

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 the bowl of fruit on the counter and grabbed an apple.

Her mom met her in the kitchen. "Sarah, that's not really a good idea. That deer lives in the wild. If it gets used to people feeding it, it won't know how to survive on its own."

Sarah sighed and put the apple back. "Can I at least pet it?"

Her mother shook her head. "I'm sorry, Sarah, but you shouldn't do that either."

"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."

"Okay." Sarah ran to her mom's room and got the camera from the dresser drawer. When she came back, she opened the back door very quietly and turned off the camera's flash. "It's light enough to not use the flash and I don't want to scare the fawn."

As Sarah took pictures, another deer stepped into view.

"It's the mother deer!" Sarah whispered excitedly.

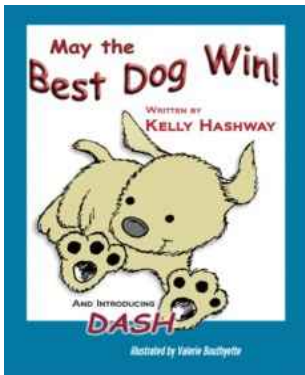
"Yes, it is."

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."

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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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

2. Sarah's mother is afraid that...

- a. Sarah will scare the deer.
- b. the deer could hurt Sarah.
- c. the deer will learn to like people.
- d. the mother deer will come back.



3. When Sarah brings the camera, she turns off the flash. When would someone normally use a camera's flash?

- a. when they take pictures outside in the daylight
- b. when they do not want to scare away animals
- c. when they take pictures inside a room that's not very bright
- d. when they take pictures of things that move

4. What were the mother deer and her 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 a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ a ___ n

hint: baby deer

2. ___ e ___ t l ___

hint: opposite of rough

3. ___ u n ___ e r

hint: person who kills animals for food

4. ___ u m ___ ___ s

hint: people

5. ___ h i s ___ ___ r e d

hint: spoke very softly

6. ___ n s t ___ n ___ ___ s

hint: things that animals are born knowing how to do

7. ___ r ___ n t

hint: put on paper

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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 doing.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

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 - d. when they take pictures of things that move
4. What were the mother deer and her fawn doing when Sarah was taking pictures?
They were eating leaves.
Also accept: Walking away.
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2nd Sarah grabbed an apple to feed the deer.
1st Sarah saw a baby deer in the backyard.
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ANSWER KEY

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



1. f a w n fawn
hint: baby deer
2. g e n t l e gentle
hint: opposite of rough
3. h u n t e r hunter
hint: person who kills animals for food
4. h u m a n s humans
hint: people
5. w h i s p e r e d whispered
hint: spoke very softly
6. i n s t i n c t s instincts
hint: things that animals are born knowing how to do
7. p r i n t print
hint: put on paper