

Snip the Rings – Save a Wing!



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 sunny afternoon by the shore, Piper the pelican soared high over the waves. She loved gliding on the wind and diving for fish.

But today, something strange caught her eye.

“Help! Over here!” squawked her friend Gulliver the gull.

Piper landed on the sand. Gulliver’s head was stuck inside a strange plastic loop—it looked like a chain of rings.

“I found it floating in the water,” Gulliver said, “and poked my head through... but now I can’t get out!”

Piper pulled gently, but the ring was tight. “This is dangerous,” she said. “You could get hurt. Or worse.”



Just then, a kind park ranger named Mia walked up with scissors.

“These are plastic soda rings,” Mia explained. “Animals can get trapped in them. If they’re not cut up before being thrown away, they can cause slow, painful injuries.”

She snipped each loop open until the rings fell away. Gulliver stretched his wings in relief. “From now on,” Piper said, “we’ll tell everyone—cut the rings before they go in the trash!”




That afternoon, they put up a bright sign:

“Cut the Rings – Save a Wing!”

And from then on, everyone at the shore made sure no animal would be trapped again.





Did You Know?

Plastic soda rings—the loops that hold cans together—can be very dangerous for wildlife.

🍁 Birds, 🦀 crabs, 🐢 sea turtles, and even 🐟 fish can get their heads, beaks, or flippers stuck in the rings. Once trapped, they can't move or eat properly.

Scientists estimate that thousands of animals around the world are hurt or die each year because of plastic soda rings and other looped litter.

The good news?

Before you throw them away, cut every ring so no animal can get caught.

✂️ *Snip, snip—and you've just saved a life!*

