

Luna and the Living Shoreline

A Coastal Conservation Story for Children



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 the breezy shores of the Outer Banks, North Carolina, lived a curious little clam named Luna. She loved peeking out of the soft sand to watch the waves roll in and the ghost crabs do their silly sideways dance.



But lately, Luna noticed something strange.
The waves were stronger... and the shoreline was shrinking!

“Oh no,” Luna said, “If this keeps up, we’ll all be washed away!”



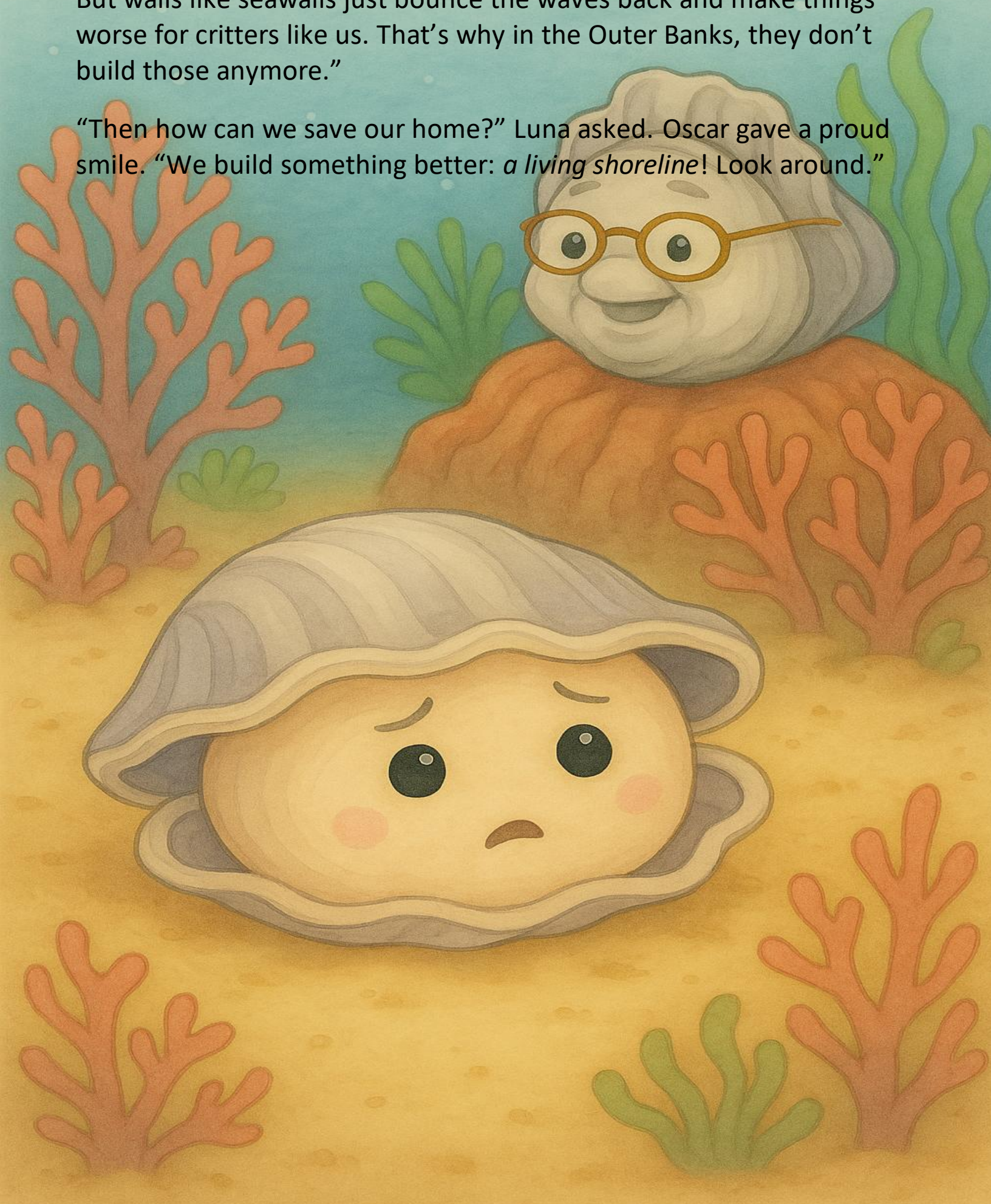
She scuttled (as fast as a clam can) to visit her wise old friend, Oscar the Oyster, who lived on a nearby reef.

“Oscar! The beach is disappearing. Can’t we just build a big wall to stop the waves?”



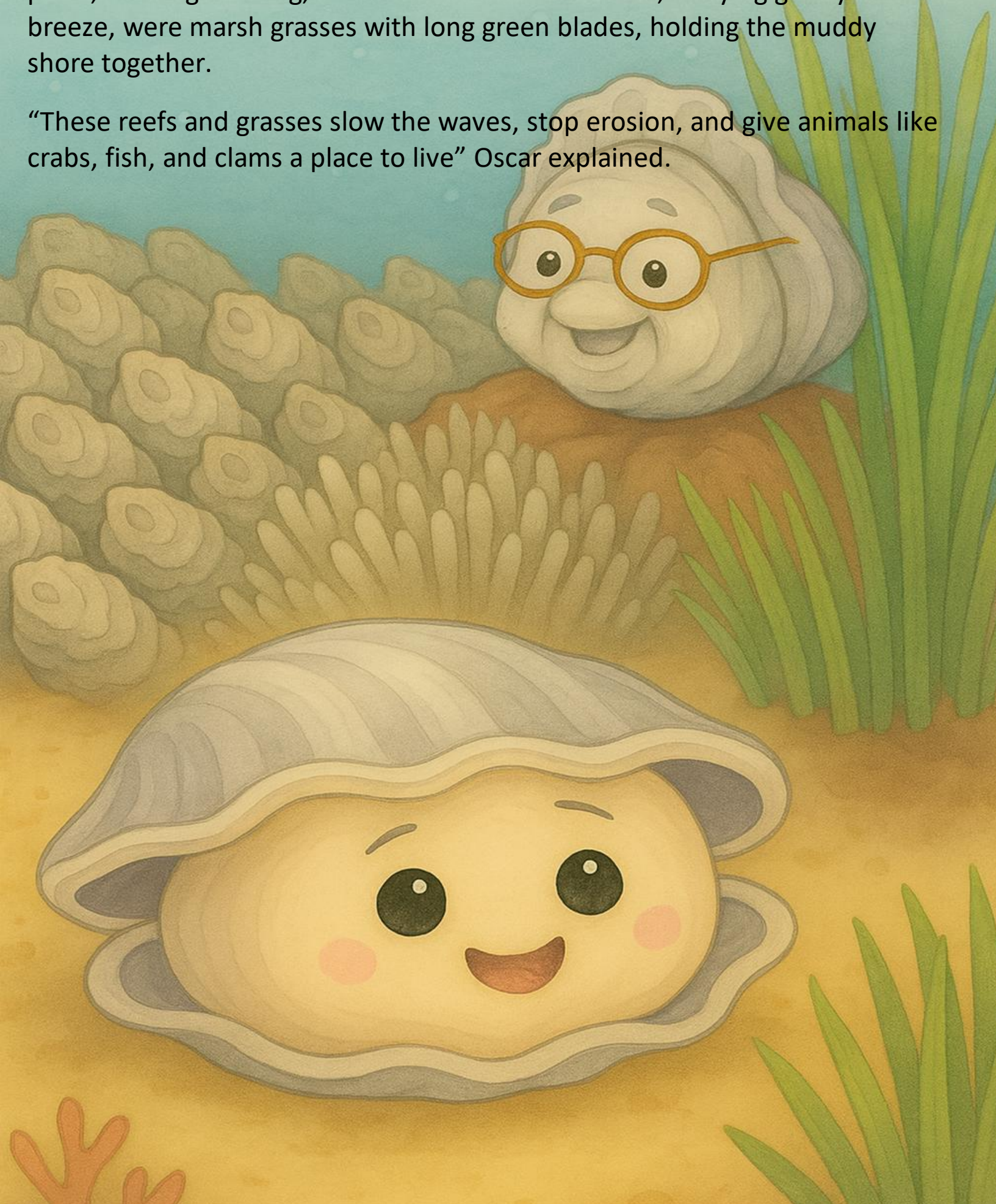
Oscar clicked his shell thoughtfully. "People used to think that, Luna. But walls like seawalls just bounce the waves back and make things worse for critters like us. That's why in the Outer Banks, they don't build those anymore."

"Then how can we save our home?" Luna asked. Oscar gave a proud smile. "We build something better: *a living shoreline!* Look around."



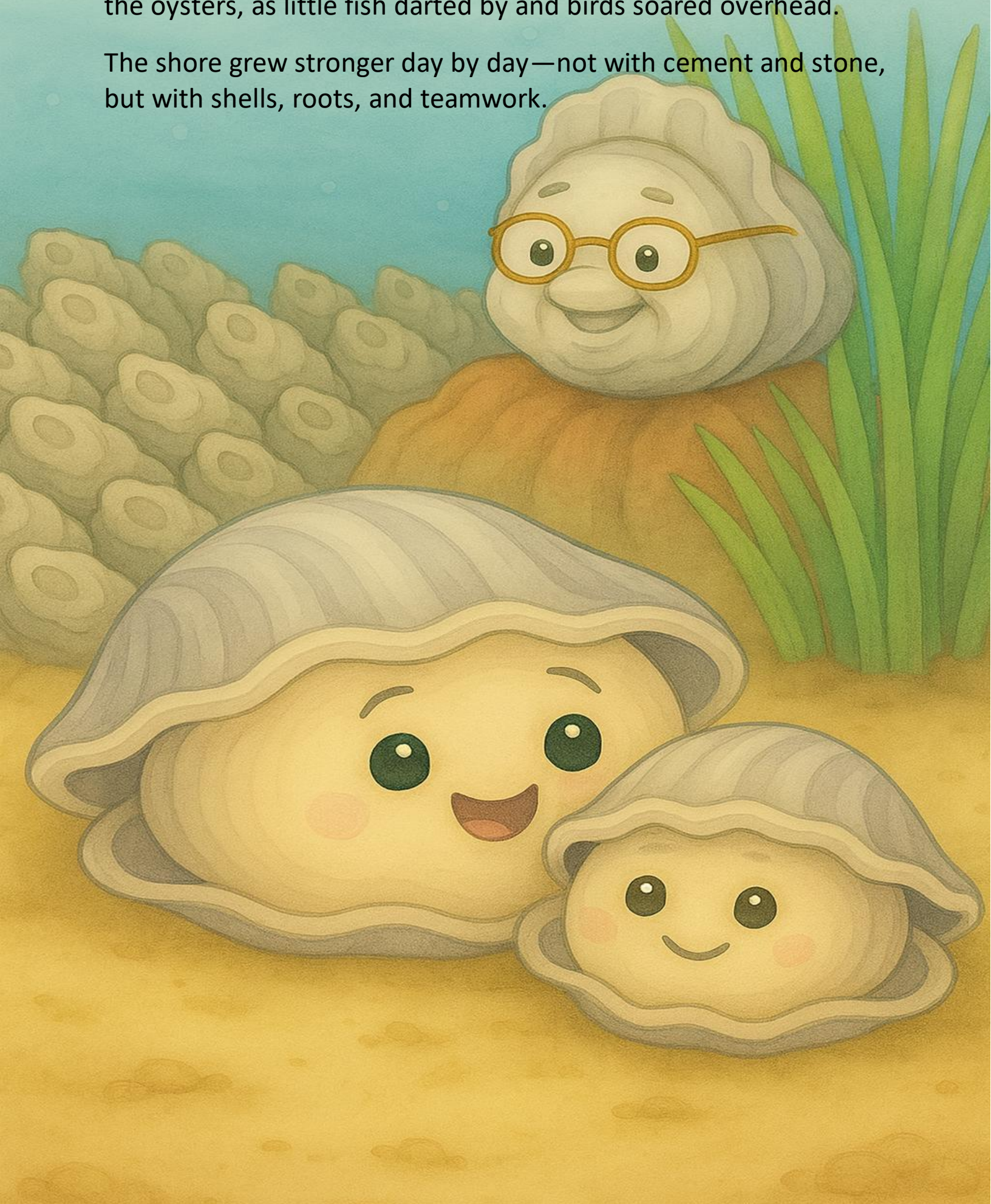
Luna looked and gasped. There were rows of oysters like Oscar, rooted in place, forming a strong, natural barrier. Behind them, swaying gently in the breeze, were marsh grasses with long green blades, holding the muddy shore together.

“These reefs and grasses slow the waves, stop erosion, and give animals like crabs, fish, and clams a place to live” Oscar explained.



Soon, Luna joined the living shoreline too. She nestled in beside the oysters, as little fish darted by and birds soared overhead.

The shore grew stronger day by day—not with cement and stone, but with shells, roots, and teamwork.



And from that day on, Luna told every sea creature she met:

“We don’t need walls. We build with life.”



Did You Know?

A *living shoreline* is like nature's own superhero cape for the coast! Instead of using hard walls, people plant grasses, add oyster shells, and grow marsh plants to protect the land from waves and storms. These plants and shells:

- **Stop erosion** (when the land washes away)
- **Give animals a home**
- **Clean the water** by filtering out yucky stuff

When we use living shorelines, we help keep beaches and wildlife safe—and we make the coast stronger for the future! 💙

Living shorelines protect the coast while keeping nature wild and wonderful—just the way Luna likes it.

