



Surfboards, Stick Ball, and Second Chances

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.

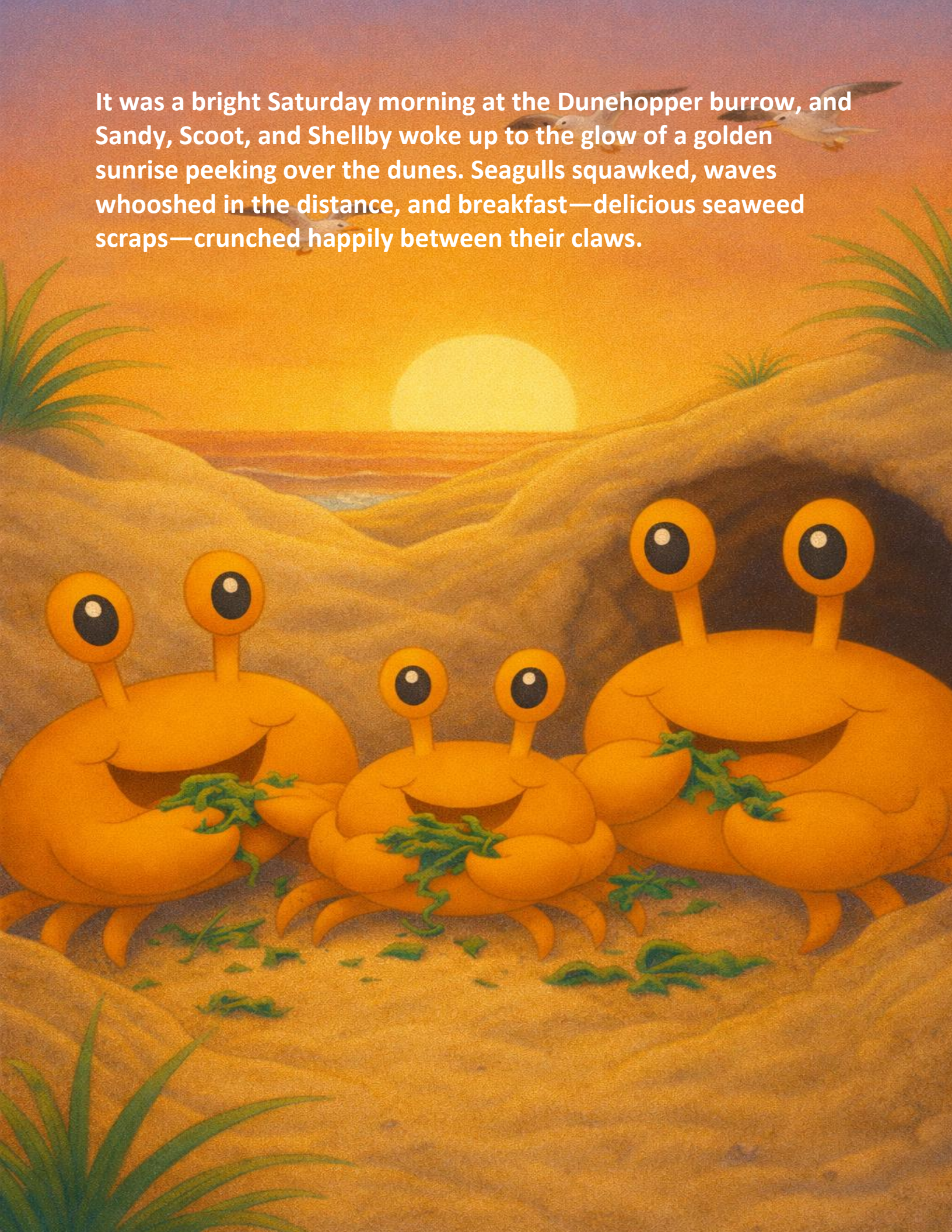
We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

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.



It was a bright Saturday morning at the Dunehopper burrow, and Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby woke up to the glow of a golden sunrise peeking over the dunes. Seagulls squawked, waves whooshed in the distance, and breakfast—delicious seaweed scraps—crunched happily between their claws.

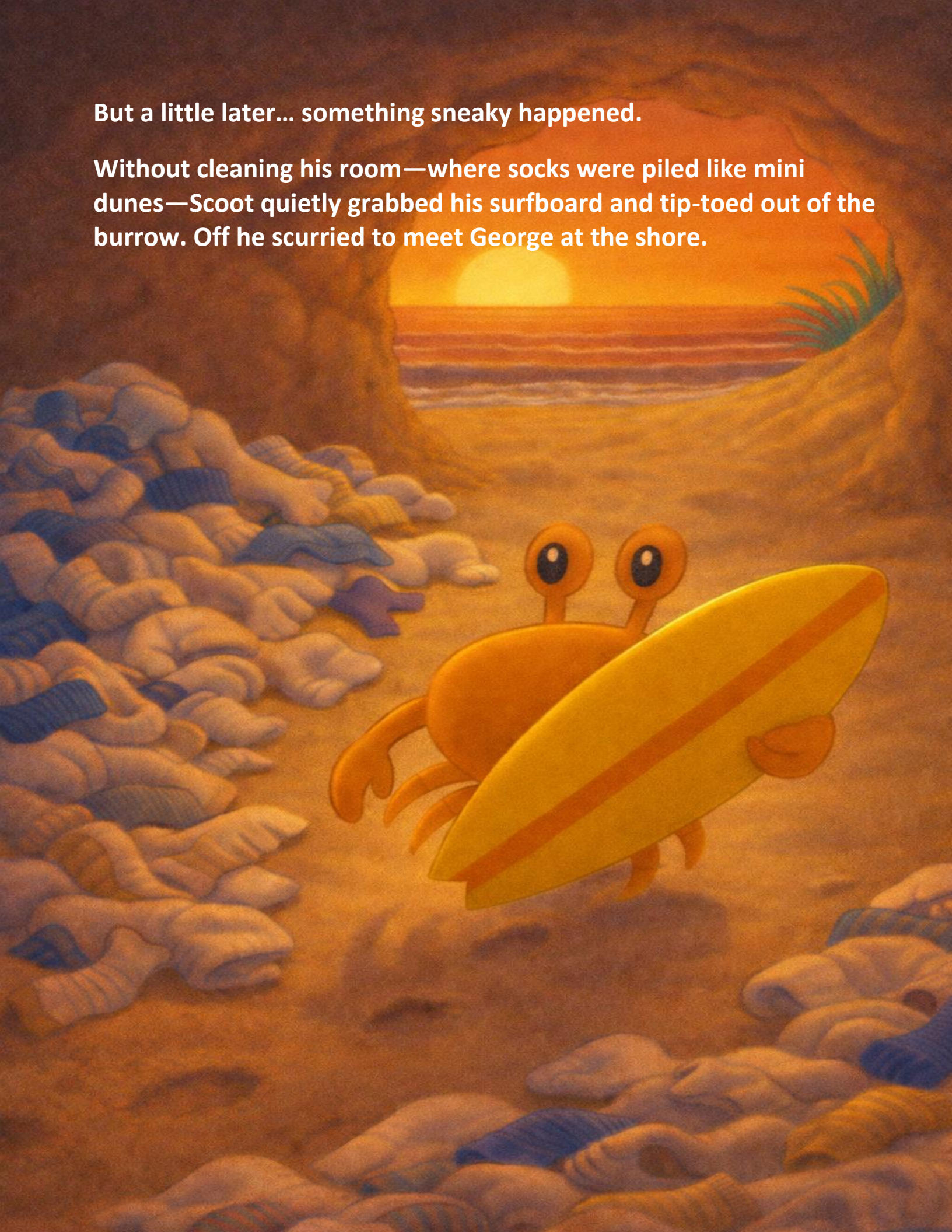


As soon as Scoot finished his last bite, he bounced up and announced, "Today is a *perfect* surfing day! George and I are heading to the waves. The wind is just right, and I plan to surf like a flying sand flea!"



But a little later... something sneaky happened.

Without cleaning his room—where socks were piled like mini dunes—Scoot quietly grabbed his surfboard and tip-toed out of the burrow. Off he scurried to meet George at the shore.



At the same time, Sandy and Shellby slipped away to the beach to play stick ball with their friends Luna and Milo. Sandy was supposed to help Mama with laundry, and Shellby was planning to help Papa dig a new burrow for their neighbors—but the game looked *way* too fun to miss.



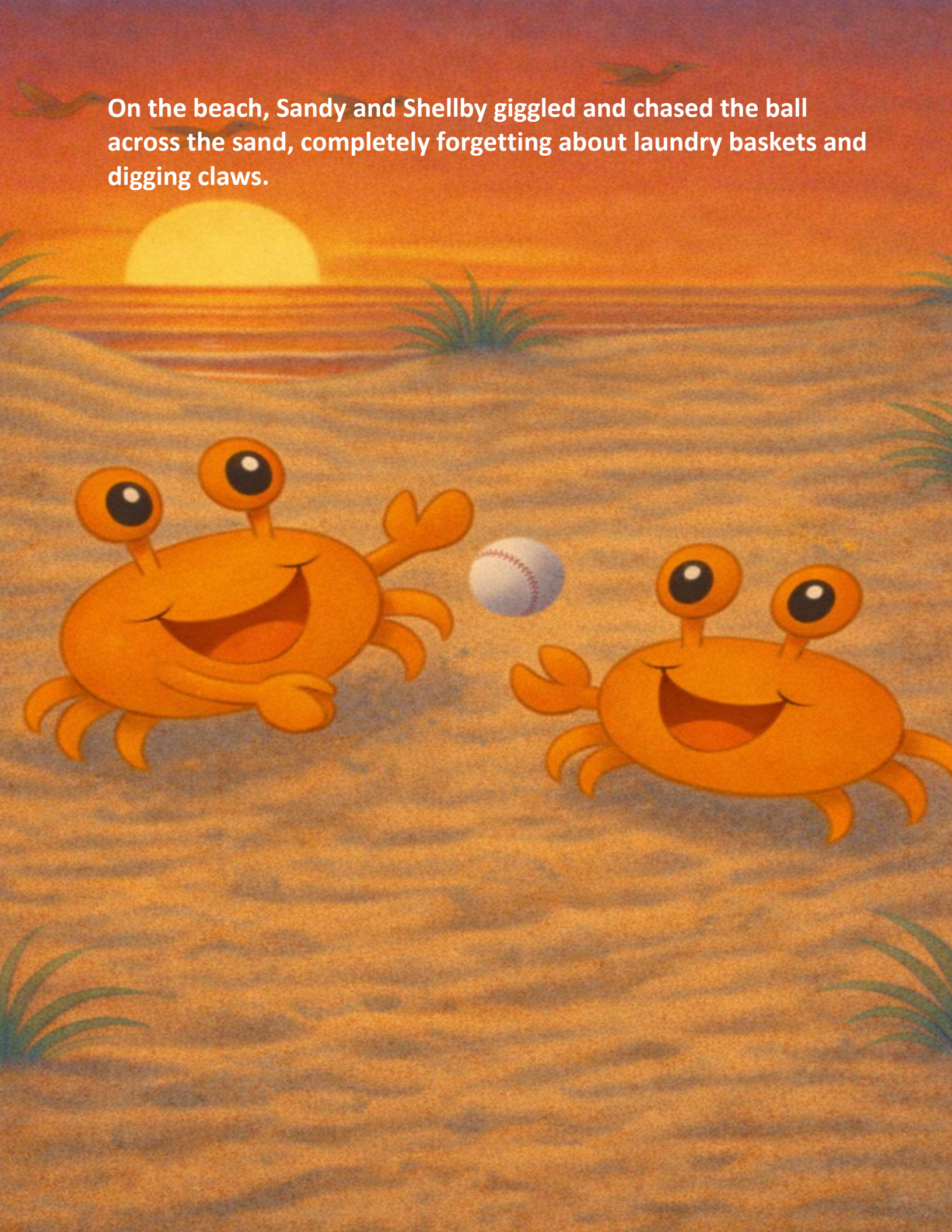
Down by the water, Scoot and George whooped with joy as they rode the rolling waves.

"This is amazing!" George laughed.

Scoot grinned and said, "I'm supposed to be cleaning my room right now...but I snuck out."



On the beach, Sandy and Shellby giggled and chased the ball across the sand, completely forgetting about laundry baskets and digging claws.



After a long, sandy, splashy day, the three crabs returned home—sun-tired and smiling—only to see Mama waiting at the burrow entrance. Her smile was gone.

“I’m disappointed,” Mama said softly. “You told me you would do your chores before playing, but you didn’t.”



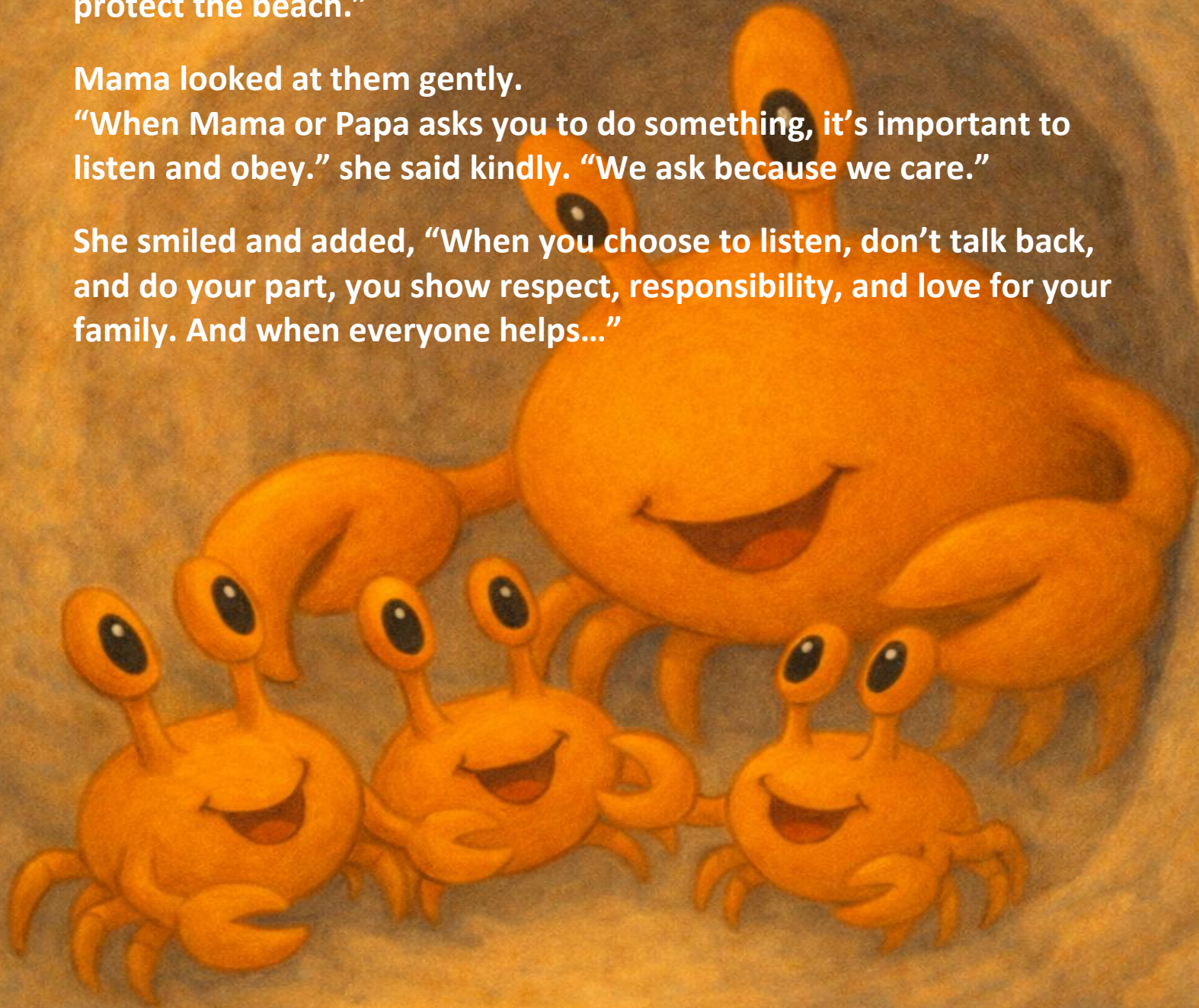
She gathered Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby close and spoke in a calm, caring voice.

“Everyone in our burrow has an important job. When chores are done, our home stays safe, clean, and healthy—just like the dunes protect the beach.”

Mama looked at them gently.

“When Mama or Papa asks you to do something, it’s important to listen and obey.” she said kindly. “We ask because we care.”

She smiled and added, “When you choose to listen, don’t talk back, and do your part, you show respect, responsibility, and love for your family. And when everyone helps...”

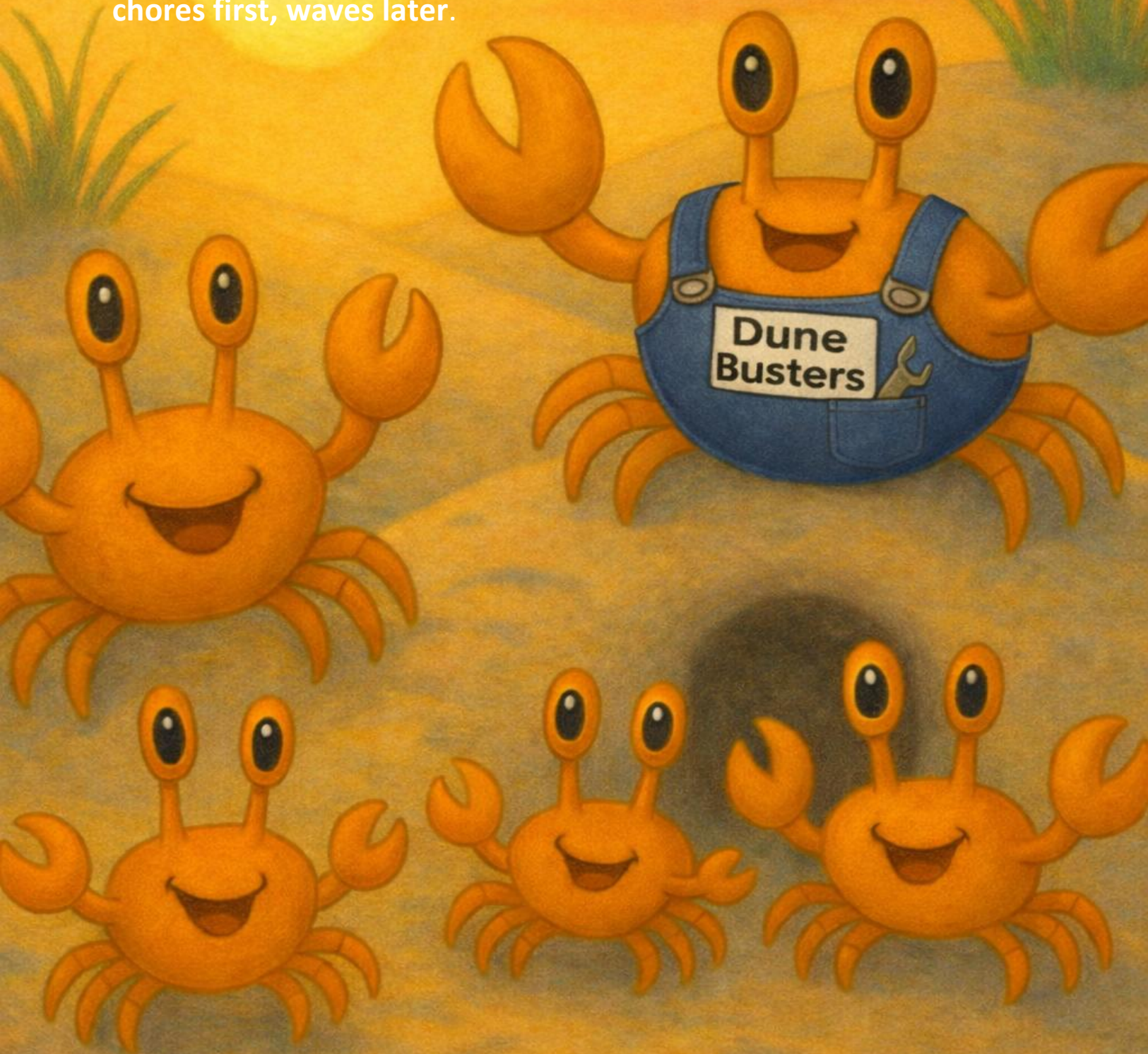


"The burrow stays cozy," Papa finished with a grin.

"Trust grows stronger," Mama said.

"And there's *even more* time for fun together," Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby said at once.

The three crabs nodded, knowing tomorrow they'd do better—chores first, waves later.



Did You Know?

Did you know that listening and obeying helps keep families—and nature—strong and safe?

Just like Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby learned, when everyone does their part, the burrow stays cozy and happy. In the real world, animals (and people!) rely on teamwork too. Ghost crabs help keep beaches healthy by cleaning up tiny leftovers, and dunes protect the shore from storms—but only when they're cared for properly.

When you listen to your parents, teachers, or helpers, you're learning how to be responsible, respectful, and kind. And just like on the beach, chores done first mean more time later for fun, play, and adventure!

