

Name: _____

Backyard Visitor

By Kelly Hashway



"Mom!" Sarah yelled, running into the house.

"What is it?" her mother asked, looking up from her book.

"There's a baby deer in the backyard. Can we feed it?" Sarah ran for



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"But it's so little. It's not like it's going to hurt me."

"Maybe not, but it might hurt the deer."

Sarah wrinkled her forehead. "I'll be gentle, just like I am with the baby next door."

"That's not what I meant." Her mother brought Sarah to the back door and looked out at the fawn lying in the grass. "If you pet the fawn, she might like it. She might hang around here looking for you."

"That doesn't sound bad at all. She could be like my pet."

"But deer aren't meant to be pets. And what happens if she wanders off into someone else's yard or into the woods where there's a hunter. She won't know not to fear people. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Sarah looked out at the deer. "She might think all humans are nice. She wouldn't know to stay away from hunters or even cars if she sees people in them."

"Exactly." Her mother put her hand on Sarah's shoulder.

"What if her mother doesn't come get her? How will she learn to find food and how to stay out of danger?"

"Animals are born with natural instincts. That's why we shouldn't do things that go against those instincts, like feed them."

"I wish she could stay here."

"I know you do," her mother said. "Why don't you get my camera? You can take pictures of the fawn. Then you'll always have them to remember her."



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whispered excitedly.

"Yes, it is."

Sarah took pictures of both deer as they ate leaves and finally walked away. "Think they'll come back and visit again?"

"Maybe. But now you at least have pictures to remember them. Let's go print them."

Sarah nodded. "I can't wait to see how they came out."



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1. How did Sarah feel when she saw a fawn in her backyard?
 - a. confused
 - b. indifferent
 - c. disappointed
 - d. excited



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- d. when they take pictures of things that move
4. What were the mother deer and fawn doing when Sarah was taking pictures?

5. Put the events from the story in sequential order. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th on each line.
_____ Sarah grabbed an apple to feed the deer.
_____ Sarah saw a baby deer in the backyard.
_____ Sarah's mother looked outside and saw the baby deer.
_____ Sarah saw the baby deer's mother.
_____ Sarah's mother told her not to feed or pet the deer.

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure to spell each word correctly.



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4. ___ u m ___ s
clue: people

5. ___ h i s ___ r e d
clue: spoke very softly

6. ___ n s t ___ n ___ s
clue: things that animals are born knowing how to do

7. ___ r ___ n t
clue: put on paper

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

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In the story, "Backyard Visitor," Sarah and her mother watch a baby deer that has wandered into their backyard.

Think of an animal that you've seen in the wild. Write a paragraph to describe the event. Tell what the animal was, where you saw it, and what the animal was



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- 4th Sarah's mother looked outside and saw the baby deer.
- 5th Sarah saw the baby deer's mother.
- 3rd Sarah's mother told her not to feed or pet the deer.

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7. p r i n t

clue: put on paper

7. print