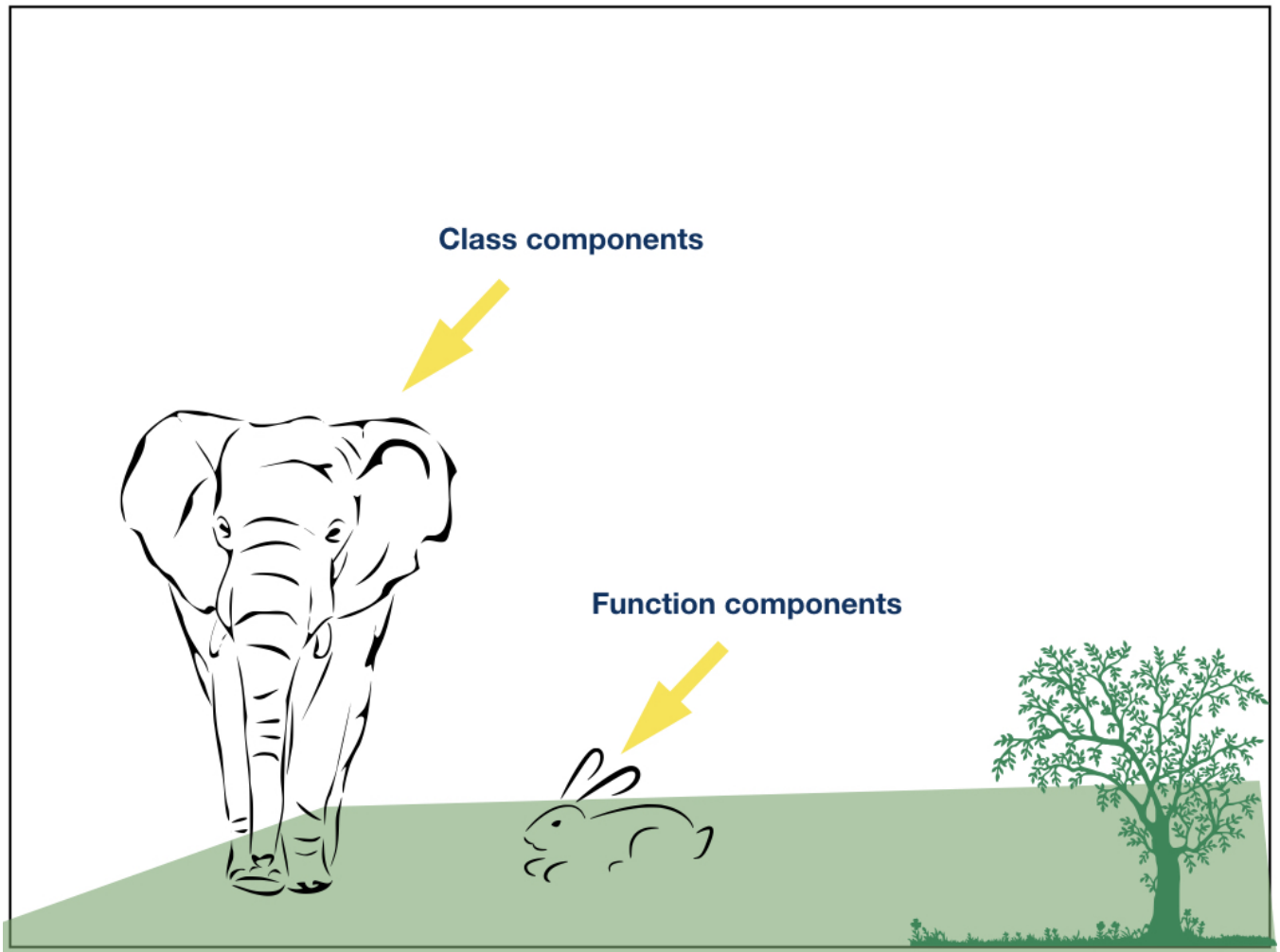# Building Simpler React Apps

In this section, we'll learn about how hooks empower functional components.

For the past 3 years, John's been writing React apps. In these apps, functional components have mostly seemed dumb.
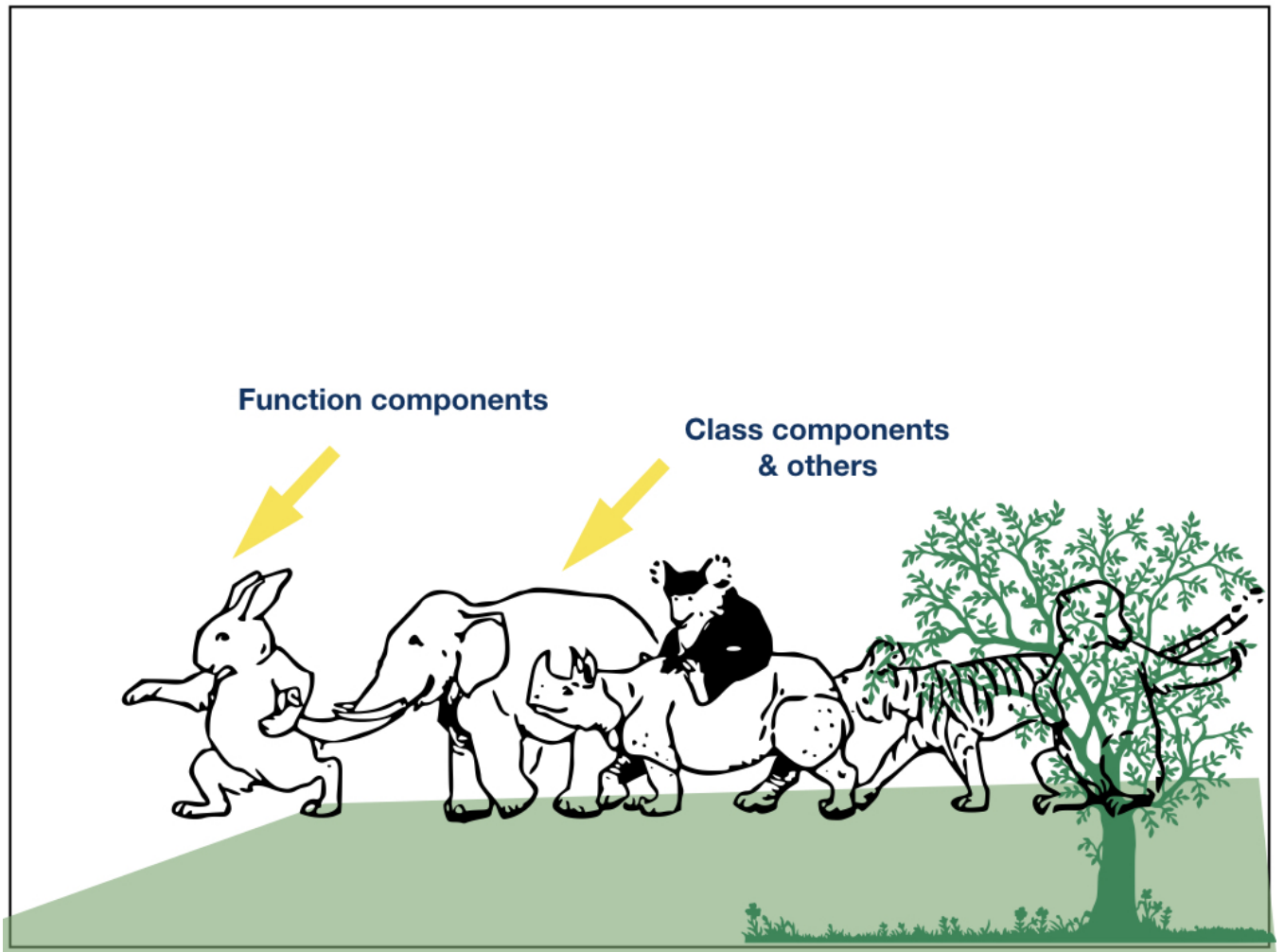
While creating these apps, if he wanted a local state or some other complex side effects, he had to reach out to class components. He either painfully refactored his functional components to class components or nothing else.

It's a bright Thursday afternoon, and while having lunch, Mia introduces John to **Hooks.**

Hey! You must have heard about hooks? You don't live under a rock, huh?

She speaks so enthusiastically, it piques John's interest.

Of all the things Mia said, one thing struck John; *"With hooks, functional components become just as powerful, if not more powerful, than your typical class components."*

That's a bold statement from Mia.

Let's consider what hooks are.