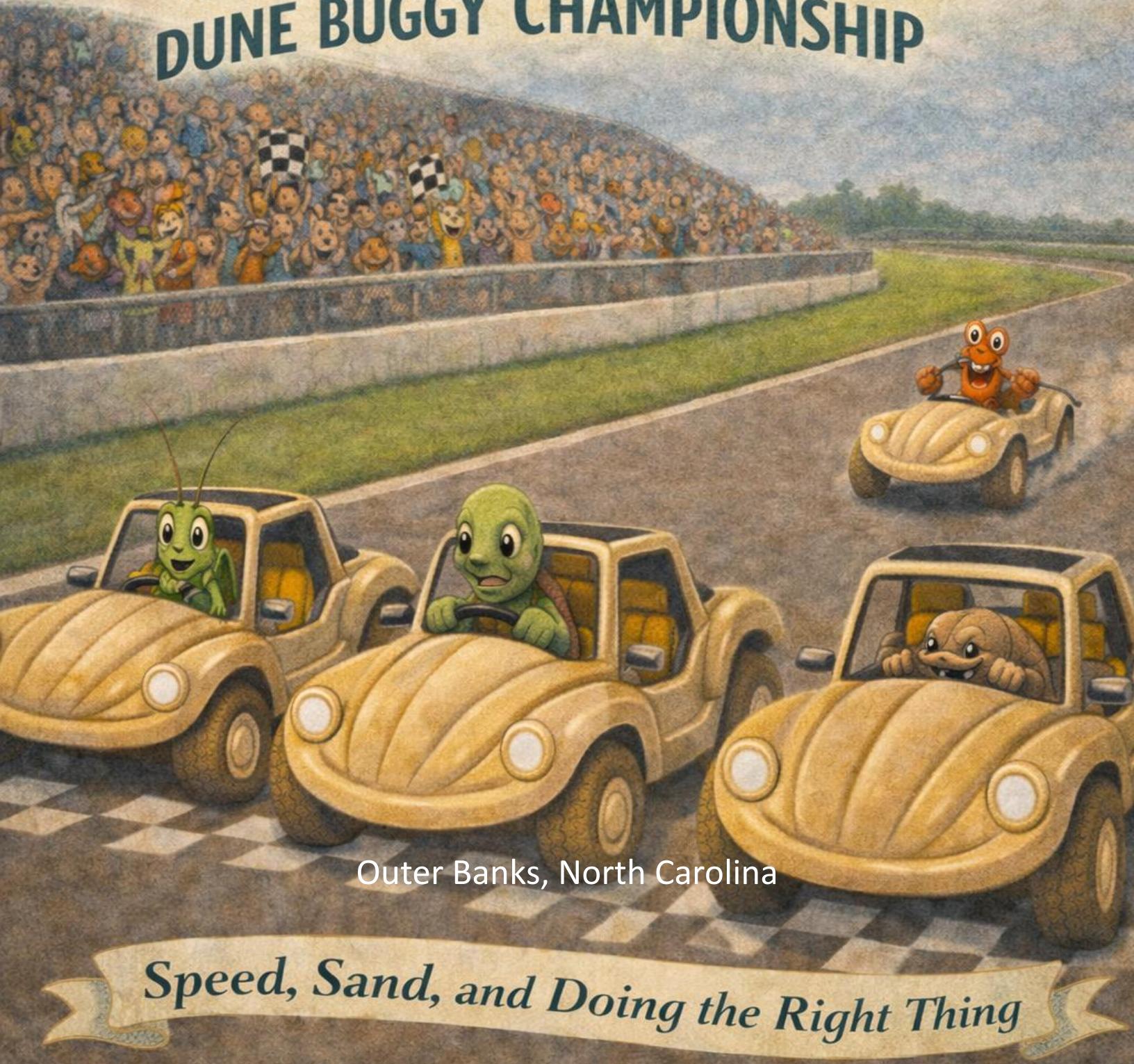


SCOOT RACES!

THE OUTER BANKS

DUNE BUGGY CHAMPIONSHIP



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Speed, Sand, and Doing the Right Thing

Forward

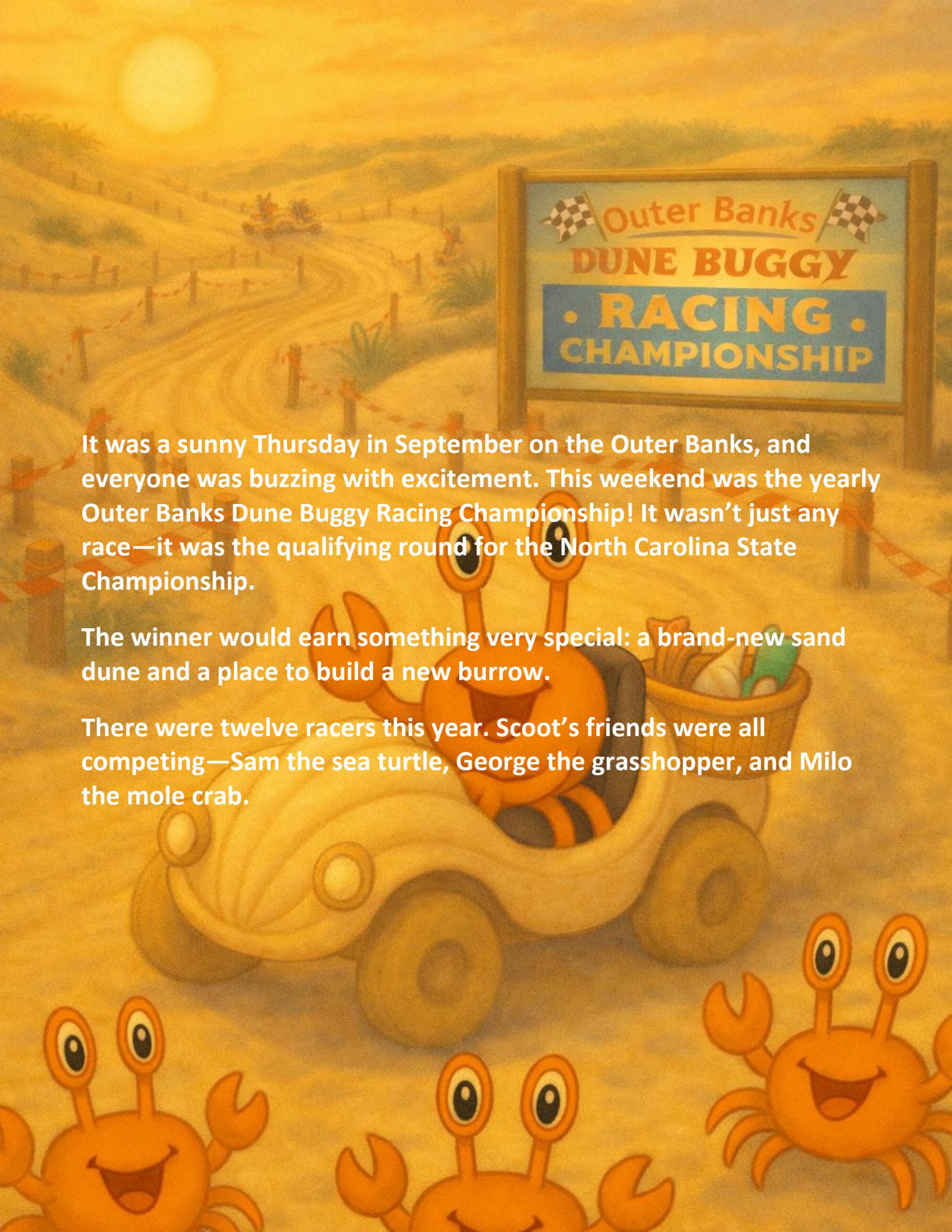
This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

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.





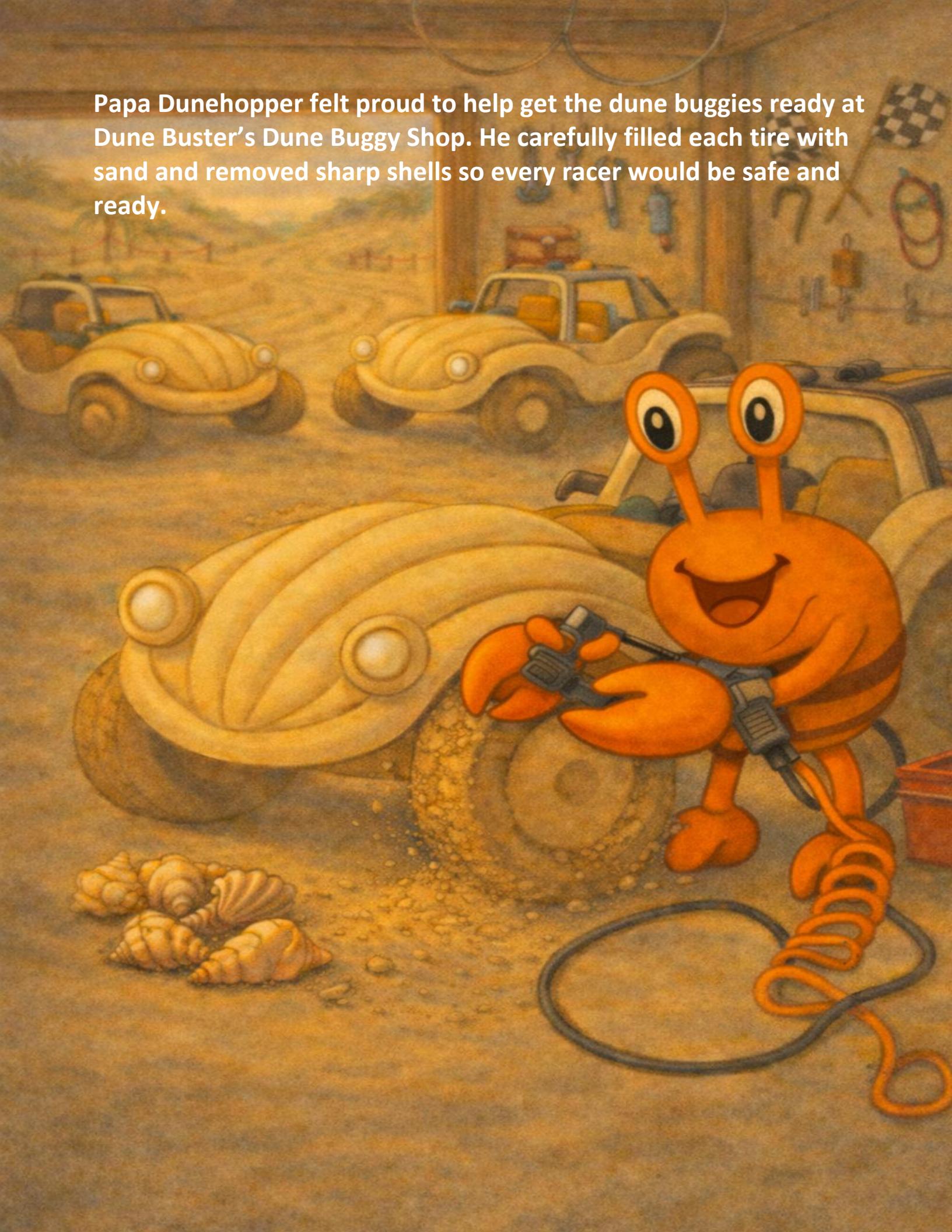
Outer Banks
DUNE BUGGY
• RACING •
CHAMPIONSHIP

It was a sunny Thursday in September on the Outer Banks, and everyone was buzzing with excitement. This weekend was the yearly Outer Banks Dune Buggy Racing Championship! It wasn't just any race—it was the qualifying round for the North Carolina State Championship.

The winner would earn something very special: a brand-new sand dune and a place to build a new burrow.

There were twelve racers this year. Scoot's friends were all competing—Sam the sea turtle, George the grasshopper, and Milo the mole crab.

Papa Dunehopper felt proud to help get the dune buggies ready at Dune Buster's Dune Buggy Shop. He carefully filled each tire with sand and removed sharp shells so every racer would be safe and ready.

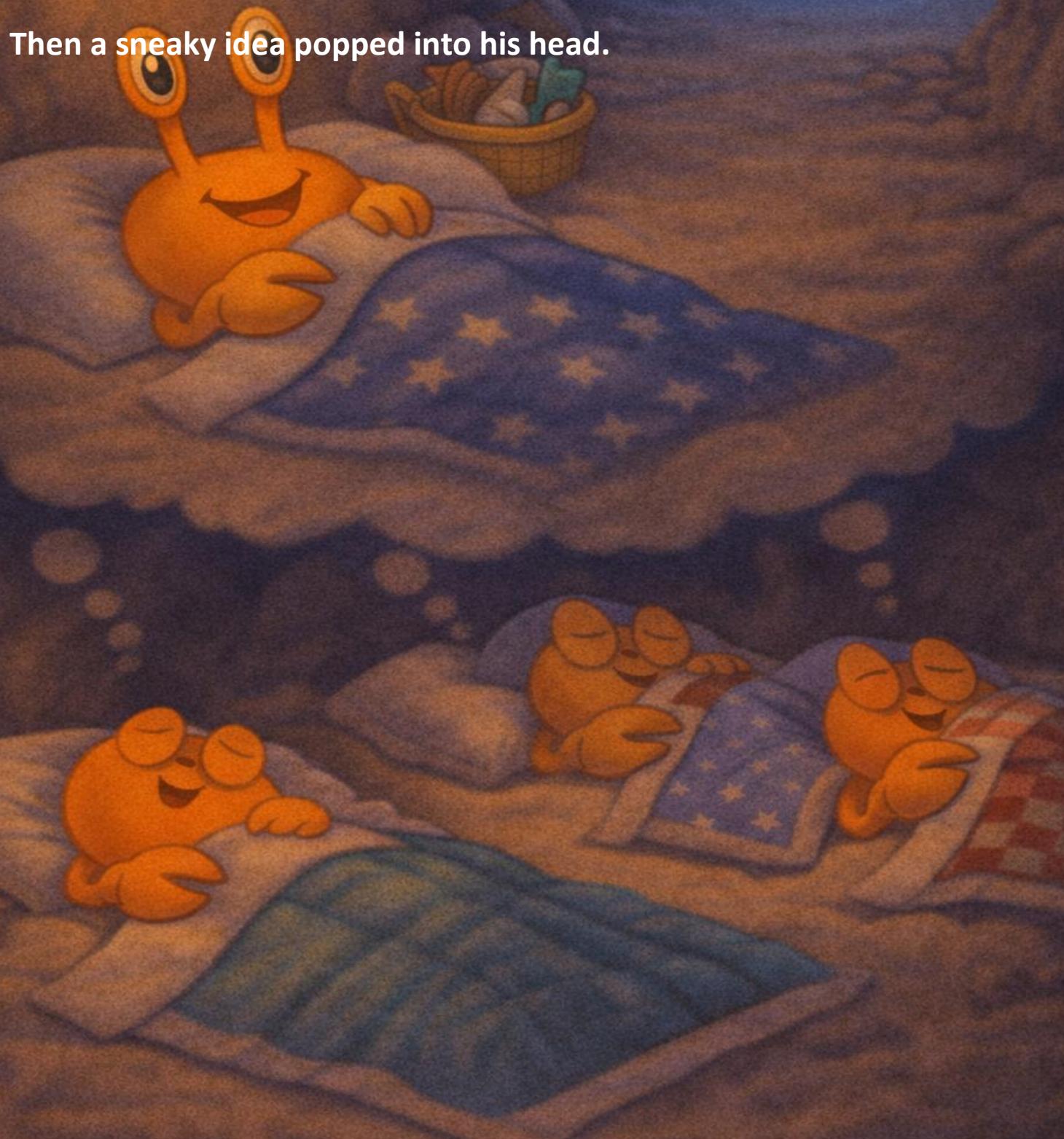


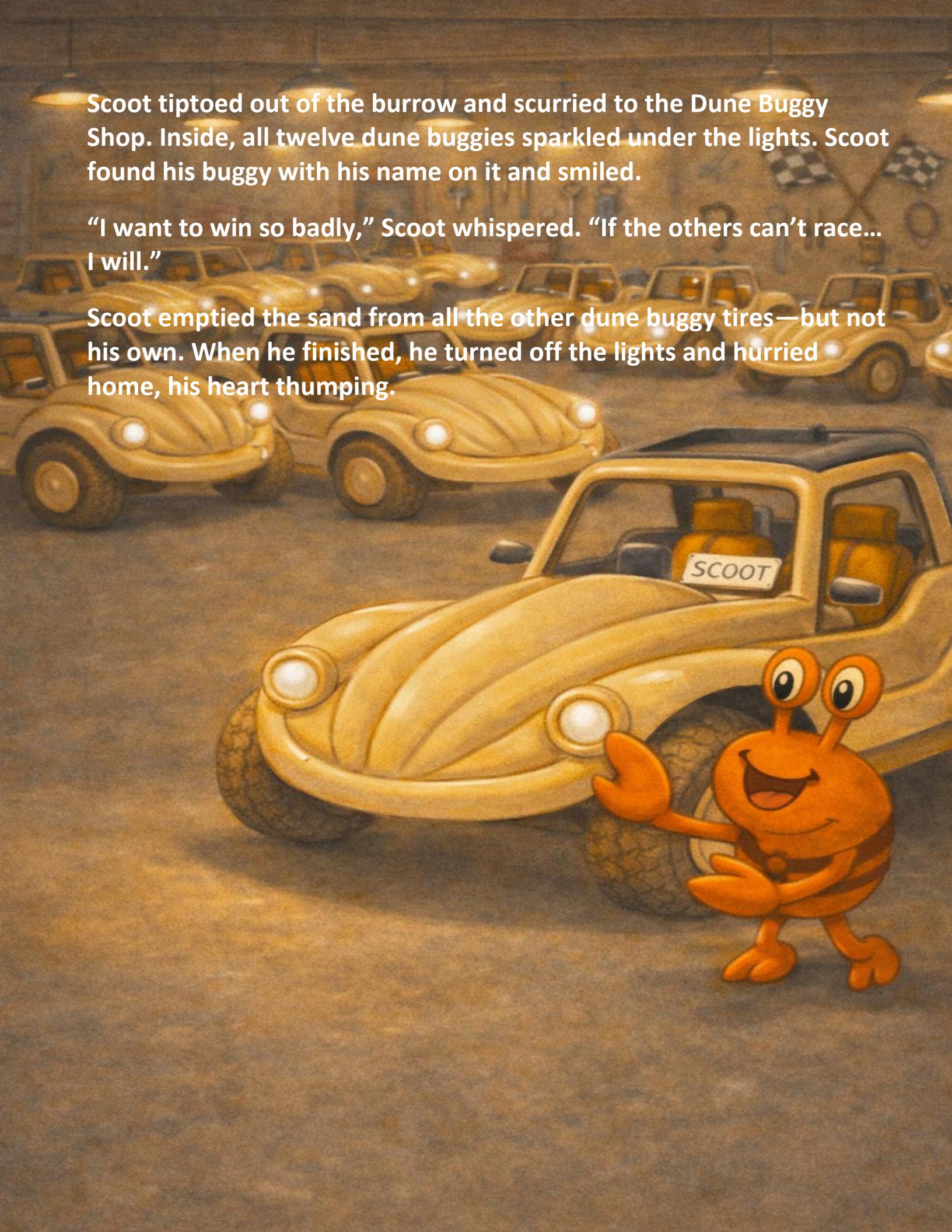
That night, after dinner, everyone in the Dunehopper burrow fell fast asleep.

Everyone except Scoot.

Scoot stared at the ceiling of his burrow, thinking about the race. *What if I don't win? he worried. What if I come in last?*

Then a sneaky idea popped into his head.





Scoot tiptoed out of the burrow and scurried to the Dune Buggy Shop. Inside, all twelve dune buggies sparkled under the lights. Scoot found his buggy with his name on it and smiled.

"I want to win so badly," Scoot whispered. "If the others can't race... I will."

Scoot emptied the sand from all the other dune buggy tires—but not his own. When he finished, he turned off the lights and hurried home, his heart thumping.



**The next morning, Scoot woke up to a beautiful sunrise.
“Today’s the day I win!” he cheered.**

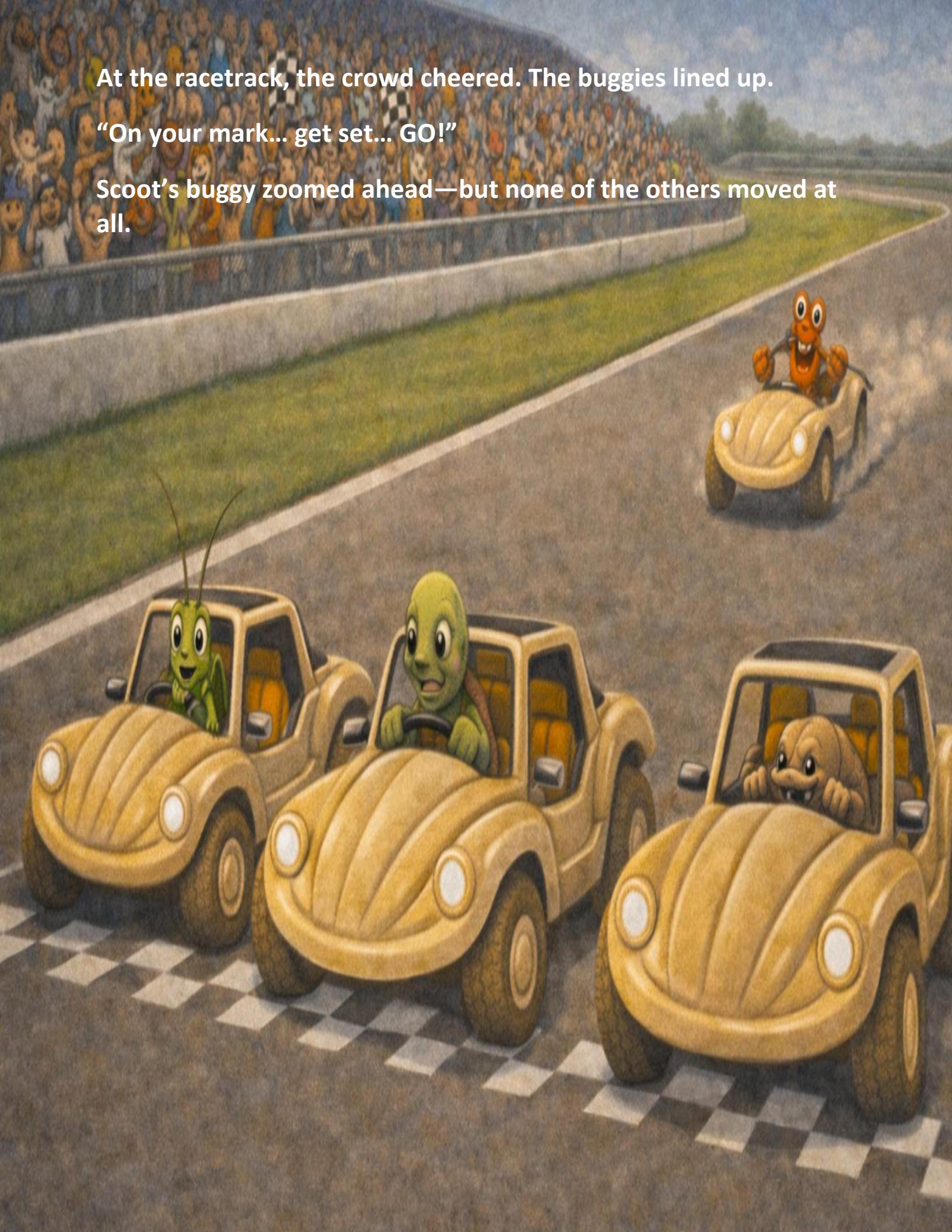
**Papa smiled kindly. “Whether you win or lose, Scoot,
remember—being fair matters most.”**



At the racetrack, the crowd cheered. The buggies lined up.

"On your mark... get set... GO!"

Scoot's buggy zoomed ahead—but none of the others moved at all.



Scoot crossed the finish line alone. He received a medal... and a brand-new sand dune. But instead of feeling proud, his tummy felt twisty.

FINISH

The Race Director frowned. "Something isn't right," he said.



That evening at dinner, Scoot barely touched his insect stew.

“Scoot,” Mama asked gently, “what’s wrong?”

Scoot took a deep breath. “I cheated,” he said softly. “I emptied the sand from the other buggies because I wanted to win.”

Papa and Mama looked at Scoot with serious but loving eyes.

“Scoot,” Papa said, “it’s time to learn an important lesson.”



Papa Dunehopper's Lesson

Papa rested a claw on Scoot's shoulder.

"Winning doesn't mean anything if you don't earn it honestly," he said gently.

"When you cheat, you might get a prize—but you lose something much more important."

Mama nodded. "You lose trust. You lose fairness. And you lose the chance to feel truly proud."

Papa added, "A real victory comes from trying your best, even when it's hard. Losing fairly is better than winning by cheating—because honesty helps your heart grow strong."

Scoot nodded, his eyes watery.

"I understand," he said. "Next time, I'll race the right way."

"And that," Papa smiled, "is how a good crab grows."



Did You Know?

The Outer Banks are made of sand that is always moving! Wind, waves, and storms push sand around to create dunes. These dunes protect animals, plants, and even people by blocking strong winds and ocean waves.

That's why being careful—and fair—really matters. Just like Scoot learned, when someone takes shortcuts or breaks the rules, it can cause problems for everyone else. In nature and in life, things work best when everyone does their part honestly.

Real winners don't just race fast—they race fair. Trying your best, following the rules, and caring about others helps both hearts *and* habitats grow strong.