

★ Scoot and George's Beach Rescue Ride



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Scout and George's Beach Rescue Ride

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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.



It was the first week of March on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The sun was climbing higher in the sky, and the chilly winter air was finally starting to warm.

“I love spring!” said Scoot, stretching his claws toward the sunshine. “It feels like the whole beach is waking up.”

Mama Dunehopper smiled. “Spring is a busy time on the beach.”

Scoot’s eyes sparkled. “And it’s the perfect time to try my new electric scooter! Thanks again for my birthday present, Mama!”

“You’re welcome,” Mama laughed. “Just remember — no racing the seagulls.”

“No promises,” Scoot said with a grin.



That afternoon, Scoot's best friend, George the grasshopper, hopped up to the Dunehopper burrow. Strapped to his back was his own shiny electric scooter.

"Scoot! Ready to ride?" George buzzed excitedly.

Scoot zoomed out of the burrow. "Mama, can George and I go try our scooters on the beach? It's low tide, so the sand should be perfect!"

Mama folded her claws and nodded. "Yes, but be back before dinner at five o'clock."

"We will!" Scoot promised.

Mama gave Scoot a hug. "Be careful."

Scoot and George grabbed their scooters and raced toward the shoreline.

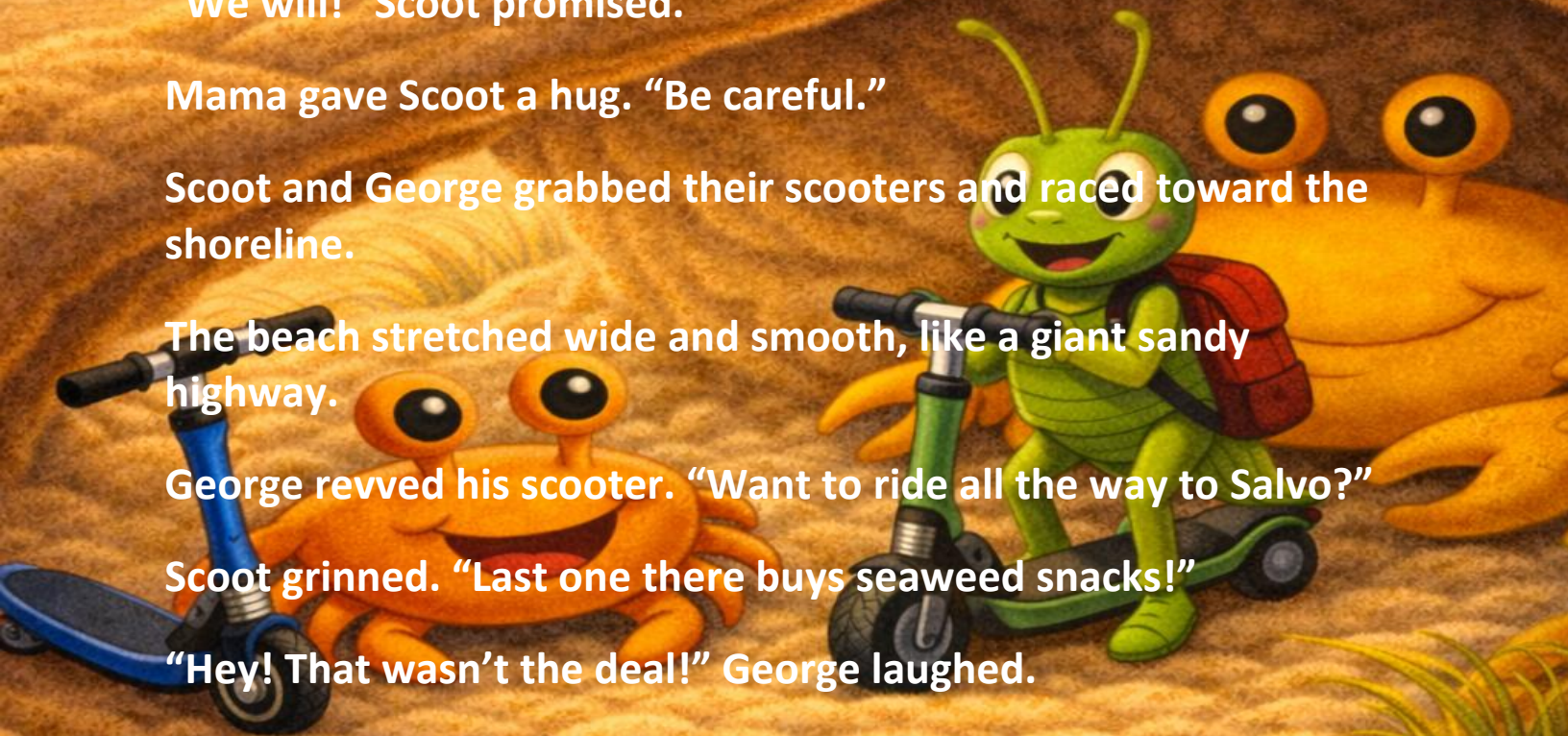
The beach stretched wide and smooth, like a giant sandy highway.

George revved his scooter. "Want to ride all the way to Salvo?"

Scoot grinned. "Last one there buys seaweed snacks!"

"Hey! That wasn't the deal!" George laughed.

They zoomed down the beach, leaving tiny tracks in the sand.



Scout suddenly slowed his scooter.

“George, look!” he said, pointing to the sand.

Several starfish were scattered along the shoreline, their arms slowly moving in the warm air.

George hopped closer. “Oh no... they’re alive!”

Scout nodded. “The tide must have washed them up. Starfish can’t stay out of the water very long.”

George carefully picked one up. “We need to help them!”

“Quick,” said Scout. “Let’s carry them back to the ocean.”

One by one, the friends gently lifted the starfish and placed them into the cool, shallow water.

A small wave rolled in and covered the last starfish.

Its arms slowly stretched and it began to move again.

George smiled. “Look! It’s swimming away!”



They continued riding when Scoot stopped again.

“Uh-oh,” he said.

Three fish were lying on the sand, flipping weakly.

George tilted his head. “Why are so many sea creatures washing up today?”

Scoot thought for a moment.

“I think they might be cold stunned,” he explained. “This winter was colder than usual here on the Outer Banks. When the water temperature drops to around 50 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, some sea animals get shocked by the cold.”

“Like when I jump into the ocean in January?” George asked.

“Exactly,” Scoot laughed. “Except these animals can become too weak to swim.”

George nodded. “I remember people rescuing sea turtles last month!”

Scoot nodded. “Yep. Sea turtles can get cold stunned too.”

George looked curious. “What do ghost crabs do when it gets really cold?”

Scoot puffed his chest proudly.

“We dig deep burrows in the sand and wait it out like cozy beach bunkers.”

“Smart,” said George. “Grasshoppers just shiver.”



After helping the fish back into the water, the two friends climbed back onto their scooters.

The sun was beginning to sink lower in the sky.

“Race you home!” George shouted.

Scout laughed as they zipped across the sand.

As the Dunehopper burrow came into view, Scout smiled.

“You know what, George?”

“What?”

“I feel really good today.”

“Because you beat me in the scooter race?”

“No,” Scout said. “Because we helped some animals.”

George grinned.

“Best scooter ride ever.”



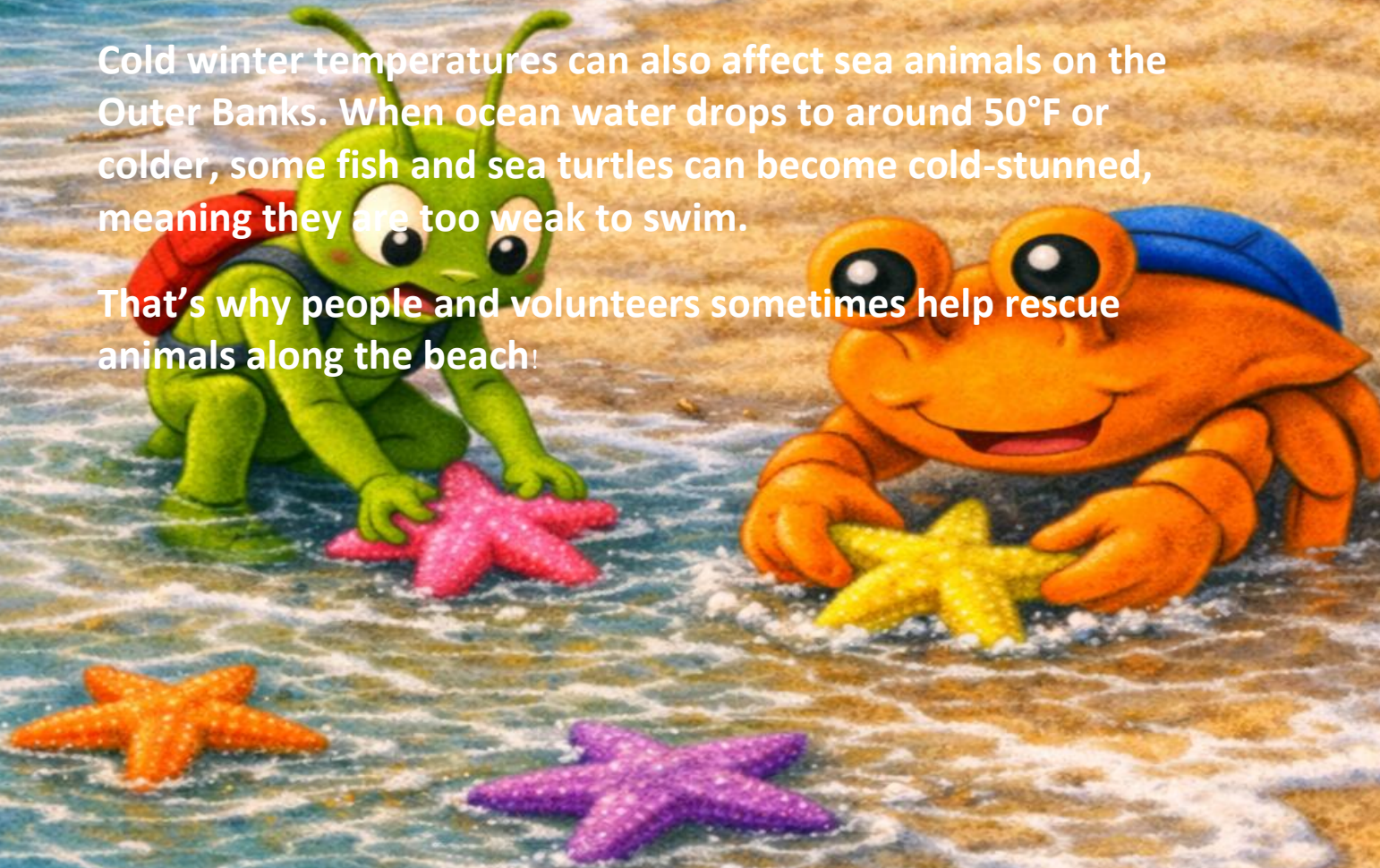
Did You Know?

Starfish are amazing ocean animals! Even though they look like they have no head or eyes, they can sense light and move using hundreds of tiny tube feet on their arms.

When starfish are washed onto the beach by waves or strong tides, they can dry out quickly in the sun. If you find a living starfish stranded on the sand, gently placing it back in shallow ocean water can help it survive.

Cold winter temperatures can also affect sea animals on the Outer Banks. When ocean water drops to around 50°F or colder, some fish and sea turtles can become cold-stunned, meaning they are too weak to swim.

That's why people and volunteers sometimes help rescue animals along the beach!



Scoot and George's Beach Rescue Ride

In *Scoot and George's Beach Rescue*, Scoot the ghost crab and his best friend George the grasshopper enjoy the first signs of spring on the Outer Banks of North Carolina by riding their electric scooters along the beach. During their ride, they discover several stranded starfish that were washed ashore by the tide and gently return them to the ocean. Soon after, they find fish struggling on the sand and realize the animals may be cold-stunned from unusually cold winter water temperatures. The friends carefully help the fish back into the water and talk about how different animals survive winter on the beach. As the sun sets, they race home feeling proud and happy because they helped protect ocean wildlife, showing that small acts of kindness can make a big difference for animals along the shore.

About the Publisher

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