

BSE 51895

# Animals at Play

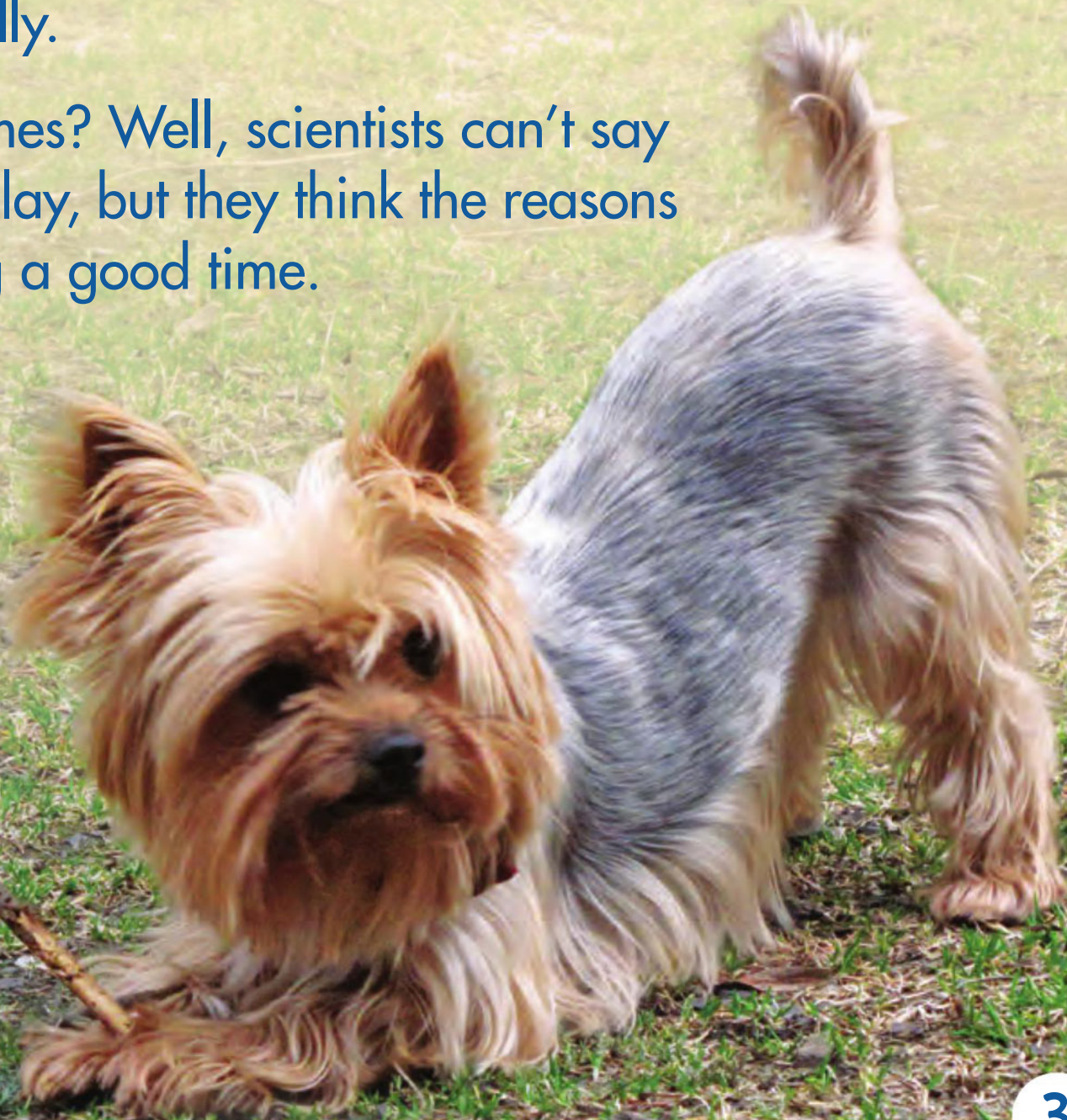


Every day, all over the world, kids like you are running, jumping, chasing, hiding, seeking, swinging, and sliding. And you know what? Animals everywhere are doing many of the same things!

One look at the *Yorkshire Terrier* below tells you that this dog is ready for a game. The “play bow” is a pose that members of the dog family use to invite others to play. The raised tail and relaxed face are other clues that point to a playful mood. Can you spot similar “play poses” in the photos in this book?

Not all animals play. Mammals definitely do, and some birds do, too. Certain lizards, turtles, octopuses, and other animals also seem to play. Just like us, the youngsters play a lot, while the grownups only join in occasionally.

Is play all fun and games? Well, scientists can't say for sure why animals play, but they think the reasons go beyond just having a good time.

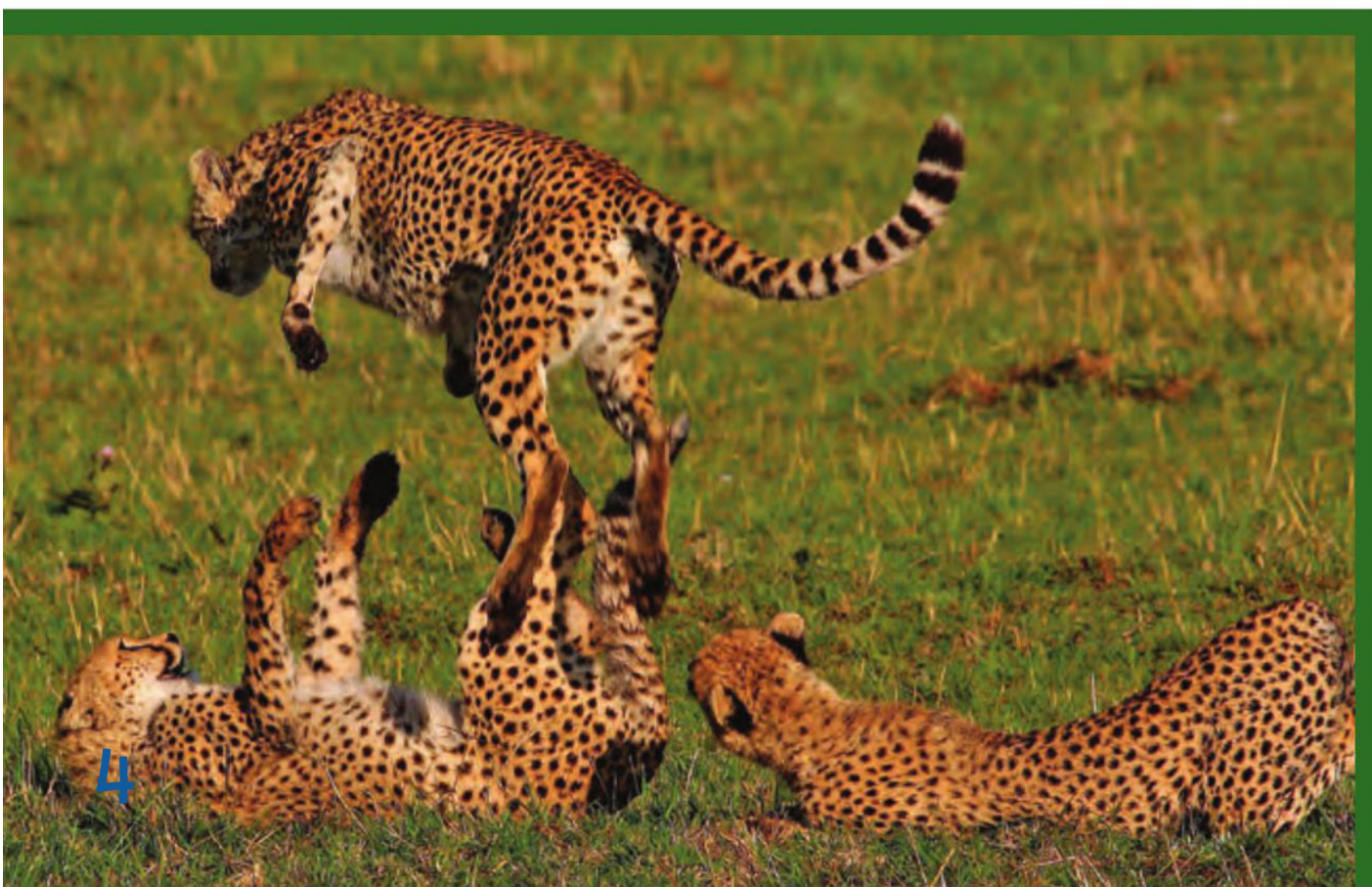


# Play to Learn

Playtime is fun, but it's also a way for baby animals to learn important lessons. Play helps them to explore the world and see what their bodies can do. It's also a chance to practice skills they will need to hunt for food, avoid predators, or defend their **territory** when they grow up.



• Wheee! With a little help from Mom, this baby *orangutan* swings from a branch for fun—and, at the same time, learns how to move around in the treetops.



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These young *cheetahs* play a game that gives them lots of practice running and leaping—skills they'll need as adults to hunt prey.

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