

Read Liberia Activity

Clever Little Antelope

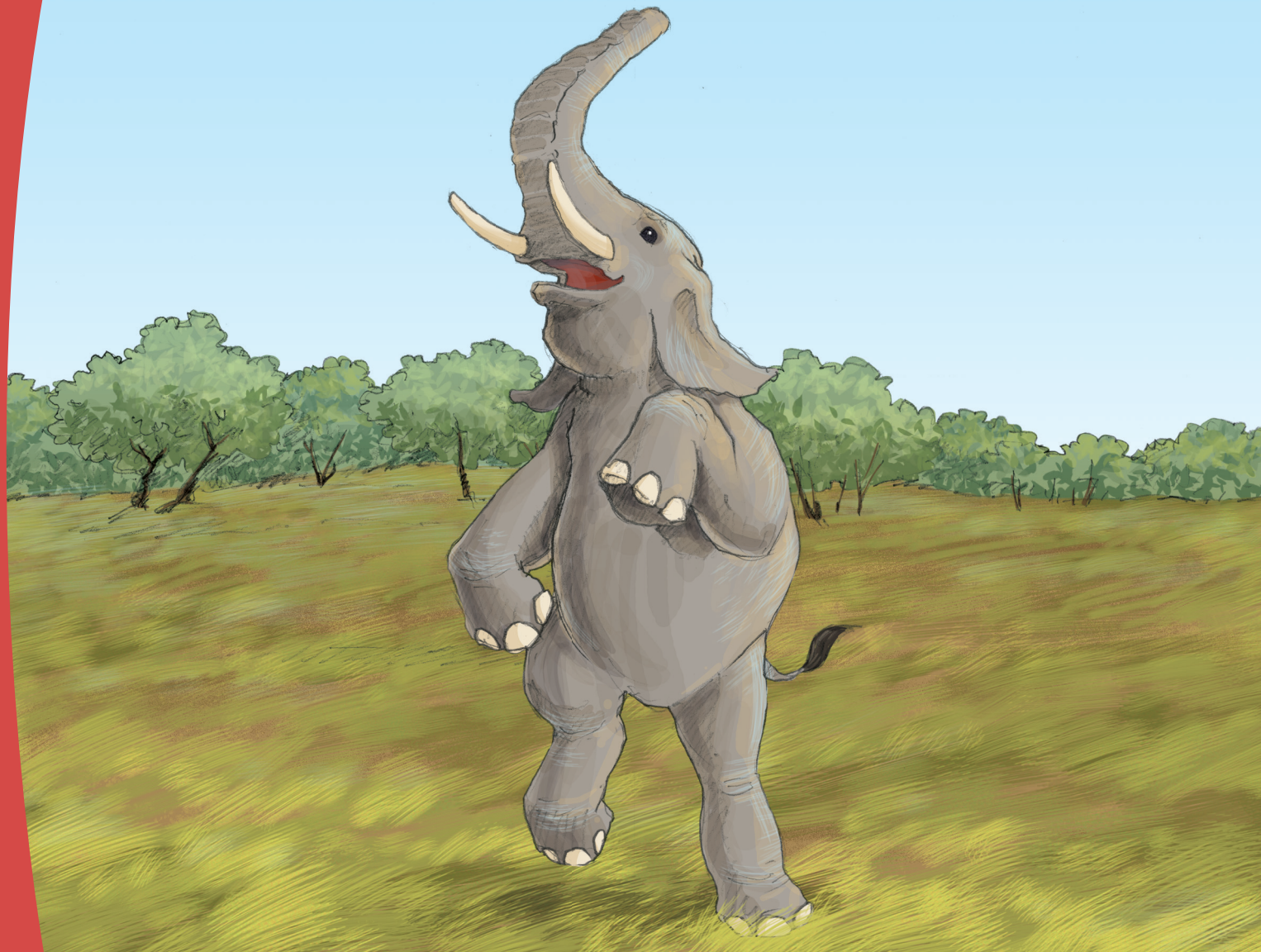
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Artwork by Sam Valentino

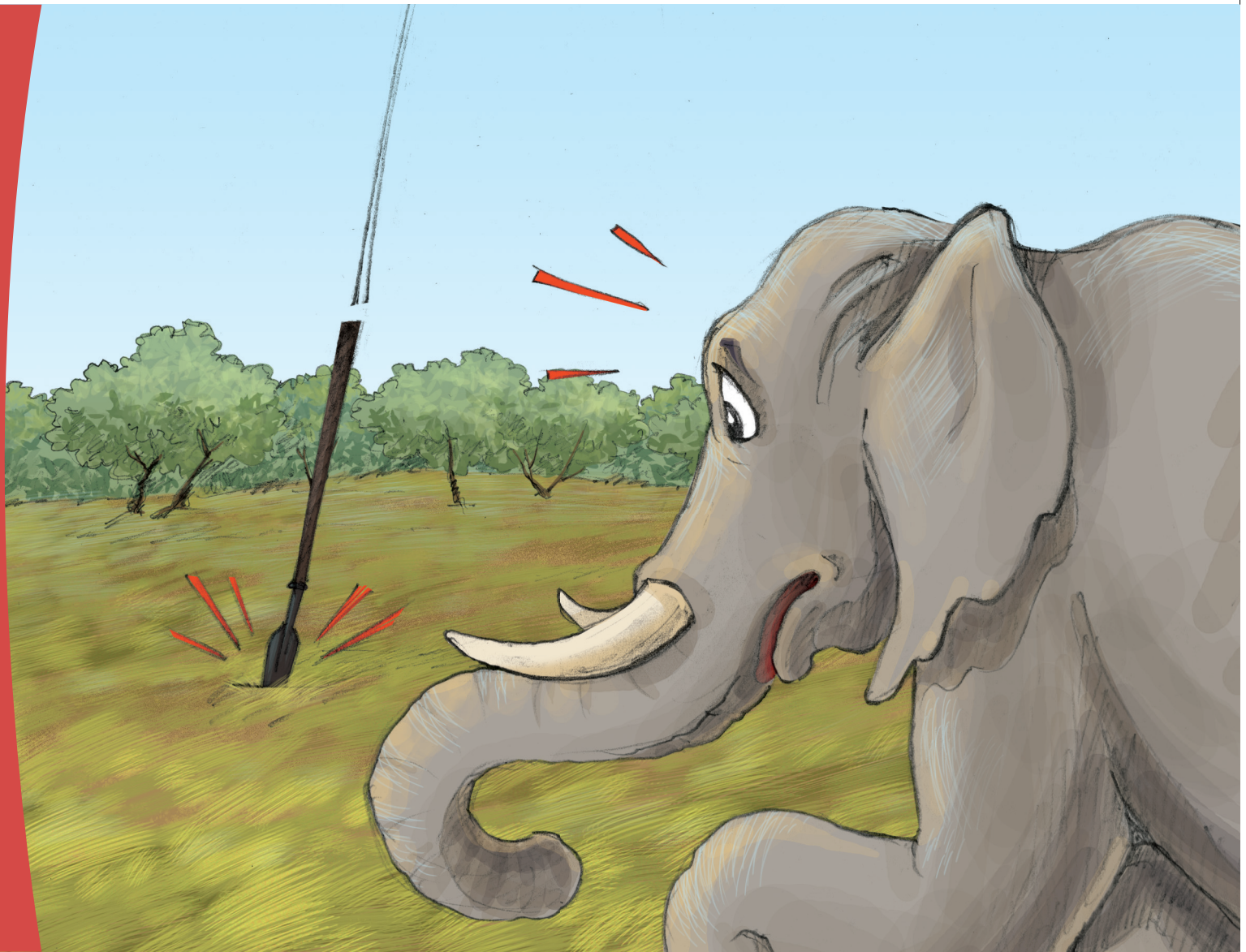


Long ago in Liberia, Leopard was ruler of all the animals. "I need a helper," she said. "We will have a test to find the best animal for the job."

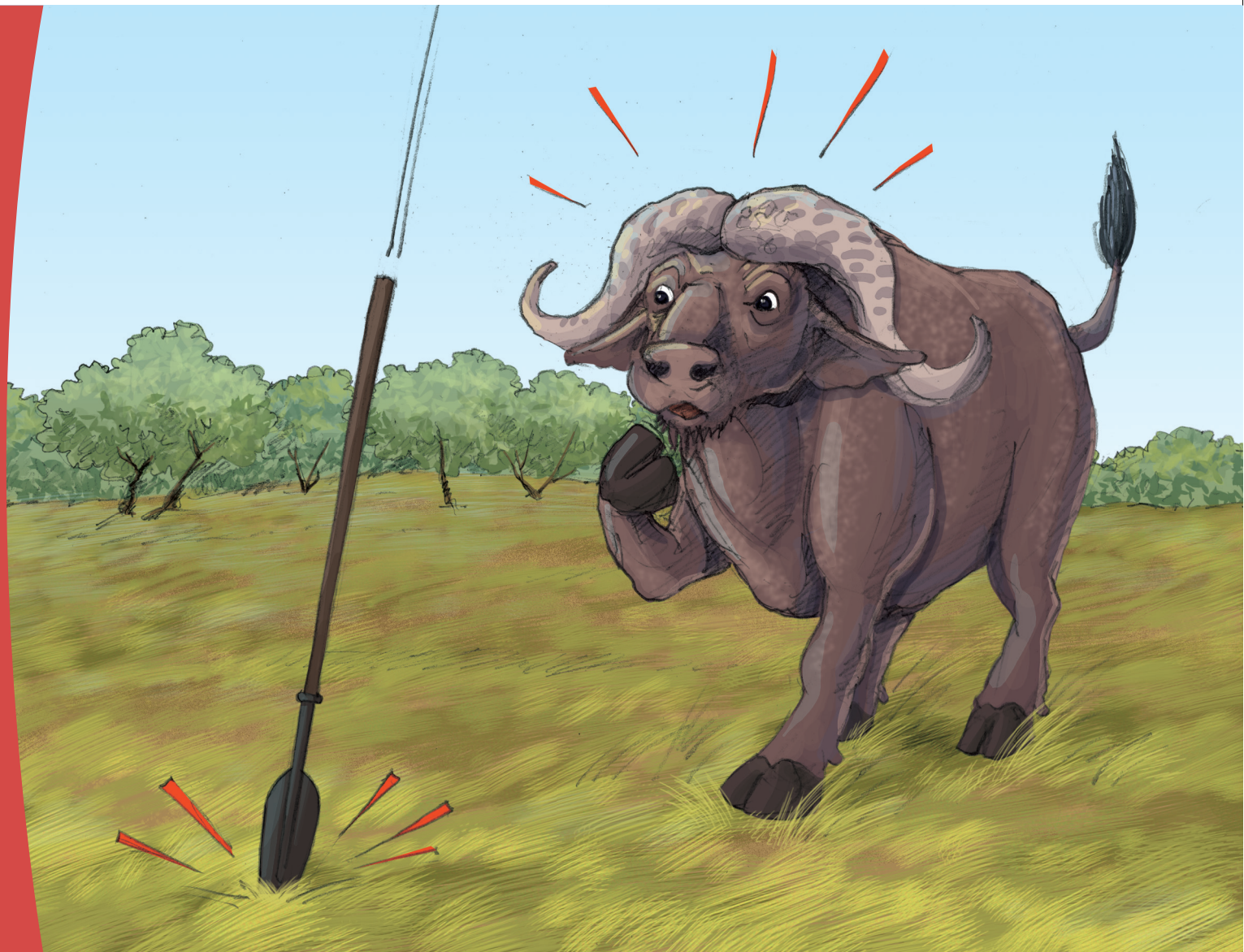
She called all the animals together. "First, you will do the Dance of War and Peace," Leopard said. "This will show that you are brave and kind. Next, you will throw the royal spear. You must count to ten before it hits the ground."



Elephant was the biggest and strongest of the animals.
He went first. He did the dance of War and Peace to
show that he was brave and kind.



Then he threw the royal spear high into the air.
He counted as fast as he could, saying, "One, two three,
four, five." The spear hit the ground before he said six.



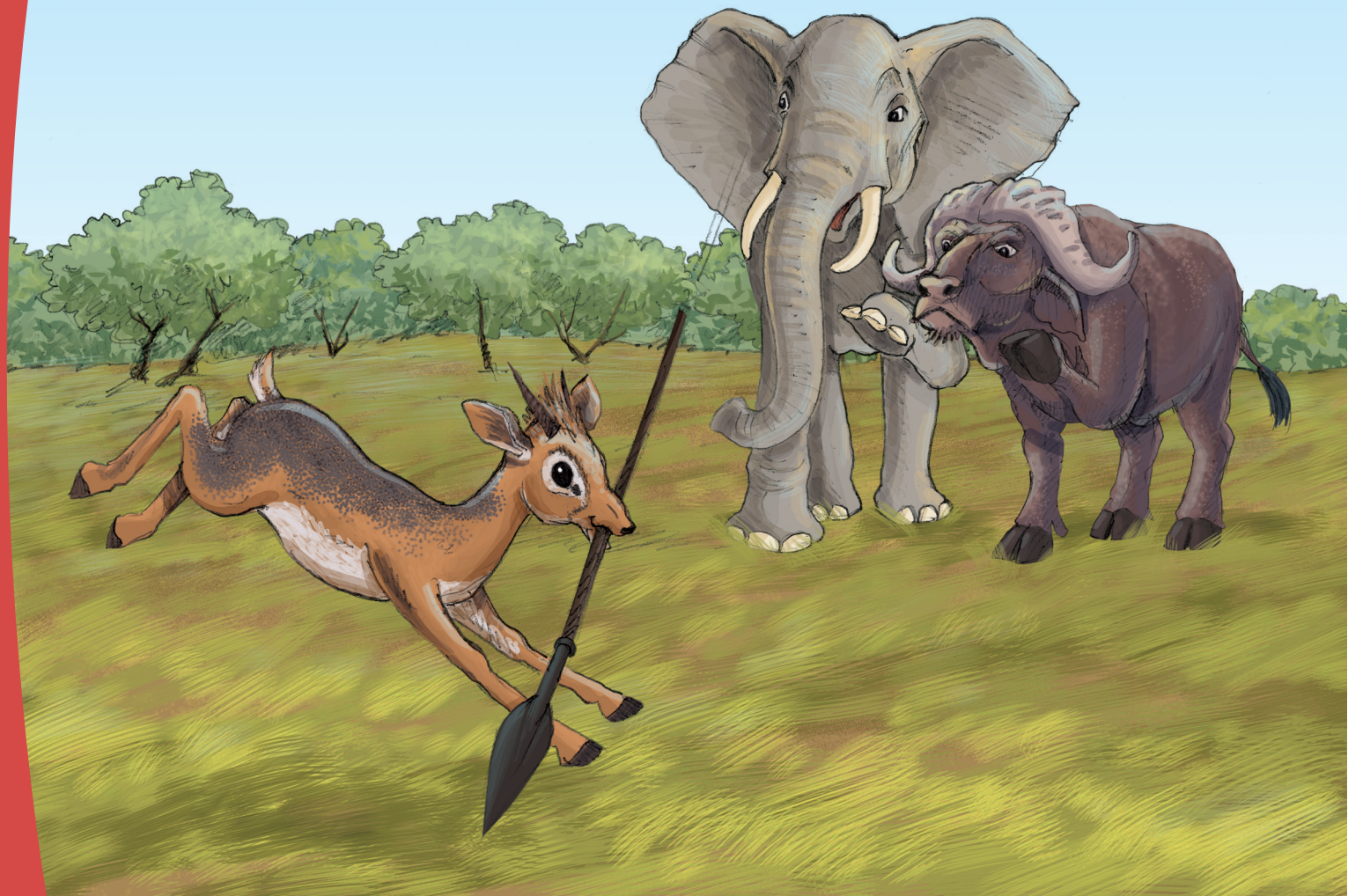
Buffalo went next. She was fierce and strong. She did the dance to show that she was brave and kind. Then she threw the royal spear. She counted as fast as she could, saying, "One, two, three, four, five, six." The spear hit the ground before she said seven.



Finally, Little Antelope stepped forward. The other animals laughed because he was so small. "We must be fair and give him a chance," Leopard said.



Little Antelope danced the Dance of War and Peace to show that he was brave and kind. Then he threw the royal spear high into the air.



“Two, four, six, eight, ten!” Little Antelope counted.
He caught the spear before it touched the ground.

“Little Antelope cheated!” shouted Elephant and
Buffalo. “He counted by twos!”



Leopard smiled. "No, my friends. All I said was to count to ten. I did not say how. Little Antelope showed how clever he is. His quick thinking will help me rule our land."