain sight, but I’ll always be near. Stay silent and still, let your dappled spots hide you. Around every corner, animals lurk and could find you.”

Dappy obeyed—she lay quiet and still. But to dance and move was her strongest will.

How could laying quiet and still help Dappy survive?





As Dappy grew older, she rarely hid well—  
for dancing was something she thought was  
just swell!

“Dappy, please! You must not dance! You  
can’t go around like that, you won’t stand a  
chance. When you were tiny, I could keep  
you safe and sound—because you knew  
how to hide and lay still on the ground.”

Why do you think Dappy’s mom  
does not want her to dance?





“Mommy, oh mommy, you worry too much!  
The threat of a lynx isn’t scary as such!

With a merry tune, a little jig and a hop, it  
would join in, and start to bee-bop.”

Mother deer shook her head and grew frantic  
with worry. Her eyes opened wide and her  
thoughts were a flurry.

“Oh Mommy, relax! I’ll dance and I’ll sing. But  
sitting so still, it’s just not my thing!”

Do you think a lynx would really  
want to dance or play with Dappy?





“Oh, what will you do, dear Dappy, my deer? Please don’t dance! Please don’t sing! There is something to fear! When predators come, lie still in the dirt. Not even a hum, or you could get hurt!”

Mother deer felt the purest fear. The thought of Dappy in danger made her eyes tear. She thought stubborn Dappy would cause her own end, but brother deer had an idea!

This was something he could mend!

What danger is Dappy’s mother protecting her from?





Carefully, brother deer put on a disguise. He wore stripes, fangs, and claws. He rubbed black soot around his eyes. In the shadows, he practiced a walk with a slink. His costume made him look like a scary, hairy lynx!

What do you think Dappy's brother is going to do with the lynx costume?





It all started out like a usual day, Mother deer pleaded for Dappy to stay quiet and safe.

Dappy, as always, danced with remarkable grace. Twirling and whirling she spun round and round, and for her grand finale, she jumped up on a mound.

When are baby deer playful?  
When are they quiet and still?  
How do they know how to act?





She didn't know who was hiding behind her. When she turned around, she saw—a great monster! It had the claws and the stripes and the teeth of a lynx. The sheer fright of the sight gave her goosebumps and kinks!

“Oh no! My Mommy was right!” As the creature approached, she felt a great fright. It was faster than any lynx she had ever seen. Its eyes were larger and blacker—its face looked so mean!

The lynx slinked and it trotted, its paw rose up and it fell. Dappy had a sick feeling that this wouldn't end well.

Why was Dappy scared when she saw the lynx? Do you think she will start to dance?





Gone were her thoughts of dancing and prancing. There was no movement that was worth chancing. Then, Dappy recalled her mother's wise words. "If you stay still in the grass, you won't be observed."

Dappy had listened! She recalled every word!

Dappy sat down and stayed silent and still. She hid in the grass with her natural skill. Dappy's heart slowed and she remembered a trick. She breathed very slowly and stayed as still as a stick.

Is lying still and hiding an instinct or a learned trait for a baby deer?





As the lynx came closer, something seemed odd. Those weren't lynx footprints she saw in the sod! Was it? Could it be? A tuft of white tail? It started to laugh as it stepped off the trail. Then, the lynx smiled a smile that seemed very familiar.

She recognized its voice when it called out to her, "Sister! I've never seen you stay so still! At the sight of a lynx, you said you'd dance more! You said the lynx would dance *with* you—for dance was contagious, you swore!"

What did Dappy do to try to stay hidden?





Under the lynx disguise was a deer—it was Dappy’s brother. Then, out of the shadows bounded Dappy’s dear Mother.

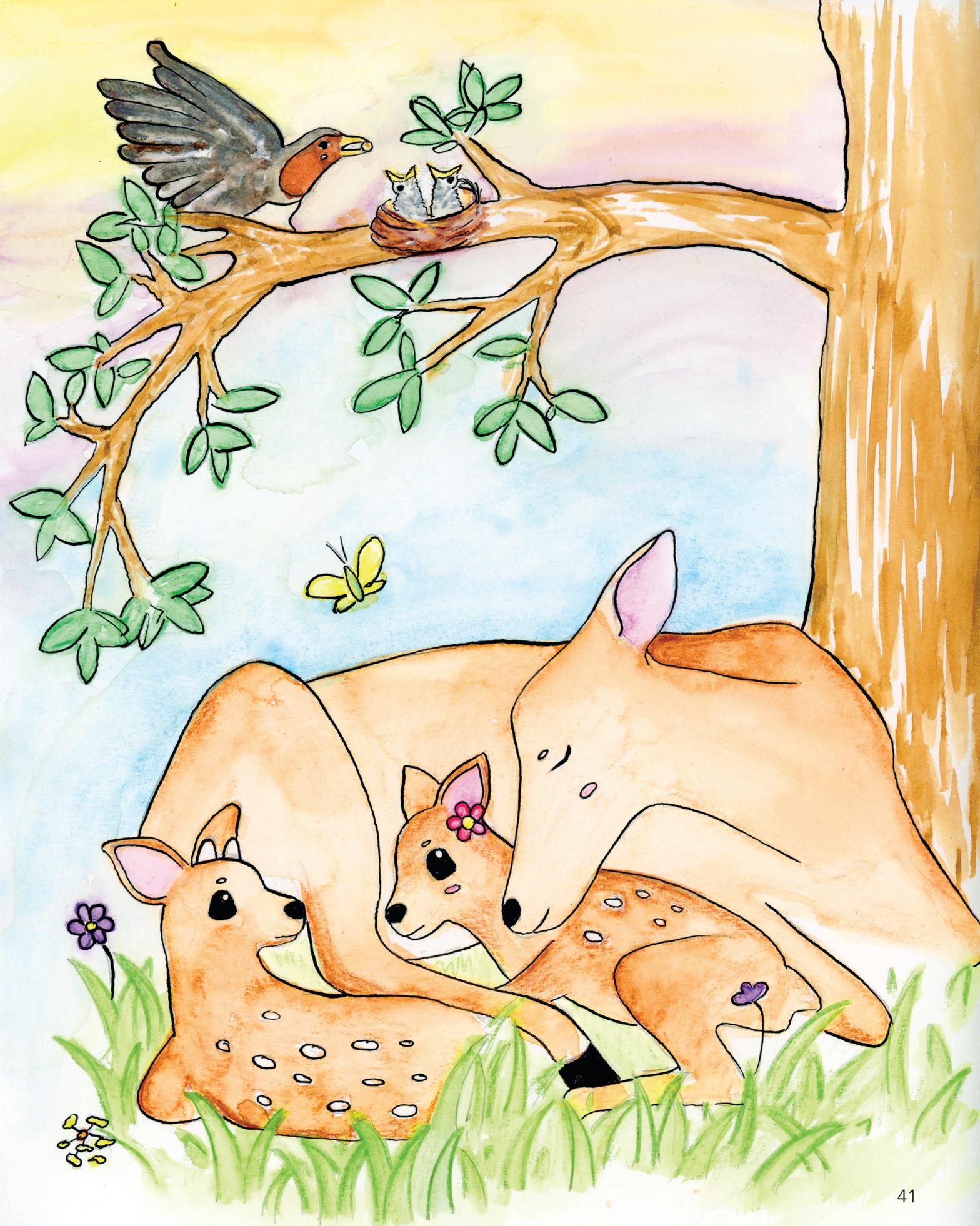
“You knew what to do! Oh my little, dear Dappy!”

Dappy was speechless, but she was safe and happy.

“You listened to me! Good job, my dear deer! You made me so proud, I had nothing to fear.”

Although Dappy thought she would want to dance, what made her stay still when danger was near?



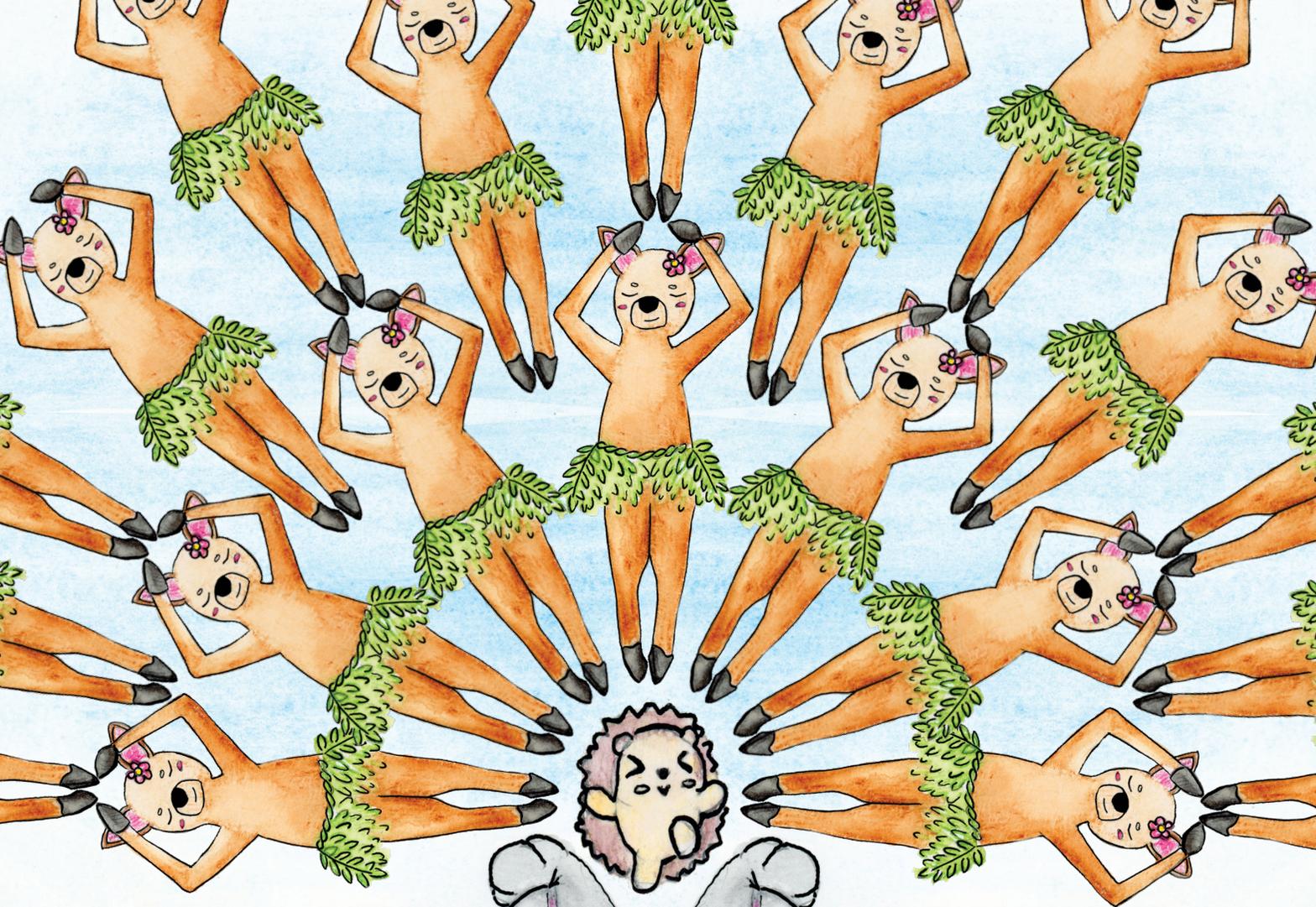


Now, Dappy still whirls and twirls and dances. But, with all her dance moves, she never takes chances. When danger approaches, she knows what to do. She stays quiet and still, as all little dears do!

Do you think Dappy's decision to stay still was an instinct, or a learned behavior? Why do you think so?





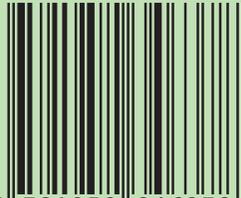


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