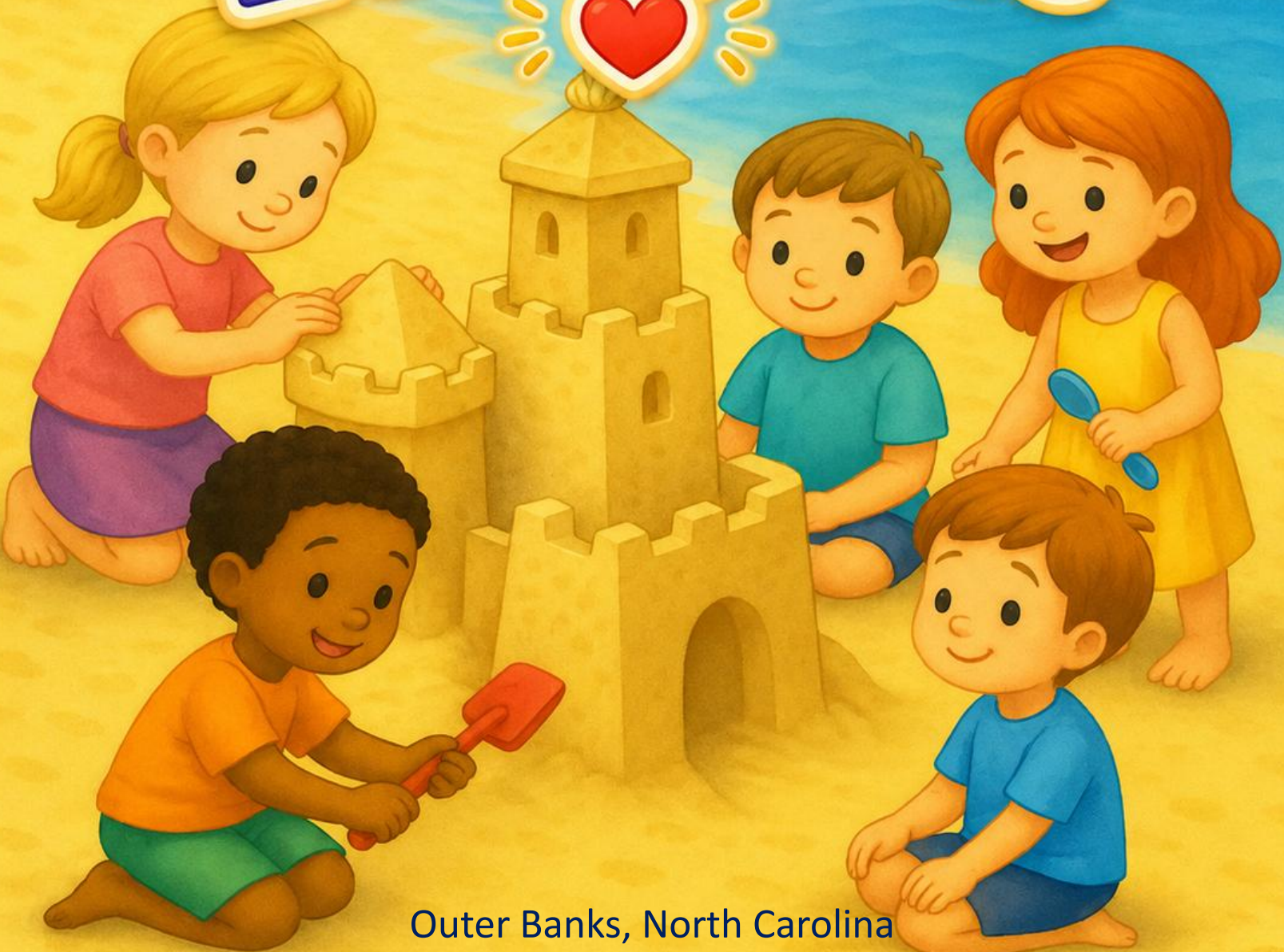


The Sandcastle

★ That Welcomed ★

Everyone



Outer Banks, North Carolina

The Sandcastle That Welcome Everyone

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ISBN: 978-1-972352-97-7

Published by:

Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC)

Avon, North Carolina

www.theobcc.org

Printed in the United States of America



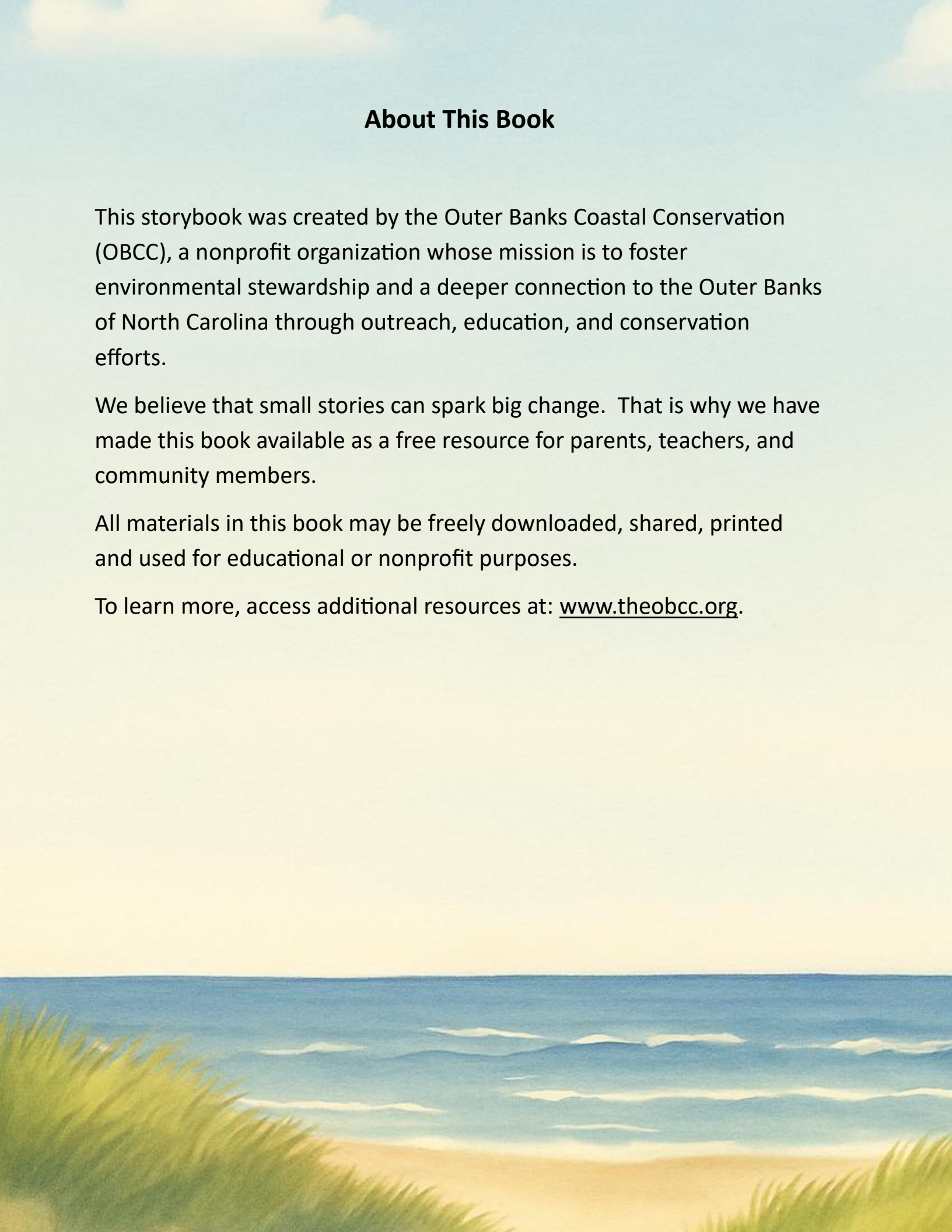
About This Book

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.



The sun shone bright over the soft sands of Cape Hatteras Beach. Waves whispered against the shore, and gulls swooped and called above the dunes. A group of children—Sandy, Jay, Lily, and Noah—were busy building the biggest sandcastle the Outer Banks had ever seen.

“Let’s make a moat around it!” said Jay, digging with his red plastic shovel. “And seashell towers!” added Lily, running to collect shiny shells and bits of driftwood. They laughed and worked together, the castle growing taller with each scoop of sand.



A little farther down the beach, another boy sat by himself. His name was Tom. He was new to the area and didn't know anyone yet. He had a small green bucket and a blue shovel, but every time he tried to stack sand, his towers crumbled into messy piles.

He sighed. "Why can't I get it right?"



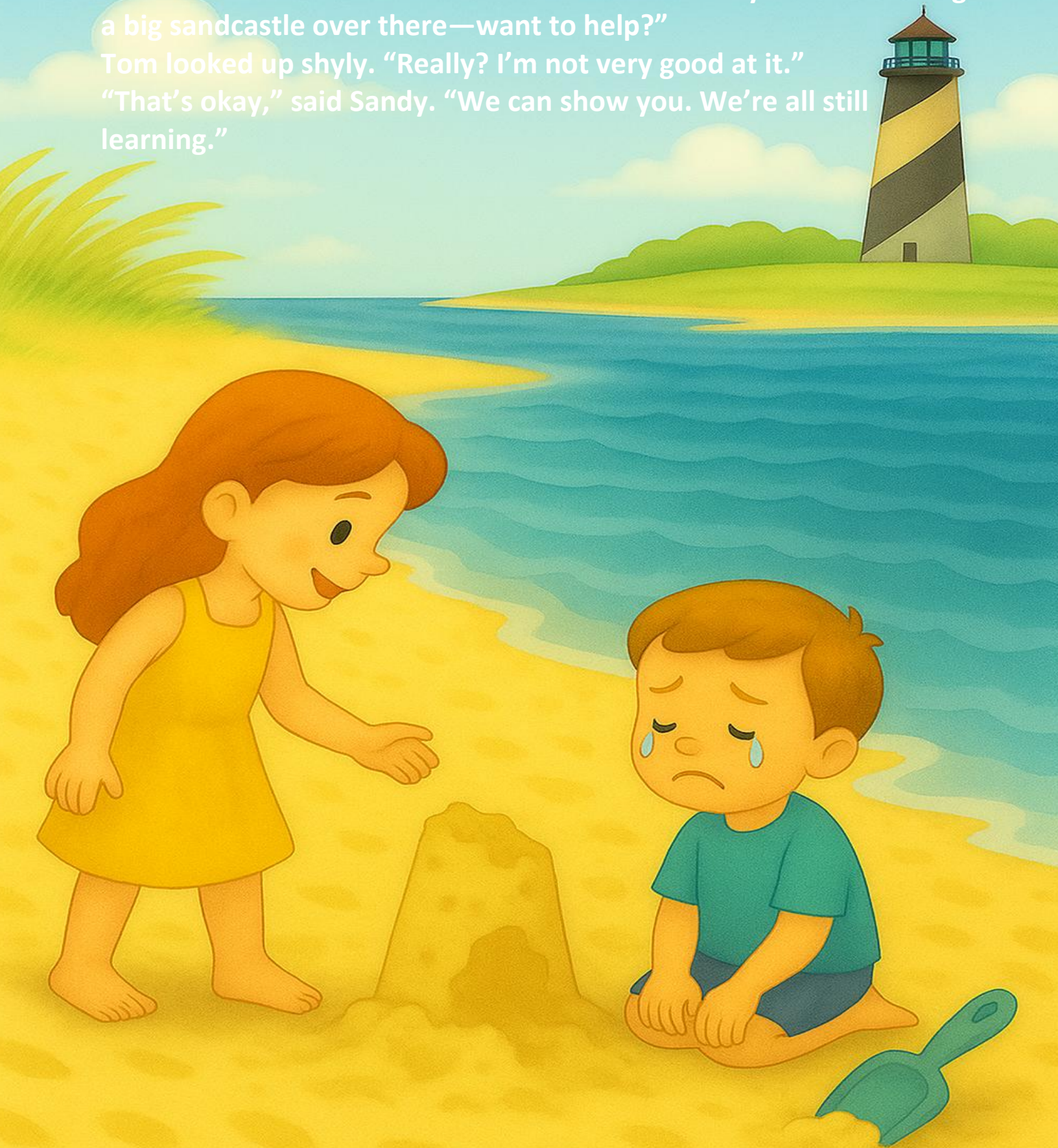
Sandy noticed him and whispered to her friends, "Look, that boy's castle keeps falling." Jay smirked. "Maybe he doesn't know how to build one! Maybe he just needs help."

Sandy thought for a moment, watching Tom try again. The waves were creeping closer, and one rolled right over his half-built castle. Tom dropped his shovel and looked ready to cry.

Sandy stood up. "I'm going to invite him to join us."



She ran down the beach and smiled. "Hi! I'm Sandy. We're building a big sandcastle over there—want to help?"
Tom looked up shyly. "Really? I'm not very good at it."
"That's okay," said Sandy. "We can show you. We're all still learning."



Soon Tom joined the group. Noah showed him how to pack the sand tight before flipping the bucket. Lily taught him how to use seashells for windows. Jay added, "You can build the tower on this side. It's the most important part."

Tom's eyes lit up. Together, they built the tallest, strongest tower yet.



When the castle was finished, the children stood back to admire it. The afternoon sun sparkled on the shells, and a tiny crab peeked from the moat as if to say hello.

“This is the best castle ever!” shouted Lily.

“And we built it together,” said Tom, smiling wide.

Sandy nodded. “See? Castles—and friends—are stronger when everyone is welcome.”

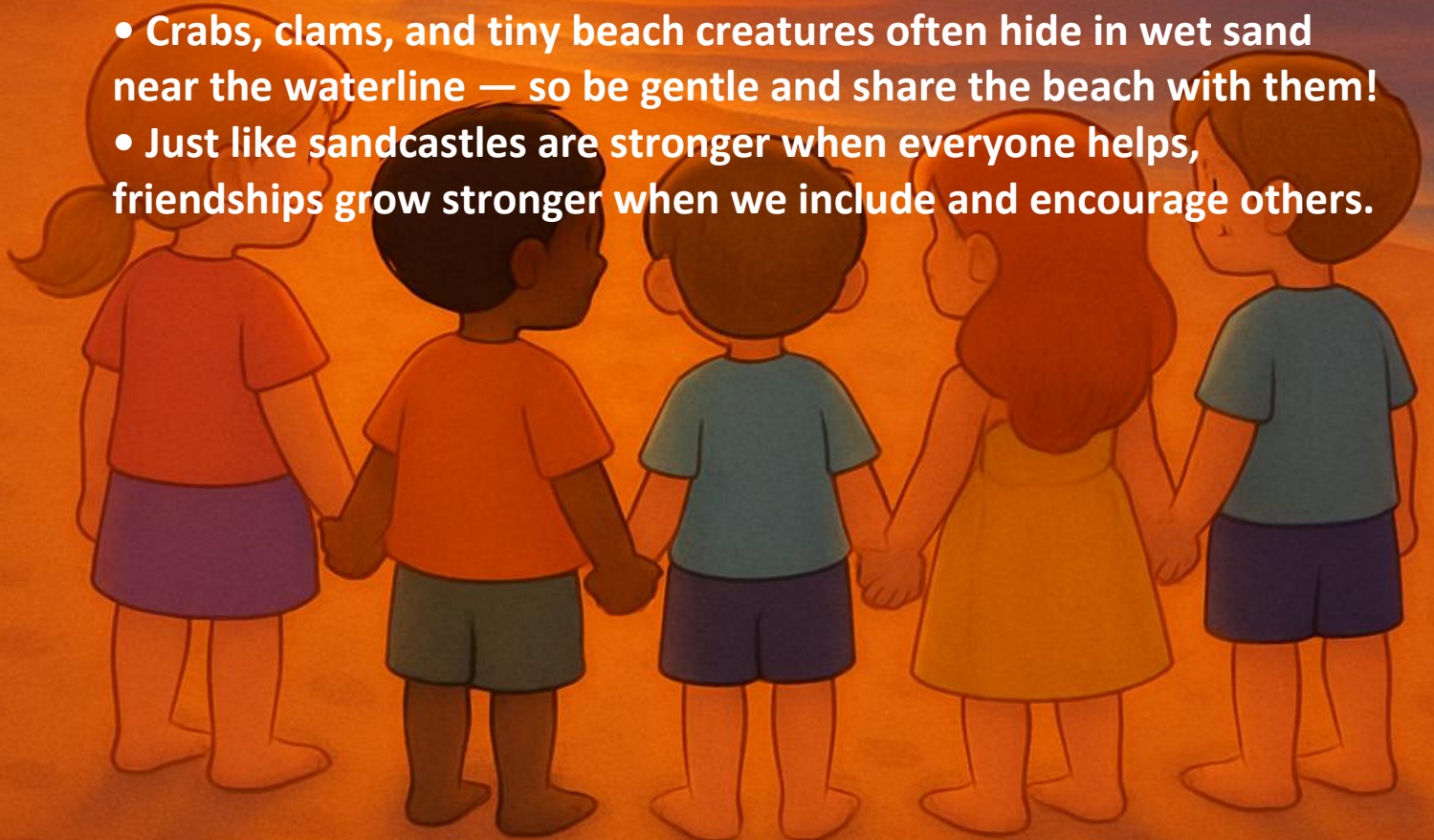
As the tide came in and the waves slowly began to wash the castle away, the children didn’t feel sad. They knew they could build another one tomorrow—together.



True friendship means helping others. When we include everyone, we build something stronger—just like a sandcastle made with many hands.

Did You Know?

- The Outer Banks of North Carolina are a chain of barrier islands — long, narrow strips of sand that shift and change with wind and waves.
- Building sandcastles helps children learn teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving!
- The grains of sand on Outer Banks beaches come from tiny bits of shells, coral, and minerals that have been shaped by the ocean for thousands of years.
- Crabs, clams, and tiny beach creatures often hide in wet sand near the waterline — so be gentle and share the beach with them!
- Just like sandcastles are stronger when everyone helps, friendships grow stronger when we include and encourage others.



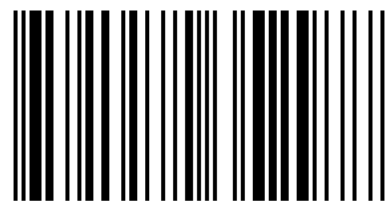
The Sandcastle That Welcomed Everyone

This illustrated children's story promotes kindness, inclusion, and environmental appreciation. It is designed as a free educational resource to inspire teamwork and respect for others and nature, set on the beaches of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. On a sunny day at Cape Hatteras Beach, four children—Sandy, Jay, Lily, and Noah—work together to build a magnificent sandcastle. Nearby, a new boy named Tom struggles alone to build his own, feeling discouraged as his towers collapse. Sandy notices and decides to invite him to join their group. The children welcome Tom, teach him how to pack sand and decorate the castle, and soon create their best sandcastle yet. As the tide washes it away, they realize what they built together—and the friendships they formed—matter most.

About the Publisher

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9781972352977

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