

Ben the Bunny's Big Adventure

COLORING BOOK





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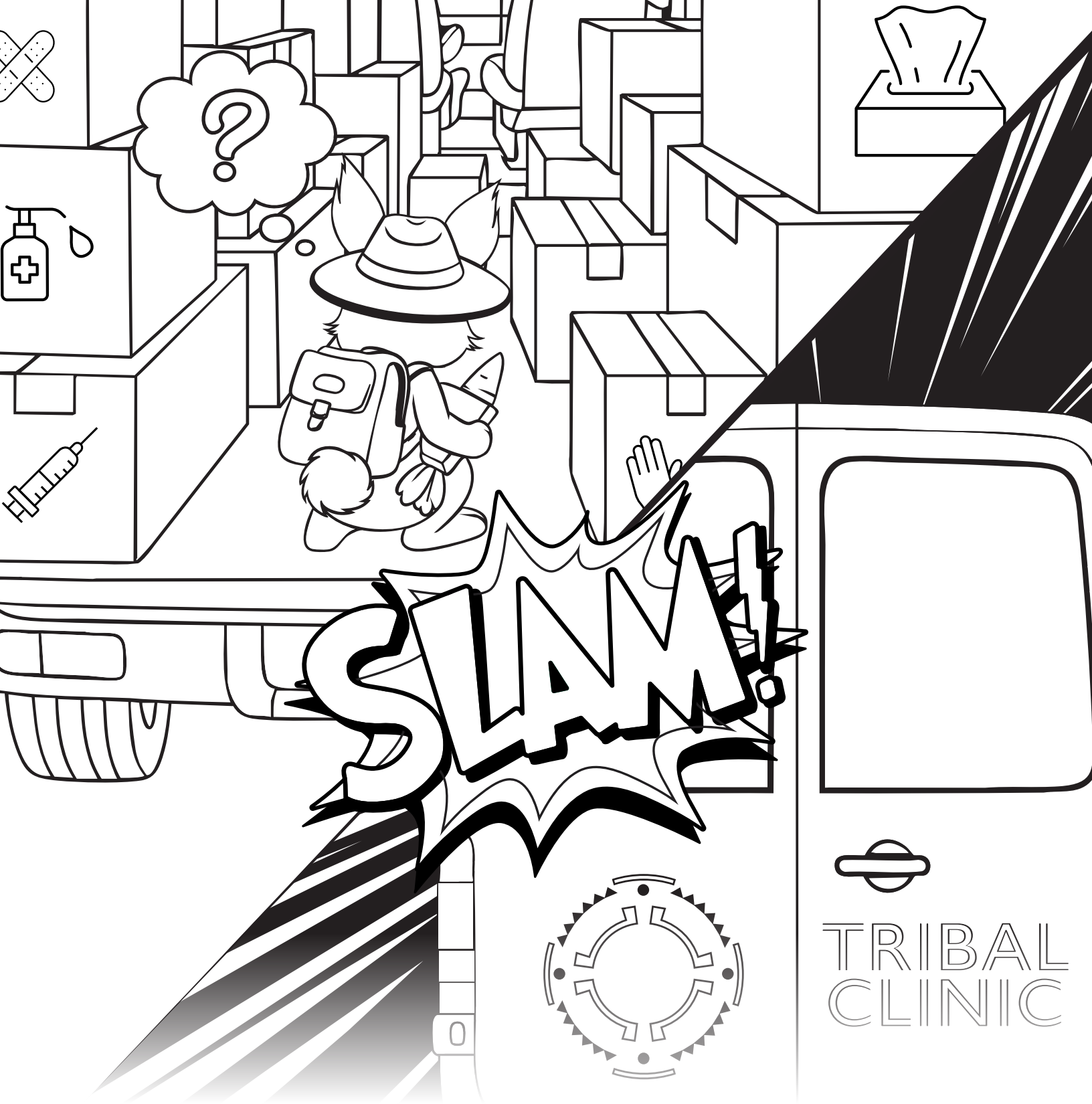
It was a late summer day as Ben the bunny hopped to the clinic. As the breeze blew through his fur, Ben smiled. He was looking forward to seeing his friends from school soon.



As he turned a corner, Ben ran into Puppies and his friend Big Dog. "Hey, little man! Where you hopping to?" When they learned that Ben was on the way to get his back-to-school vaccines, the dogs howled, "Oh, man!" "I heard those hurt! You better run!!! Arrroooooo!!!"

With the dogs' howls still ringing in his ears, Ben continued on his way. But as he got closer to the clinic, Ben's head was swimming. He worried, "What if Puppies and Big Dog were right? What if the vaccines *do* hurt?"

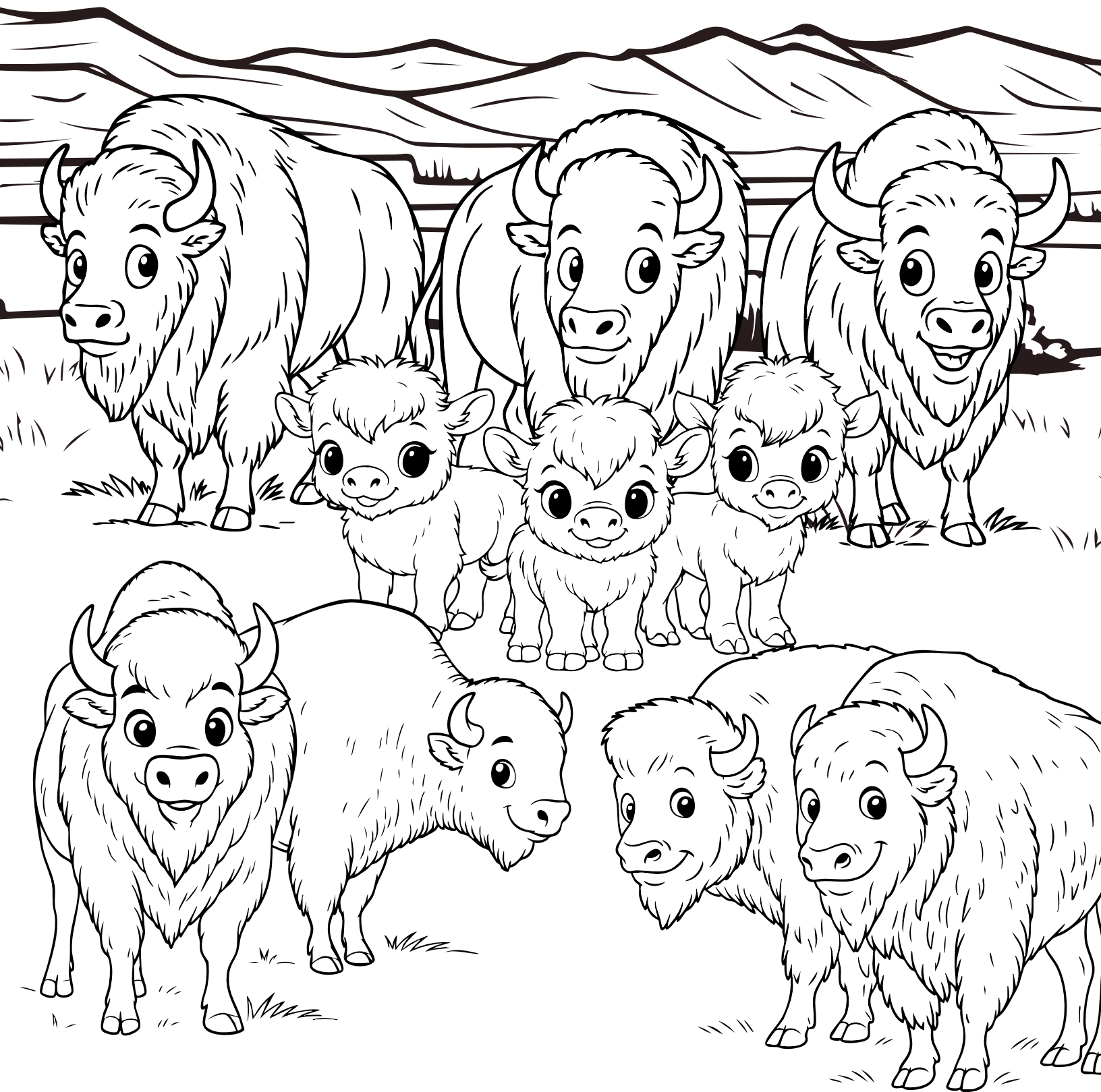




Ben was so distracted that instead of hopping through the clinic doors, he hopped straight into the back of an open truck! Within moments the doors slammed shut... and the truck's engine growled to life!

After what seemed like forever, the truck doors finally swung open. When Ben hopped out, he knew he was far from home. To calm himself, Ben held his medicine bag in his paws, closed his eyes, and prayed like his grandpa taught him to do.



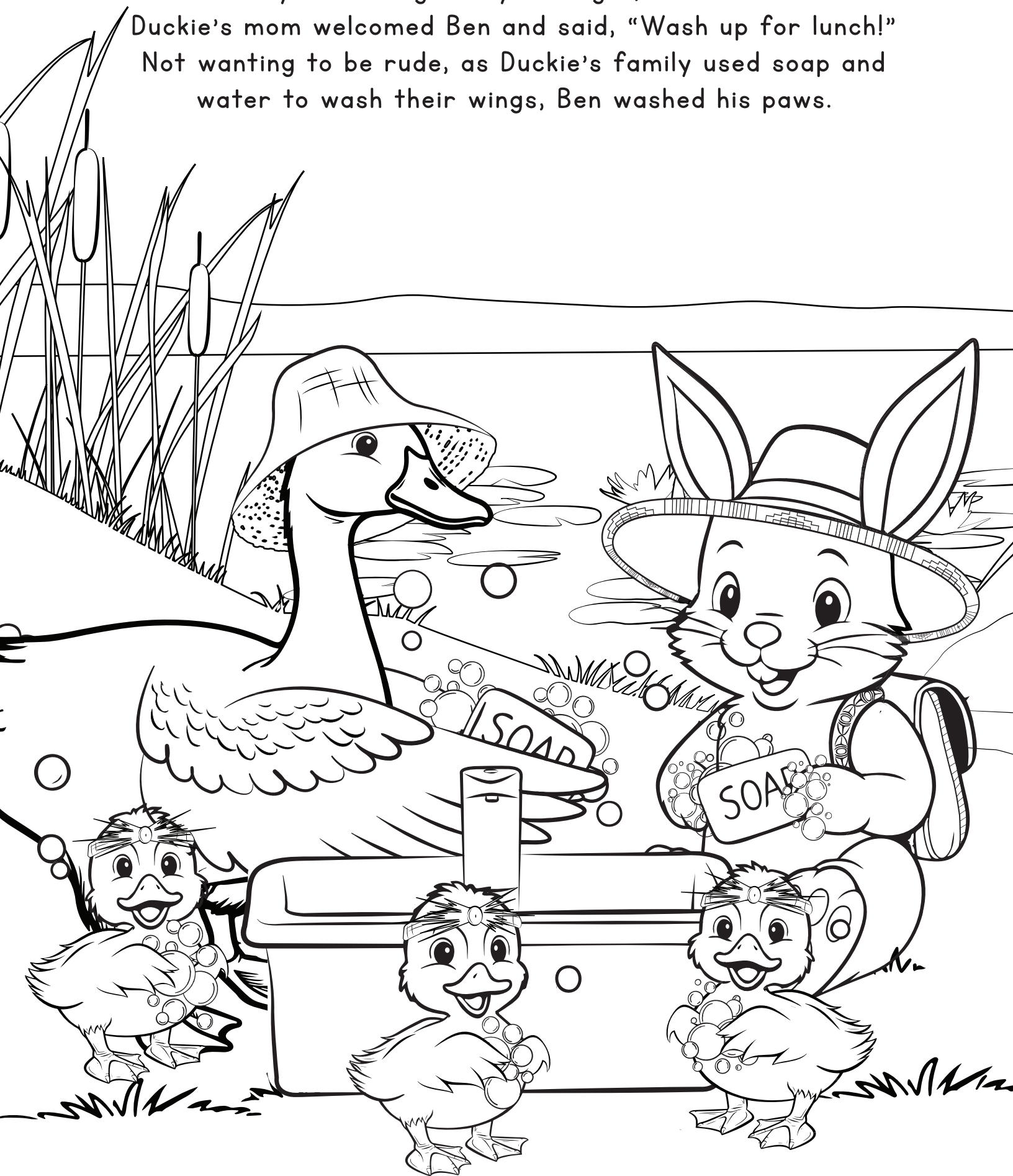


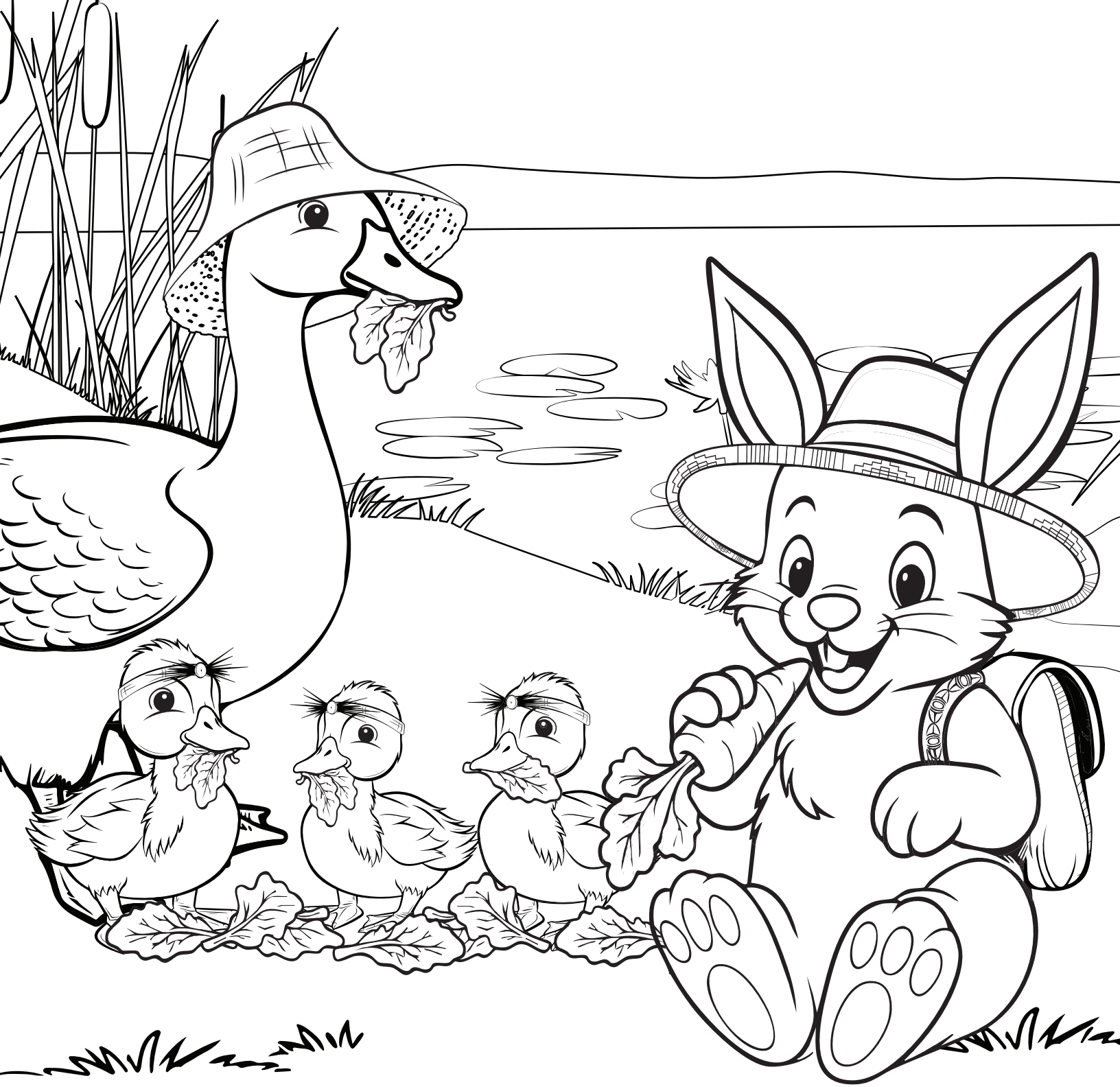
When he opened his eyes, the truck was gone! Where the truck once stood, Ben's eyes landed on a herd of bison in the distance. The adults were using their bodies to form a circle around the babies. "Hm, that's strange," said Ben out loud. "What is happening?"



“Wow!” said a little squeaky voice. “They really know how to protect each other!” Ben nearly jumped out of his fur. “Where did *you* come from!?” said Ben. “My name is Duckie...” , squeaked the little Duck “And, by the way, there was a wolf. That’s why they circled up - to protect the babies.” Then Duckie said, “Come meet my family!”

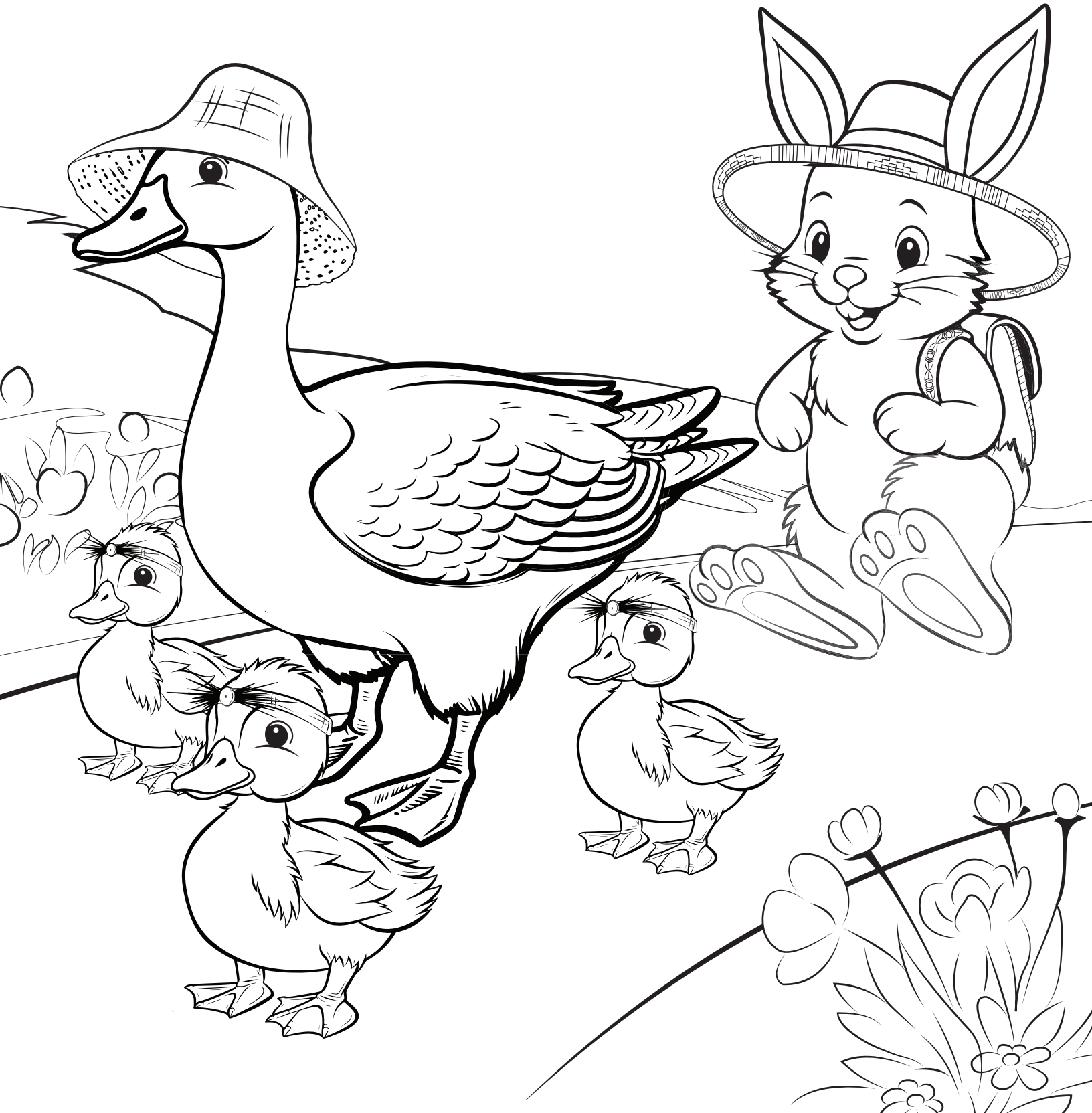
Since the day couldn't get any stranger, Ben followed Duckie.
Duckie's mom welcomed Ben and said, "Wash up for lunch!"
Not wanting to be rude, as Duckie's family used soap and
water to wash their wings, Ben washed his paws.





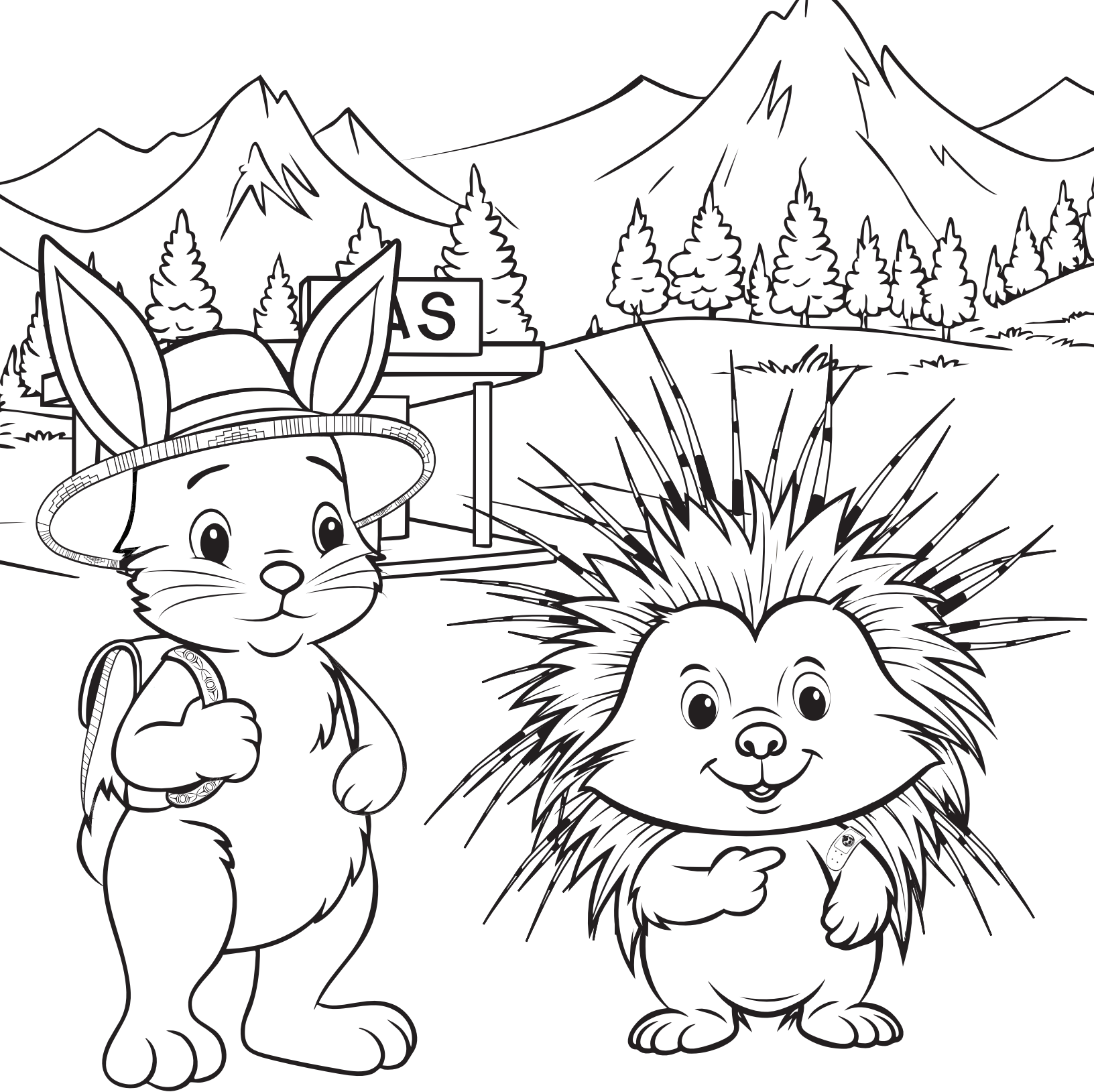
While they ate, Ben told Duckie's mom about everything from what the dogs said about vaccines to accidentally hopping into the truck. After listening, Duckie's mom said, "You know Ben, we are all responsible for caring for each other. We wash our wings with soap and water, so we stay healthy, and we don't spread sickness to others. Vaccines also help keep ourselves and others healthy."

As Ben was listening, Duckie's brother, Squeaks, piped up
"Hey mom, I saw a clinic truck by the gas station the other
day. We should take Ben to see Porky!" "Go! Quickly!" said
Duckie's mom, and Ben and his new friends headed to the
gas station.





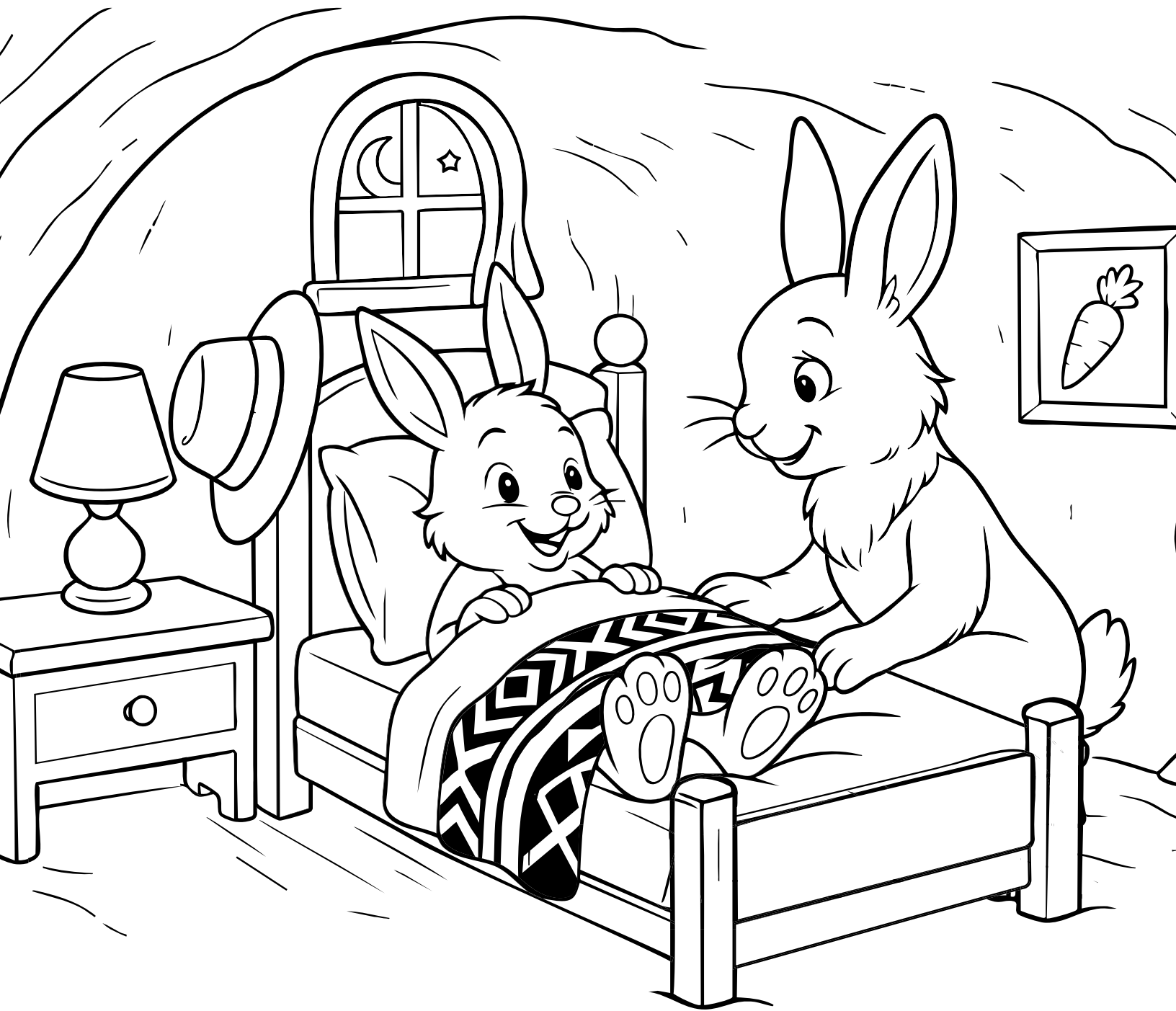
When they arrived, the gas station was empty, except for a single porcupine. Ben couldn't hide his disappointment. After Duckie shared Ben's story, Porky asked, "So, how exactly did you wander into a truck?!" Blushing Ben described how his fear of vaccines distracted him. Porky let out a loud laugh and then a little snort, "Sorry to laugh, kid, but I accidentally poke myself all the time! Vaccines aren't that bad."



“Really?” said Ben. “Yep” said Porky “I barely notice the poke. Truly. I just got a vaccine yesterday.” Porky showed Ben the colorful band aid on his arm.



As Ben felt a wave of relief, Porky pointed and said, "In fact, I took *that* truck to get to the clinic!" As Ben turned to look, he heard the familiar sound of a truck engine. There it was! Everyone quickly helped Ben get in. He barely had time to thank his new friends before the truck sped off.



That night, when he was safe at home, Ben told his mom about his adventure and the animals he met. "I'm so glad you are safe, Ben!" she said, and then she asked him "What did you learn?" Ben thought for a moment and then replied, "I learned everyone whether they are big or small can be brave and do things to help our community." "Like what?" said his mom. "Like washing our paws or our wings and getting vaccines."



As Ben drifted off to sleep, he was grateful for all the lessons he learned, and he was not nervous about his appointment at the clinic next week. That night, he dreamed about all his new friends getting together and meeting his school friends.



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