



Scoot's Poppity-Pop SUMMER SURPRISE



Outer Banks, North Carolina

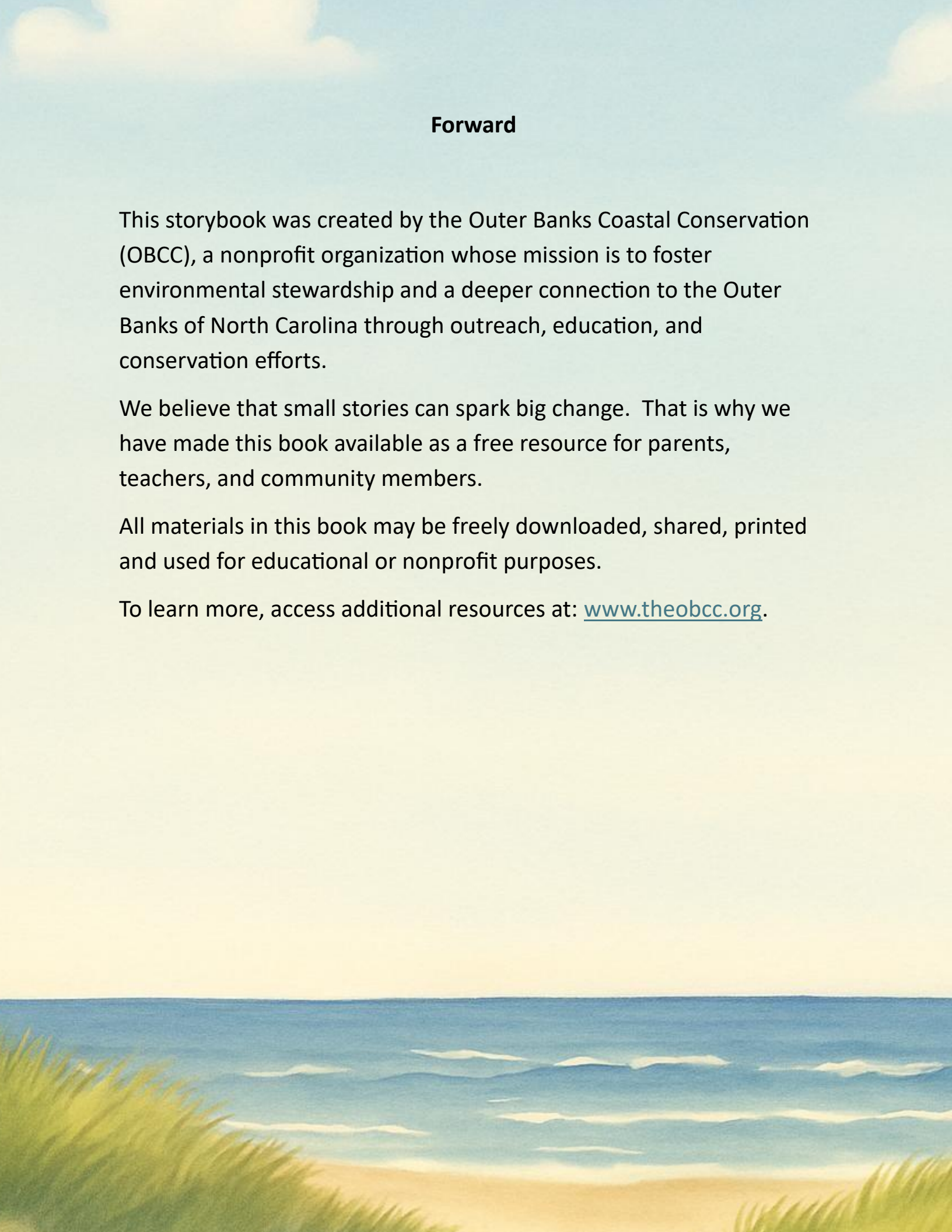
Forward

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.

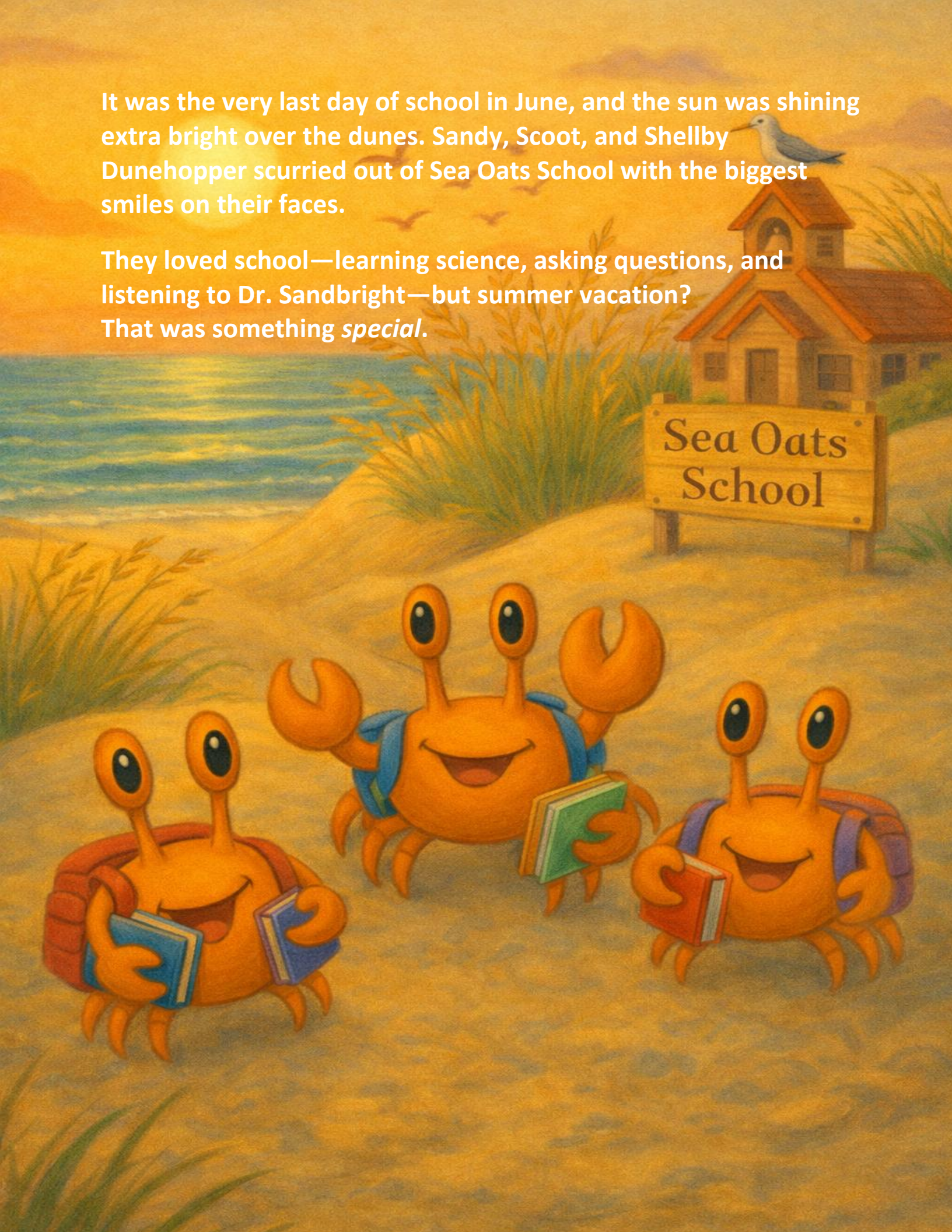
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It was the very last day of school in June, and the sun was shining extra bright over the dunes. Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby Dunehopper scurried out of Sea Oats School with the biggest smiles on their faces.

They loved school—learning science, asking questions, and listening to Dr. Sandbright—but summer vacation? That was something *special*.



“Three whole months of no homework!” Sandy cheered, doing a little happy claw dance.

“And more time at the beach!” Shellby squeaked. “I’m going to learn how to surf this summer. I might fall a lot... but I’ll look cool doing it!”

Sandy adjusted her shell proudly.

“I’m working at the Ice Cream Shack this summer,” she announced. “Free sprinkles... *almost* free.”

Scoot’s eyes sparkled.

“I want to surf *and* earn money,” he said.





Papa Dunehopper raised an eyebrow and smiled.

“That’s great thinking, Scoot. Do you plan to get a summer job?
It’s never too early to save for college.”

Scoot nodded seriously... then immediately started
daydreaming.

He imagined himself running a beach concession stand.
Or zooming visitors around on sand saucers.
Or becoming the fastest trash-picker on the whole island.

Then—*ding!*—an idea popped into his head.

“I’ve got it!” Scoot shouted. “I’ll sell seaweed funnel cakes!”

Papa blinked.

“Very... creative,” he said carefully.

TOWN HALL

The next day, Scoot marched into town hall and proudly asked for a permit.

Then Papa helped him build a little stand, hammering and sanding until it was perfect.

Scoot painted a bright sign in wiggly letters:

Scoot's Seaweed Funnel Cakes



The following morning, Scoot set up near the beach parking lot.
Hundreds of beach visitors walked by.

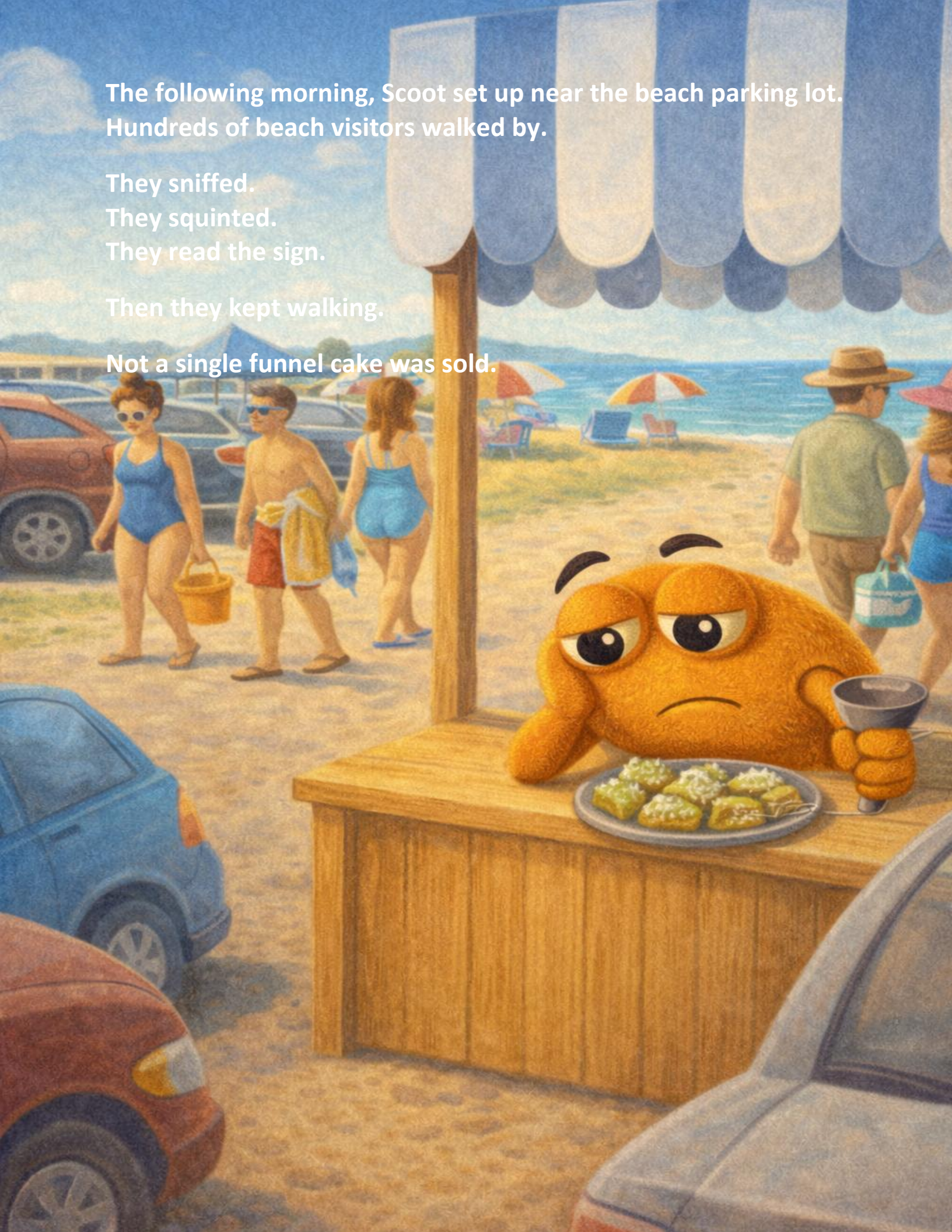
They sniffed.

They squinted.

They read the sign.

Then they kept walking.

Not a single funnel cake was sold.



That night, Scoot crawled home slowly, his claws drooping.

"Papa," he sighed, "no one bought my funnel cakes."

Papa gave him a gentle hug.

"Don't get discouraged, Scoot. We ghost crabs *love* seaweed... but humans sometimes like their treats a little less... ocean-flavored."

Scoot thought hard.

"Hmm," he said. "Humans *do* love popcorn."



That night, Papa and Scoot stayed up late repainting the sign:

Scoot's Popcorn

Papa even surprised Scoot with a shiny red popcorn machine.



The next morning at the beach—*POP! POP! POP!*—the smell of
buttery popcorn filled the air.

Beach visitors stopped.

They smiled.

They lined up.

Soon the line stretched all the way down the beach!



After a few weeks, Scoot had earned enough money to put safely in the bank.

Then... something *very* strange happened.

The popcorn machine wouldn't stop popping.

Scoot unplugged it.

POP!

He shook it.

POP! POP!



Popcorn poured out onto the sand.
Then the streets.
Then cars.
Then—*plop!*—onto rooftops.

The whole town was covered in popcorn.

Scoot stared in amazement.

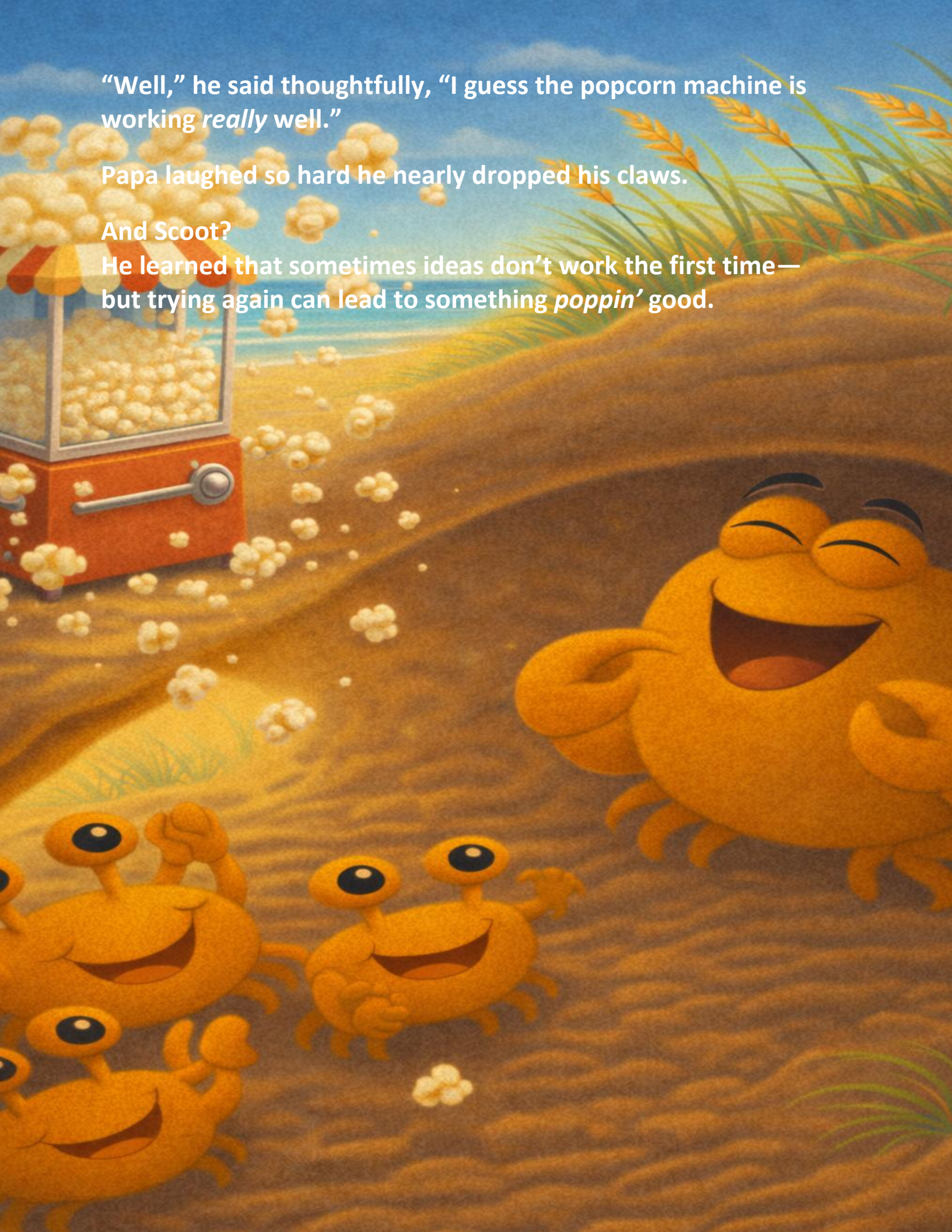


“Well,” he said thoughtfully, “I guess the popcorn machine is working *really* well.”

Papa laughed so hard he nearly dropped his claws.

And Scoot?

He learned that sometimes ideas don’t work the first time—
but trying again can lead to something *poppin’* good.



Did You Know?

- Popcorn really does “pop” because of science! Each popcorn kernel has a tiny drop of water inside. When it gets hot, the water turns into steam and builds up pressure—until POP! The kernel bursts open!
- Ghost crabs (like Scoot!) are expert beach cleaners. In real life, ghost crabs help keep beaches healthy by eating tiny leftovers and helping recycle nutrients in the sand.
- Trying new ideas is how learning happens. Scoot’s seaweed funnel cakes didn’t work out—but his popcorn idea did! Every mistake helps brains grow stronger and smarter.
- Healthy beaches need clean sand. Too much trash (or popcorn!) can be a problem for animals. That’s why helping clean up after fun beach days is important.

Big surprises can come from small ideas—especially when you don’t give up!

