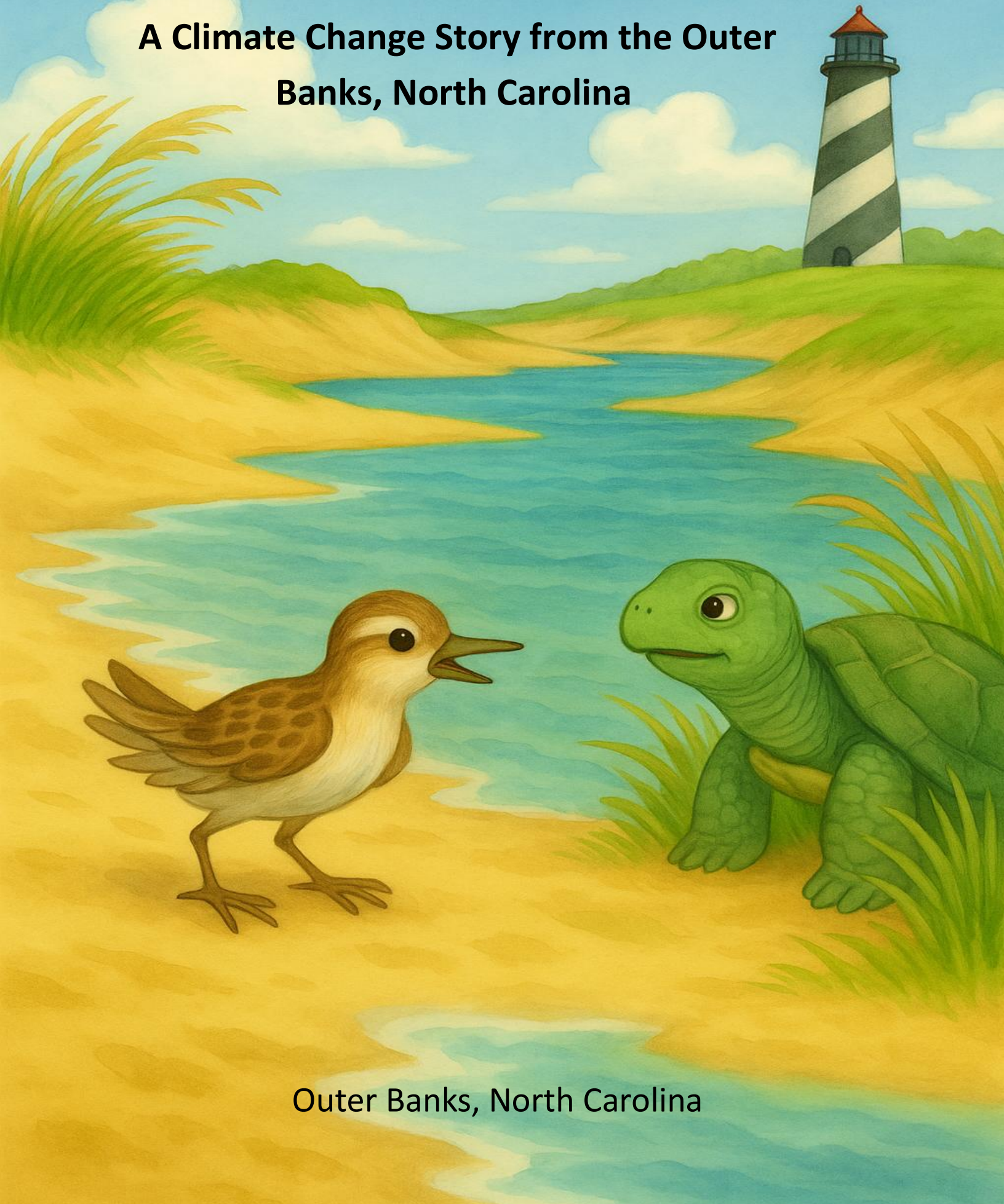


Sunny Saves the Shore
A Climate Change Story from the Outer
Banks, North Carolina



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.

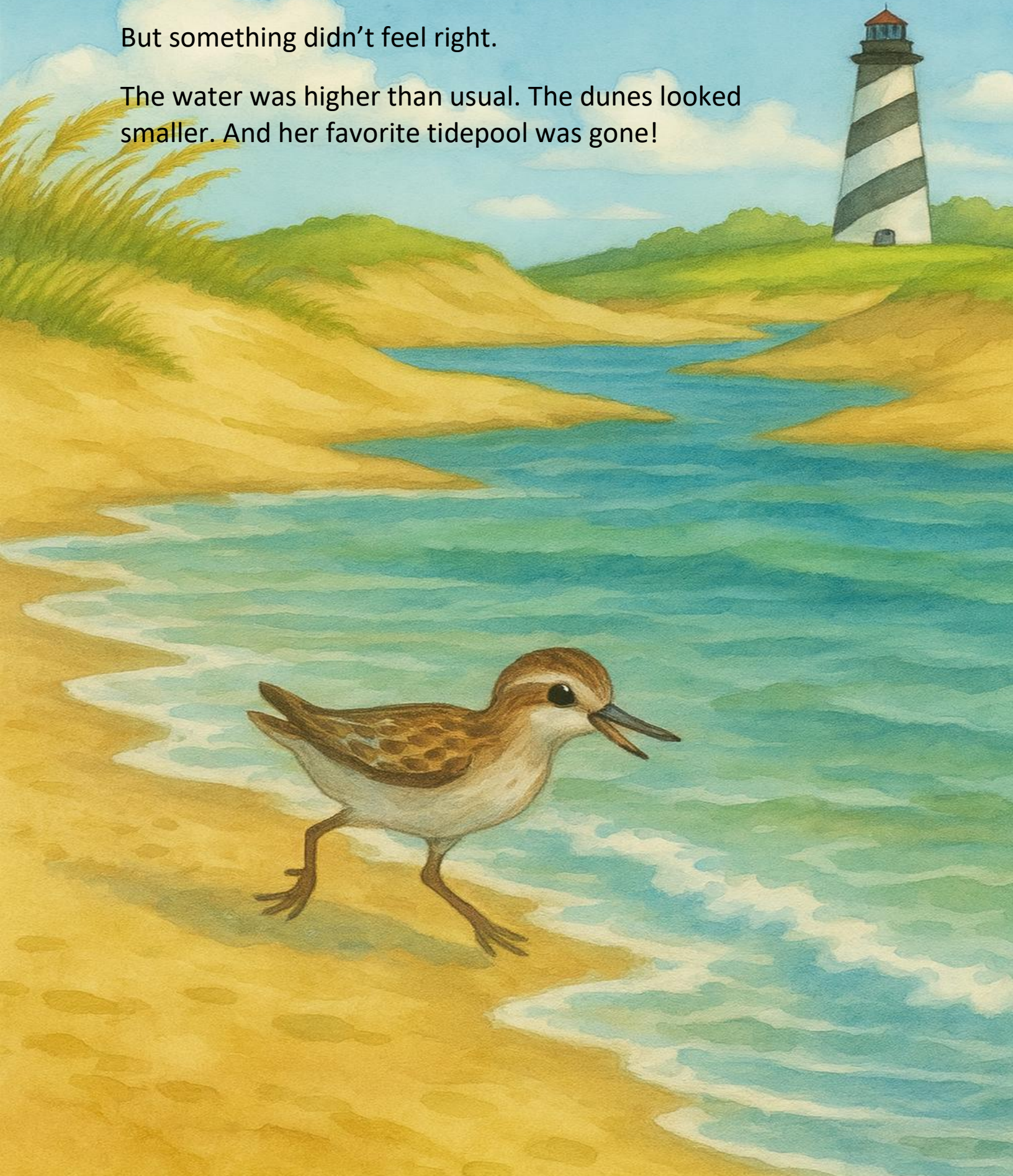
To learn more, access additional resources at: www.theobcc.org.



On a warm morning in the Outer Banks, North Carolina, a little sandpiper named Sunny zipped across the shore, dodging waves and calling to her friends.

But something didn't feel right.

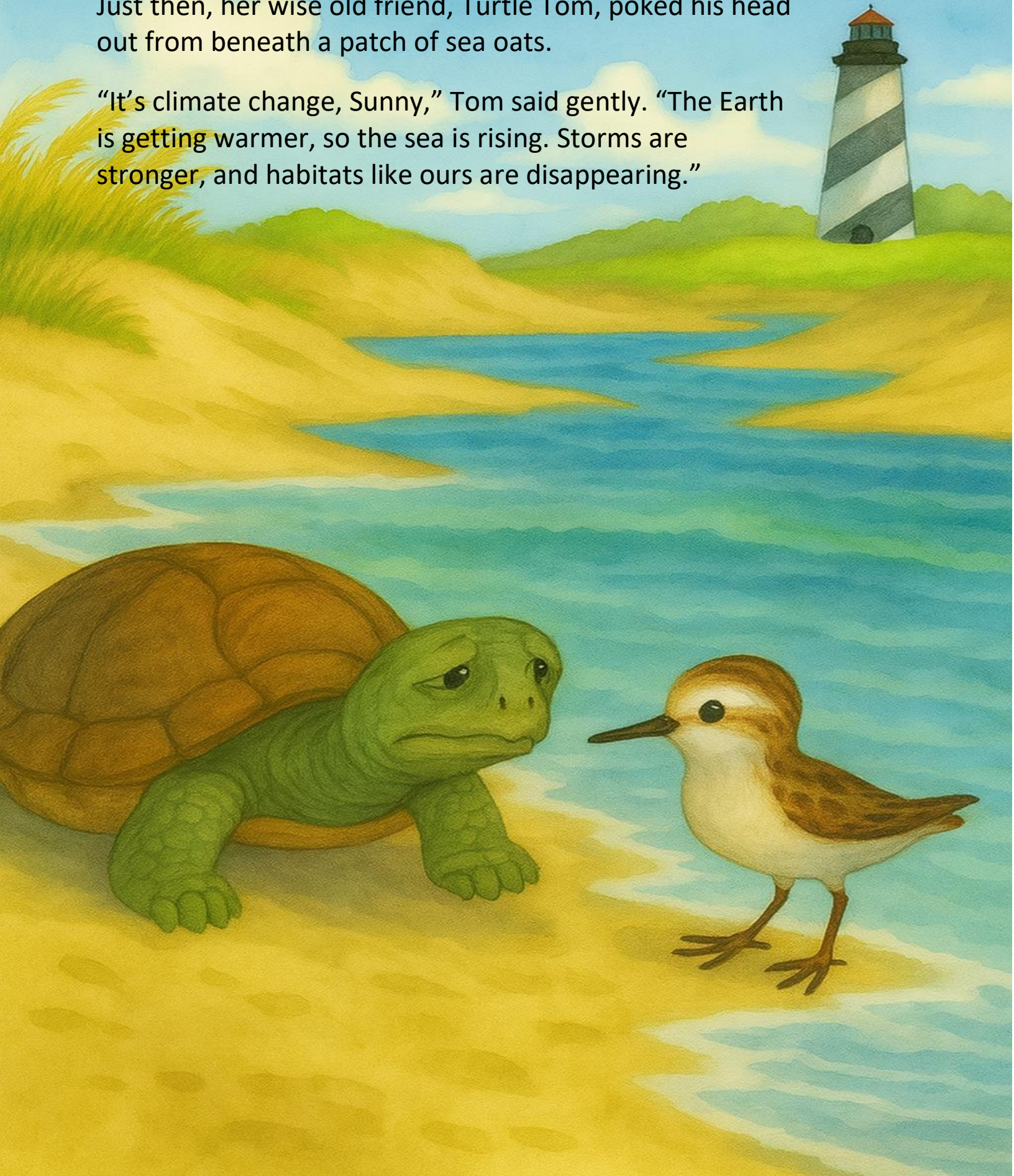
The water was higher than usual. The dunes looked smaller. And her favorite tidepool was gone!



“What’s happening to our beach?” Sunny chirped, flapping her wings with worry.

Just then, her wise old friend, Turtle Tom, poked his head out from beneath a patch of sea oats.

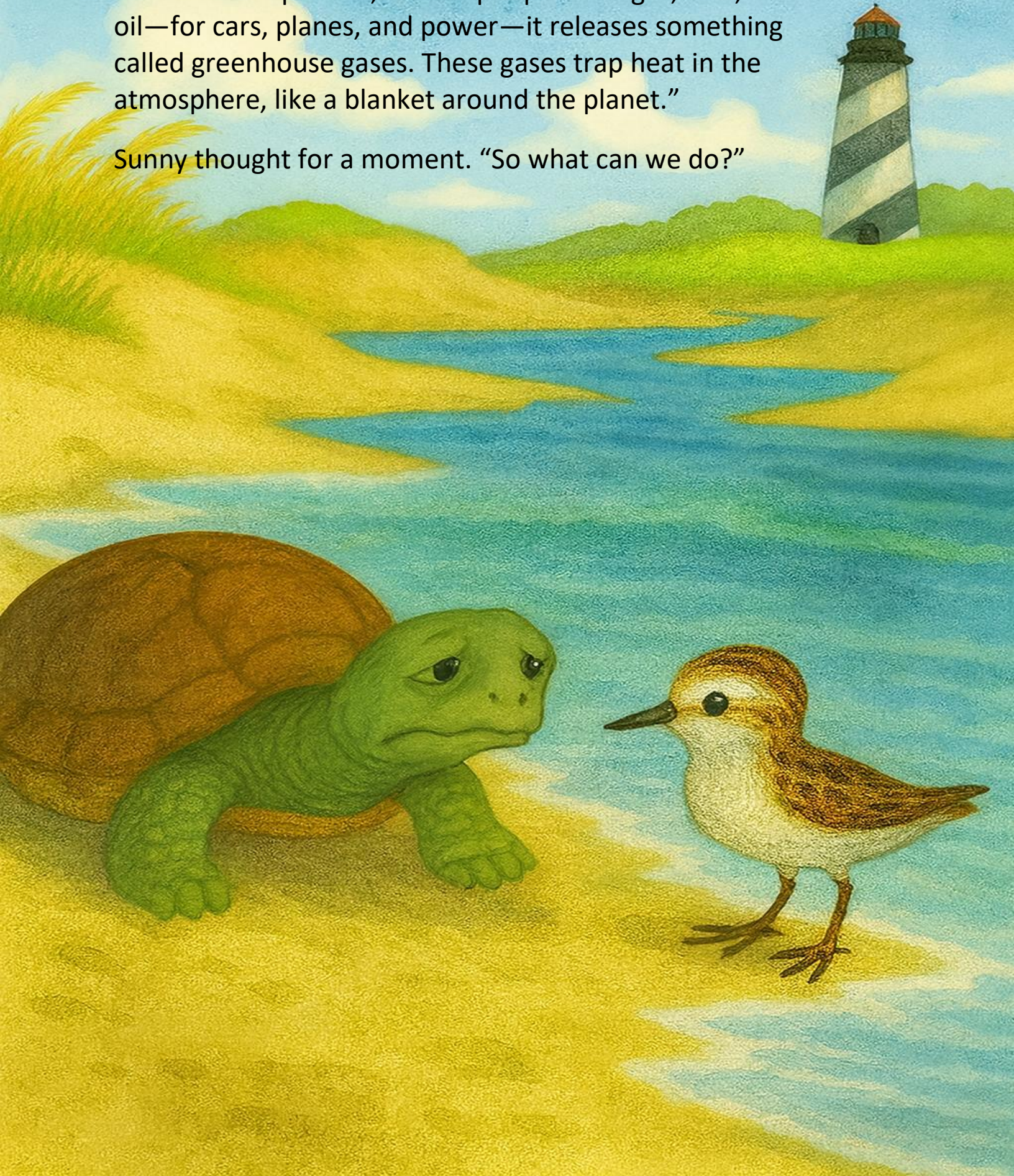
“It’s climate change, Sunny,” Tom said gently. “The Earth is getting warmer, so the sea is rising. Storms are stronger, and habitats like ours are disappearing.”



Sunny tilted her head. “But why is the Earth warming?”

Turtle Tom explained, “When people burn gas, coal, and oil—for cars, planes, and power—it releases something called greenhouse gases. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, like a blanket around the planet.”

Sunny thought for a moment. “So what can we do?”

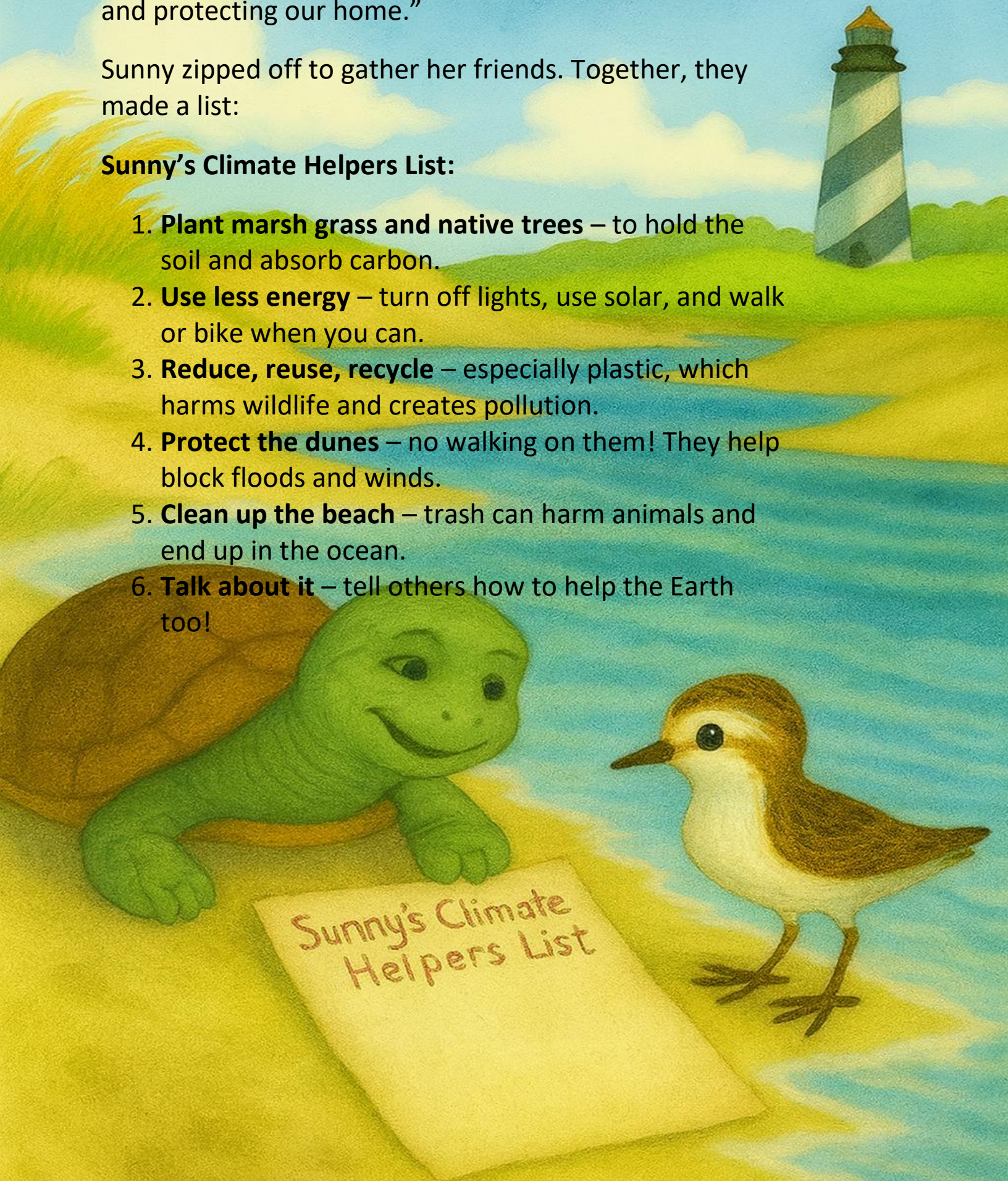


Turtle Tom smiled. “We can help teach others how to **mitigate** climate change—that means slowing it down and protecting our home.”

Sunny zipped off to gather her friends. Together, they made a list:

Sunny’s Climate Helpers List:

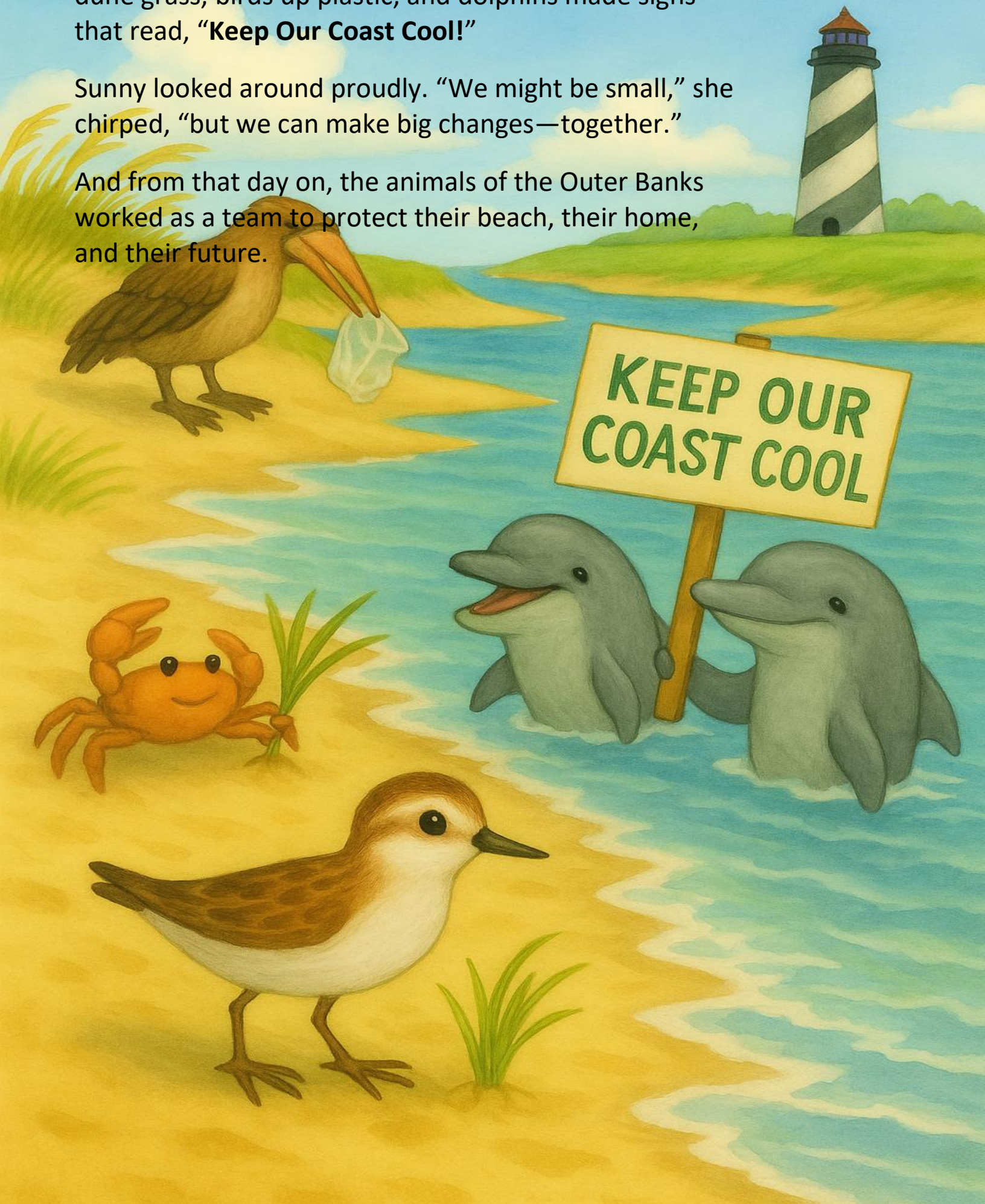
1. **Plant marsh grass and native trees** – to hold the soil and absorb carbon.
2. **Use less energy** – turn off lights, use solar, and walk or bike when you can.
3. **Reduce, reuse, recycle** – especially plastic, which harms wildlife and creates pollution.
4. **Protect the dunes** – no walking on them! They help block floods and winds.
5. **Clean up the beach** – trash can harm animals and end up in the ocean.
6. **Talk about it** – tell others how to help the Earth too!



Soon, the shore was buzzing with activity. Crabs planted dune grass, birds up plastic, and dolphins made signs that read, **“Keep Our Coast Cool!”**

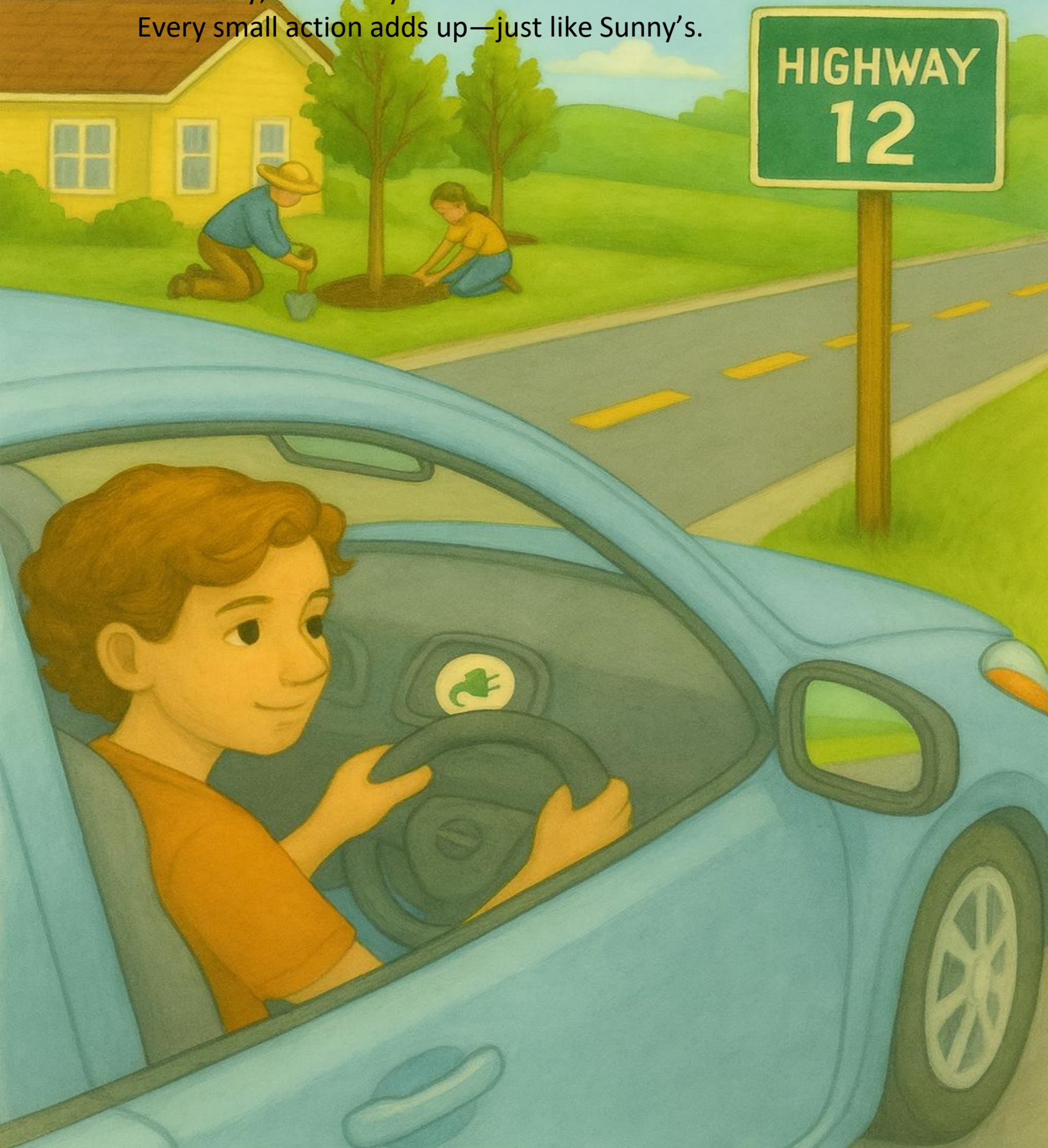
Sunny looked around proudly. “We might be small,” she chirped, “but we can make big changes—together.”

And from that day on, the animals of the Outer Banks worked as a team to protect their beach, their home, and their future.



Fun Fact:

You can help too! Ride your bike, plant a tree, save electricity, and always take care of the environment. Every small action adds up—just like Sunny's.



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