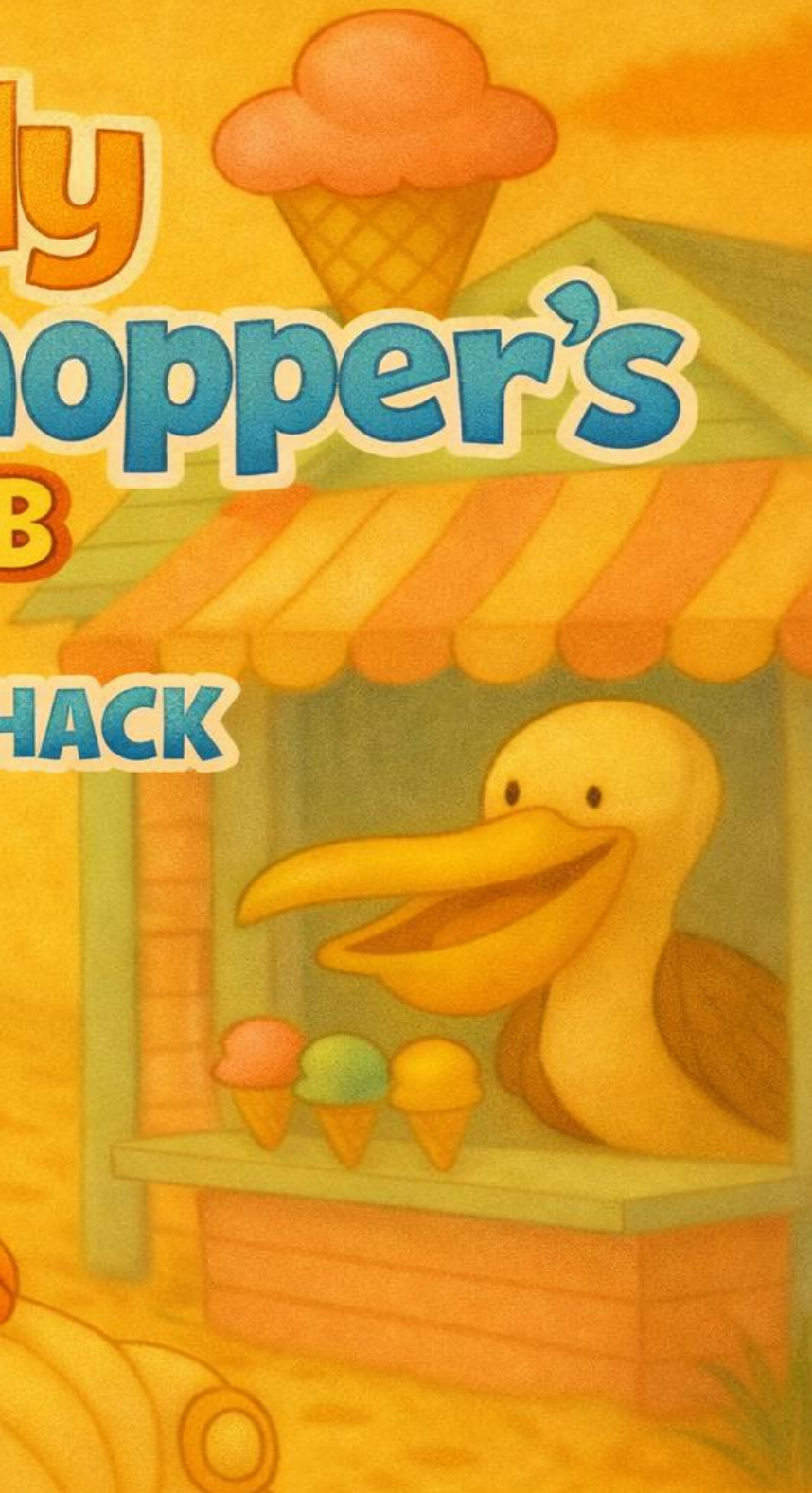


# Sandy Dunehopper's FIRST JOB at the ICE CREAM SHACK



Outer Banks, North Carolina



## Forward

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

All materials in this book may be freely downloaded, shared, printed and used for educational or nonprofit purposes.

To learn more, access additional resources at: [www.theobcc.org](http://www.theobcc.org).





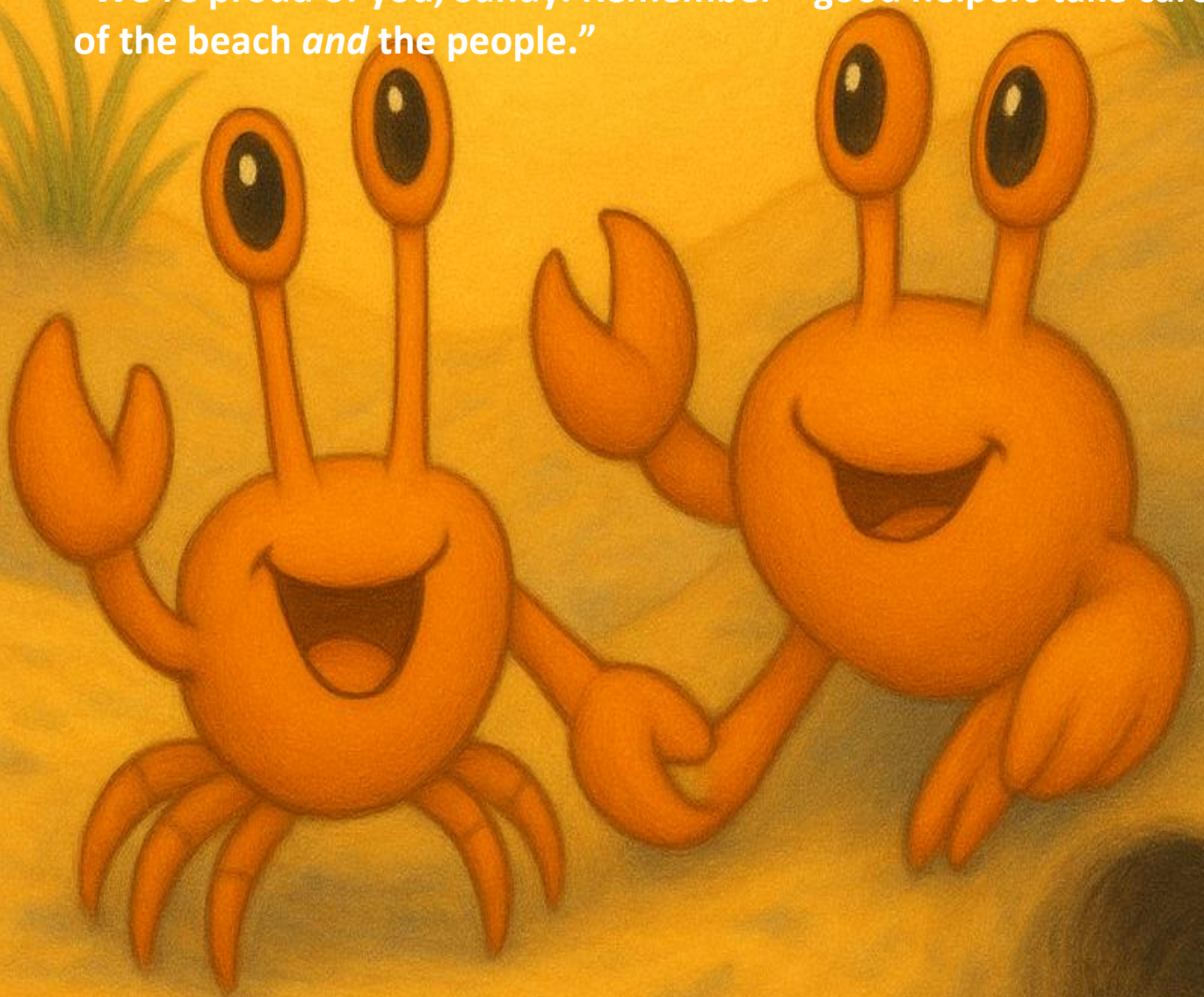
One sunny summer morning in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Sandy Dunehopper wiggled out of her burrow with extra-tall eye stalks and an extra-big smile.

“Today’s the day!” she clacked.

“My *first job* at the Ice Cream Shack!”

Mama brushed the sand off her shell.

“We’re proud of you, Sandy. Remember—good helpers take care of the beach *and* the people.”





Sandy zipped down the dune path (carefully staying *on* the path, of course) until she reached the tiny pastel-colored Ice Cream Shack by the road. Sea gulls swooped overhead, and the warm smell of waffle cones drifted through the salty air.

Inside, Mr. Driftwood, the friendly pelican owner, welcomed her.

“Ahh, Sandy! My new Scoop Assistant! Ready to learn?”

Sandy nodded so hard her eye stalks wiggled.

“I’m ready to scoop, sprinkle, swish, and save the planet!”

Mr. Driftwood laughed. “Well, let’s start with the *scooping* part first.”





# The First Scoop

Sandy climbed her little step stool and practiced scooping ice cream for customers—peanut-butter jellyfish, sea-salt caramel swirl, and the ever-popular *Kitty Hawk Cookie Crunch*.

But Sandy noticed something troubling...

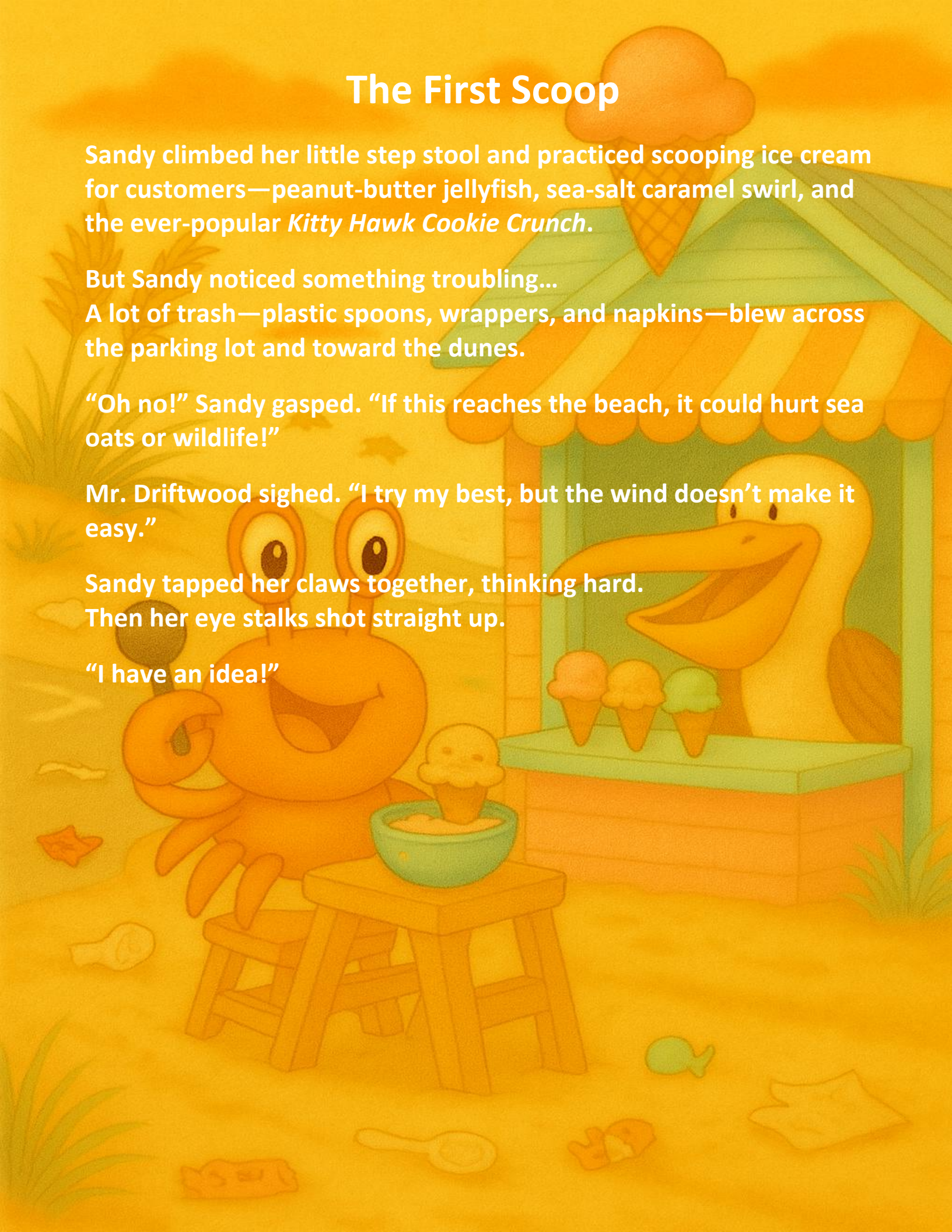
A lot of trash—plastic spoons, wrappers, and napkins—blew across the parking lot and toward the dunes.

“Oh no!” Sandy gasped. “If this reaches the beach, it could hurt sea oats or wildlife!”

Mr. Driftwood sighed. “I try my best, but the wind doesn’t make it easy.”

Sandy tapped her claws together, thinking hard. Then her eye stalks shot straight up.

“I have an idea!”





# Sandy Saves the Day

First, Sandy set out a bright sign:

“Choose Reusable! Save Our Beach!”

Then she created a special offer:

Bring your own reusable bowl → get EXTRA sprinkles!

Use our washable metal spoons → get a sticker shaped like a seashell!

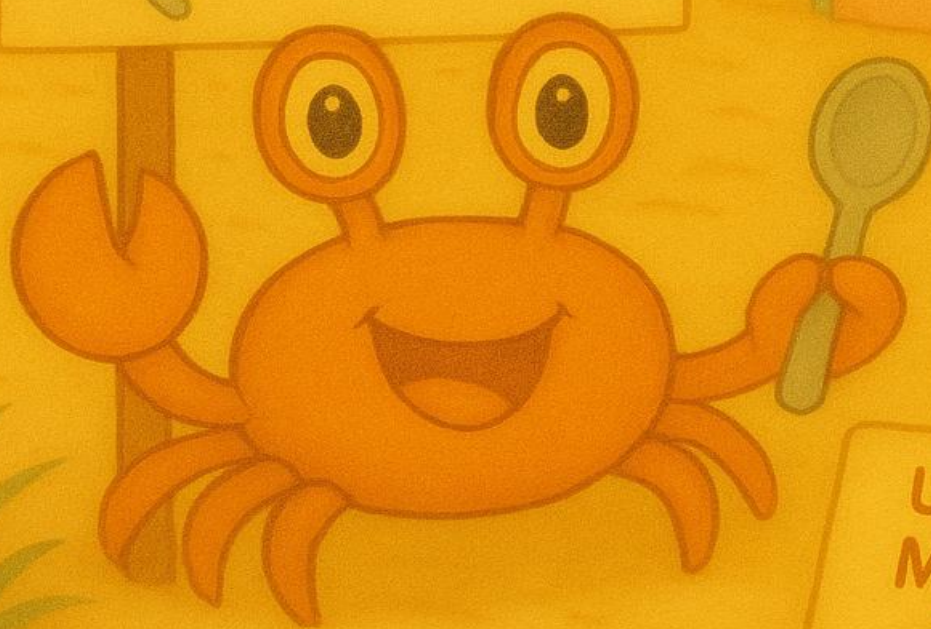
Kids loved the sprinkles. Parents loved helping the beach.

And gulls loved... well, everything, but that's just gulls.

Still, Sandy wasn't done.

Bring your own reusable bowl! →

get EXTRA  
sprinkles →



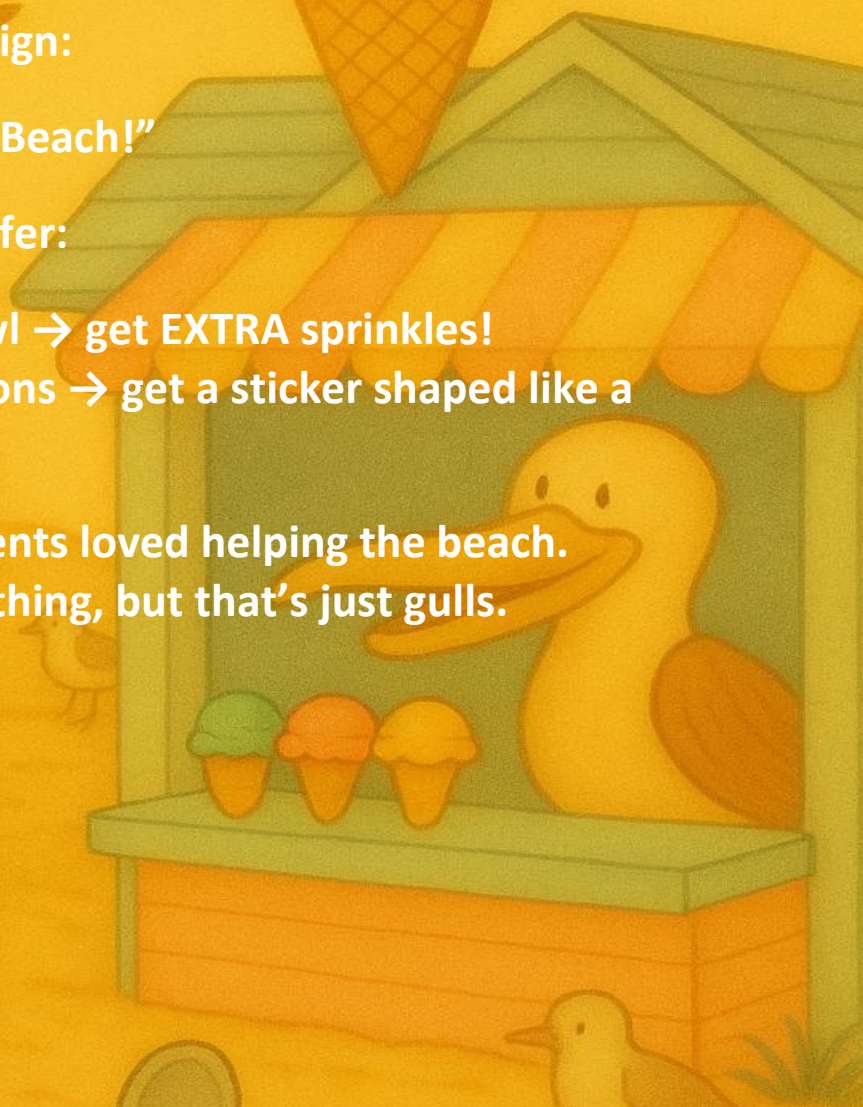
Use our washable  
**METAL SPOONS**



→ get  
a sticker



shaped like seashell





She scurried outside and placed a small crate by the door labeled:  
“Windy-Day Trash Basket — Let’s Keep Kitty Hawk Beautiful!”

People began tossing their wrappers inside instead of letting them blow away.

Soon the dunes stayed cleaner, the sea oats stood taller, and even the crab neighbors nearby clacked in support.





# The Ice Cream Hero

When the sun dipped low and the shop closed for the day, Mr. Driftwood patted Sandy gently on her shell.

“You didn’t just scoop ice cream today,” he said.

“You helped protect our coast. That makes you an Ice Cream Hero.”

Sandy beamed.

“I just want everyone to enjoy the beach—humans, animals, and ghost crabs too!”





As Sandy headed home down the sandy path, she felt proud.  
Her first job wasn't just fun...  
It made a difference.

And the sea oats rustled in the breeze as if whispering:

"Thank you, Sandy."

