

Papa's Dunebuggy

“Tune-Up”



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.

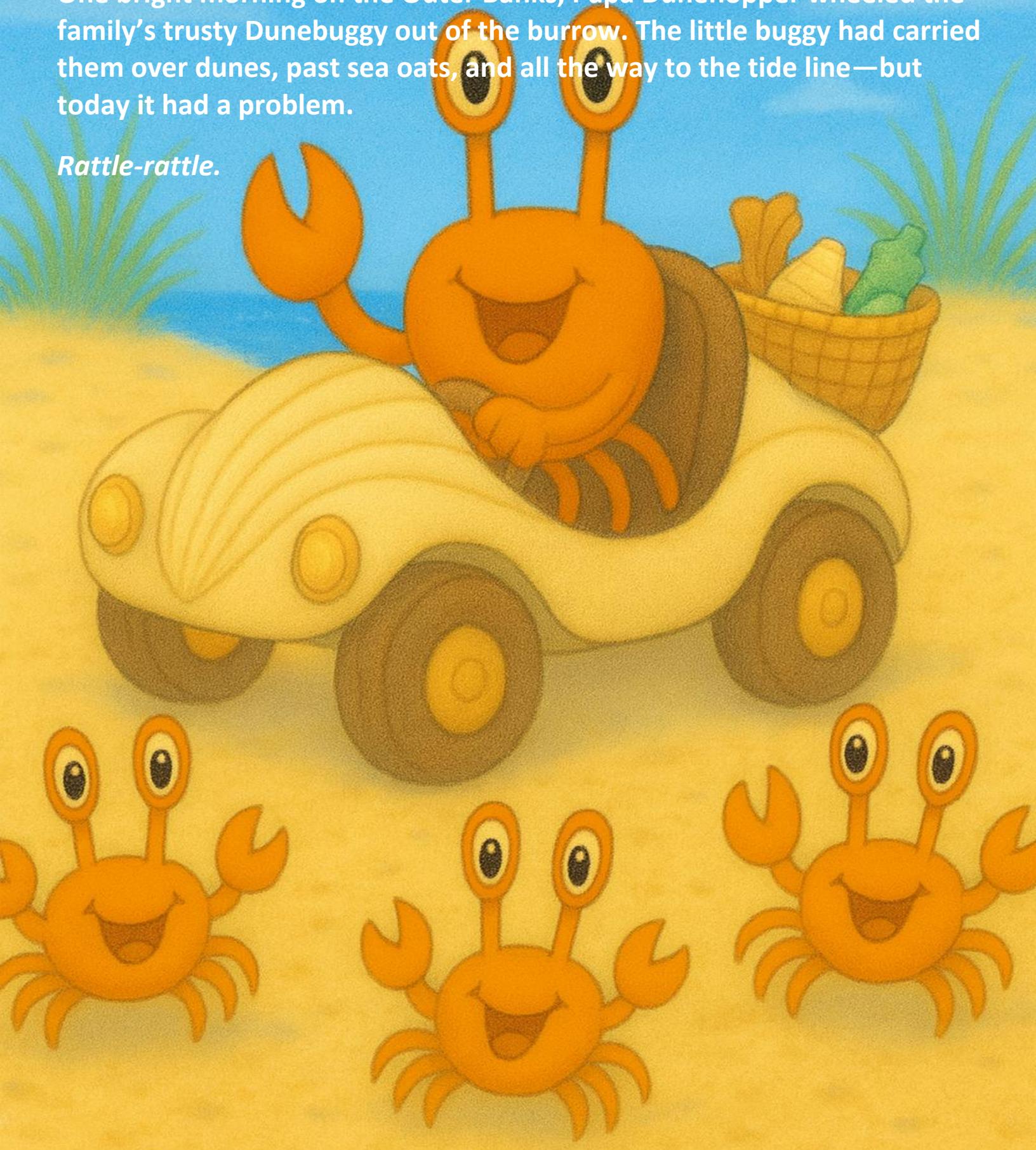
We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

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.

One bright morning on the Outer Banks, Papa Dunehopper wheeled the family's trusty Dunebuggy out of the burrow. The little buggy had carried them over dunes, past sea oats, and all the way to the tide line—but today it had a problem.

Rattle-rattle.



Papa tilted his head. "Ah-ha! I hear you," he said seriously. "Time for a tune-up."

He poked the wheels.

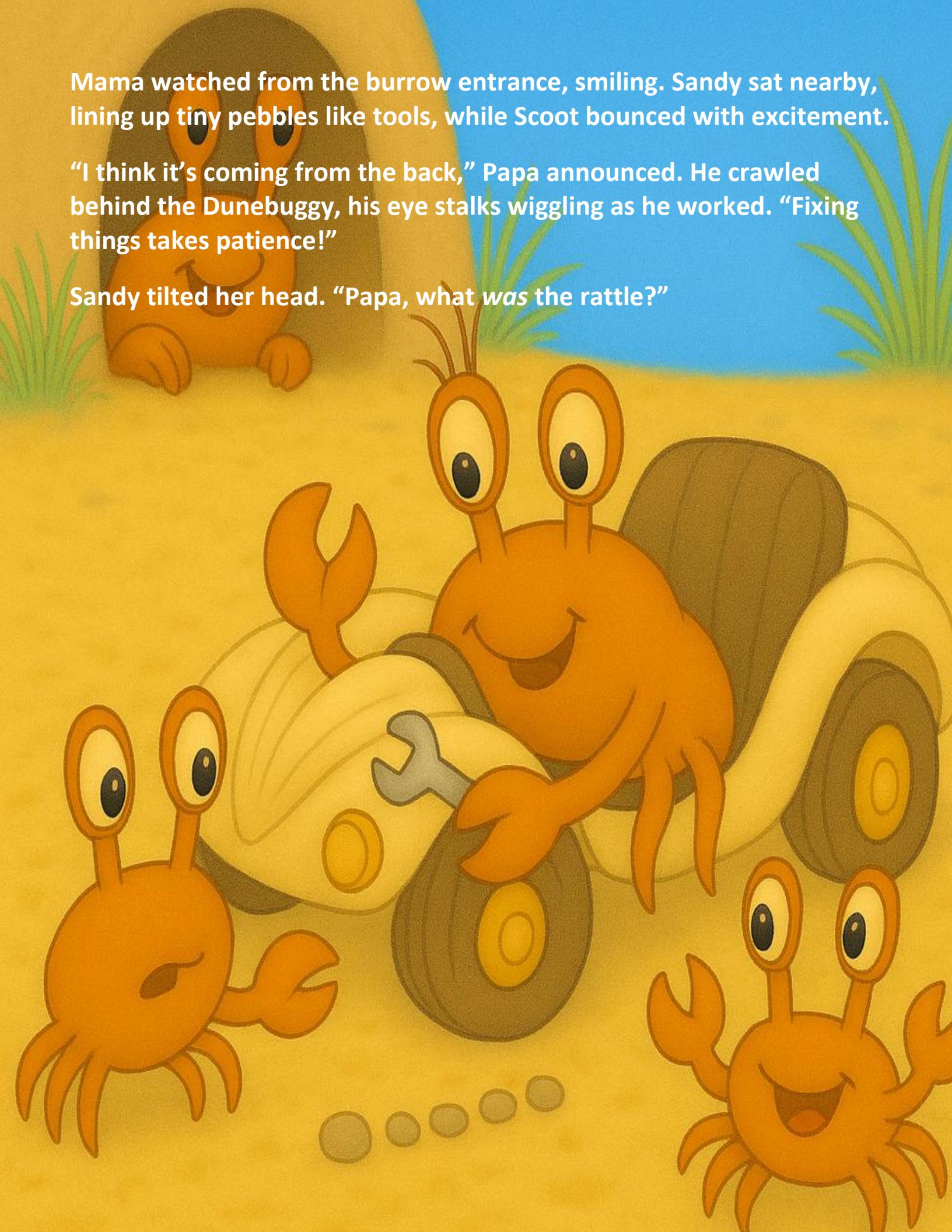
He tightened a bolt.

He twisted a knob.

He tapped the frame with his claw and listened closely.

Rattle-rattle.

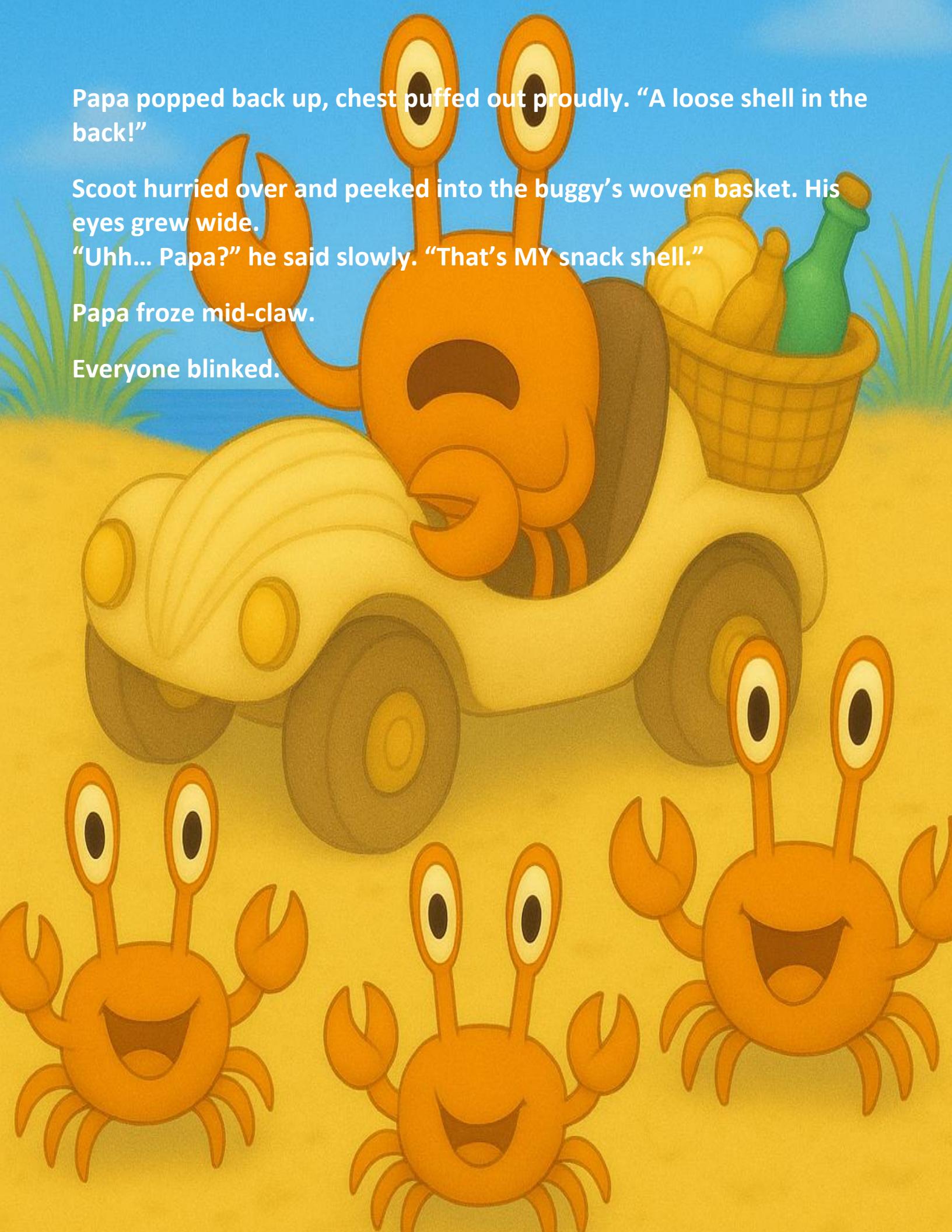




Mama watched from the burrow entrance, smiling. Sandy sat nearby, lining up tiny pebbles like tools, while Scoot bounced with excitement.

"I think it's coming from the back," Papa announced. He crawled behind the Dunebuggy, his eye stalks wiggling as he worked. "Fixing things takes patience!"

Sandy tilted her head. "Papa, what *was* the rattle?"



Papa popped back up, chest puffed out proudly. "A loose shell in the back!"

Scoot hurried over and peeked into the buggy's woven basket. His eyes grew wide.

"Uhh... Papa?" he said slowly. "That's MY snack shell."

Papa froze mid-claw.

Everyone blinked.

Then Scoot burst out laughing—so hard his sides shook, his claws clacked, and the Dunebuggy started rattling all over again.

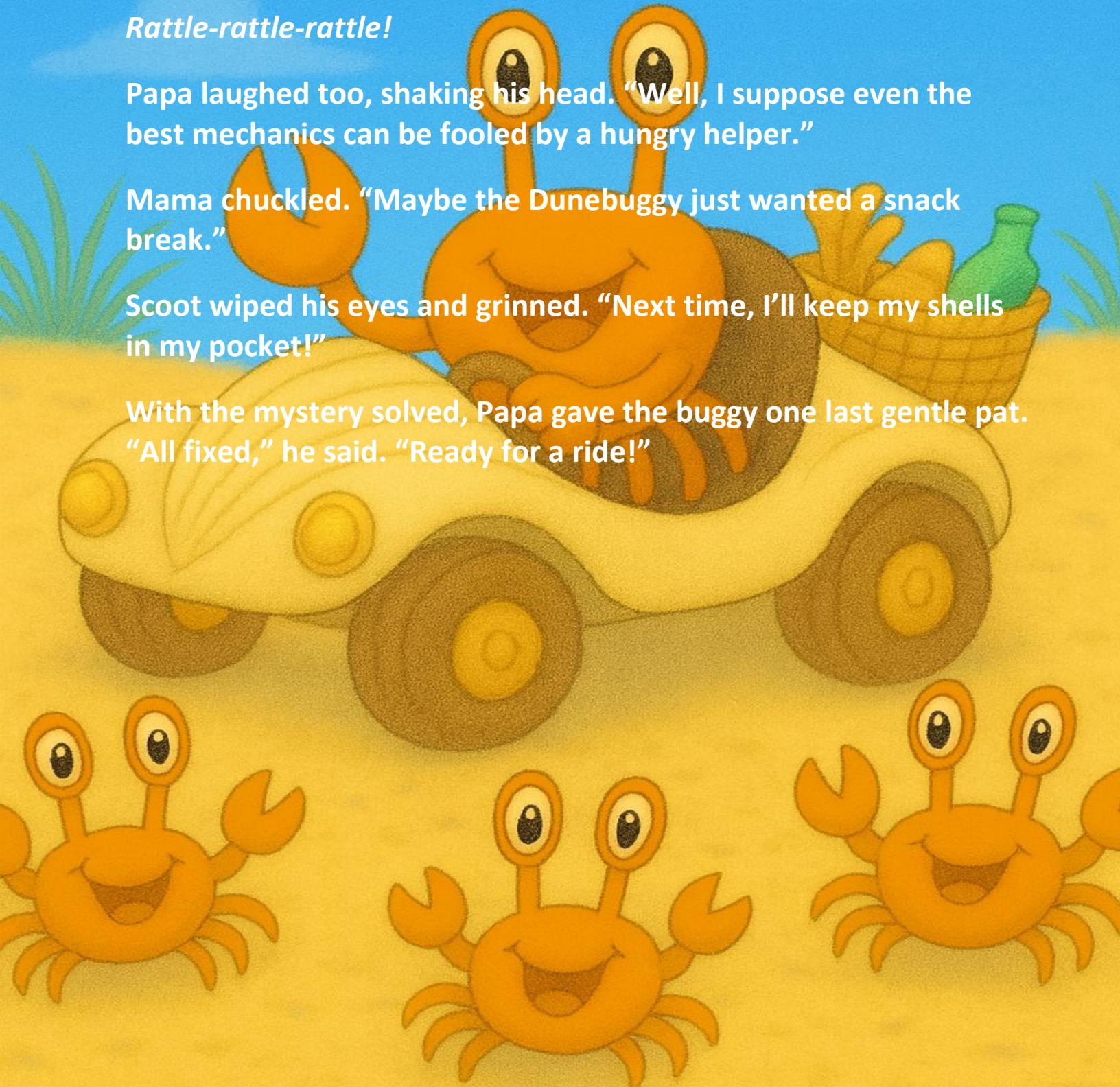
Rattle-rattle-rattle!

Papa laughed too, shaking his head. “Well, I suppose even the best mechanics can be fooled by a hungry helper.”

Mama chuckled. “Maybe the Dunebuggy just wanted a snack break.”

Scoot wiped his eyes and grinned. “Next time, I’ll keep my shells in my pocket!”

With the mystery solved, Papa gave the buggy one last gentle pat. “All fixed,” he said. “Ready for a ride!”



And off the Dunehopper family scurried, giggling across the warm sand—reminded that sometimes the loudest rattles are really just happy laughter in disguise.



Did You Know?

Did you know that real ghost crabs—just like the Dunehopper family—are *super speedy runners*?

They can scurry sideways across the sand faster than most people can walk! Ghost crabs use their strong claws to help dig burrows, carry food, and communicate with each other by waving and clacking. When you see little tracks racing across the beach, it might be ghost crabs hurrying home—laughing, playing, and staying safe from the sun.

