

Percy the Pelican Learns to be Safe

A Coastal Rescue Story for Children



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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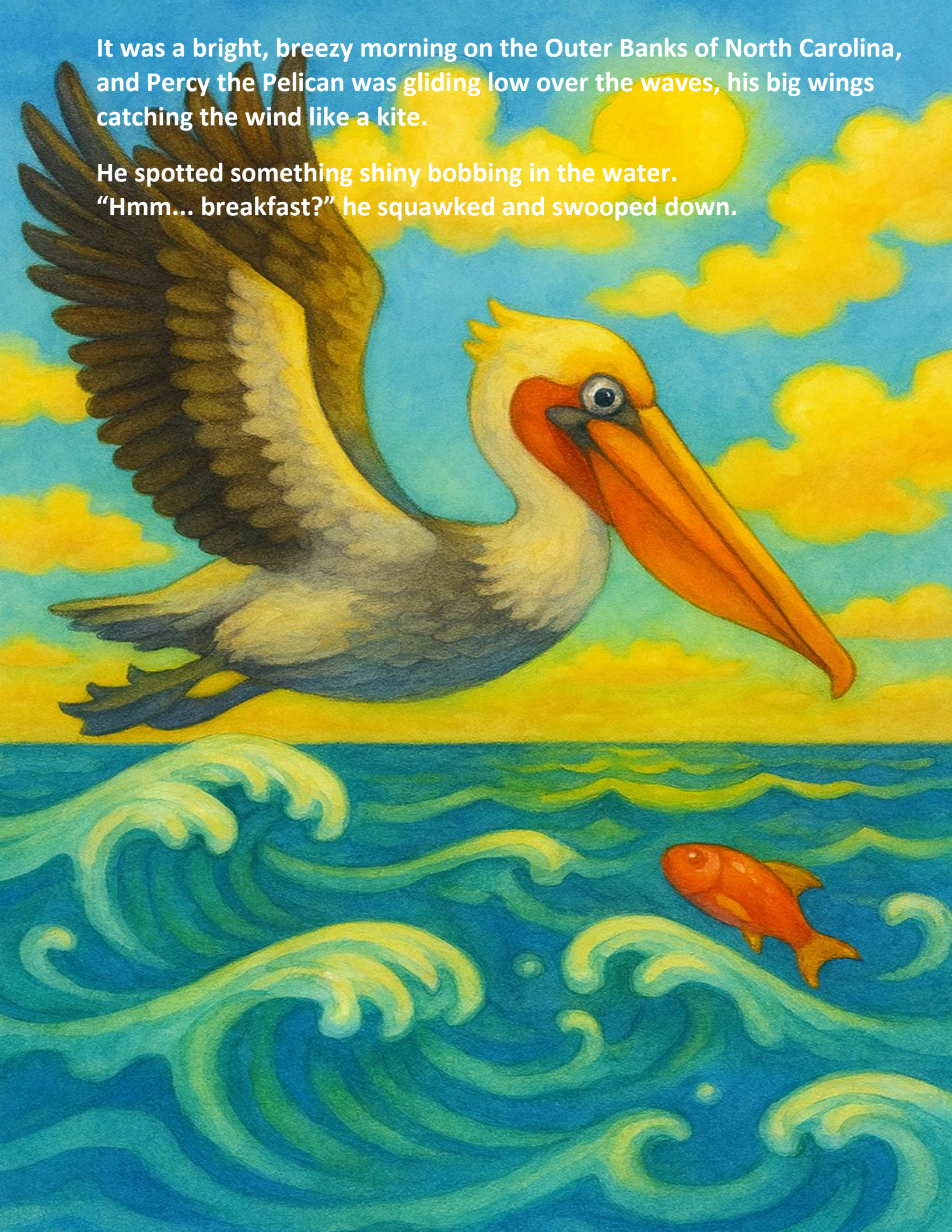
To learn more, access additional resources at: www.theobcc.org.



It was a bright, breezy morning on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and Percy the Pelican was gliding low over the waves, his big wings catching the wind like a kite.

He spotted something shiny bobbing in the water.

"Hmm... breakfast?" he squawked and swooped down.

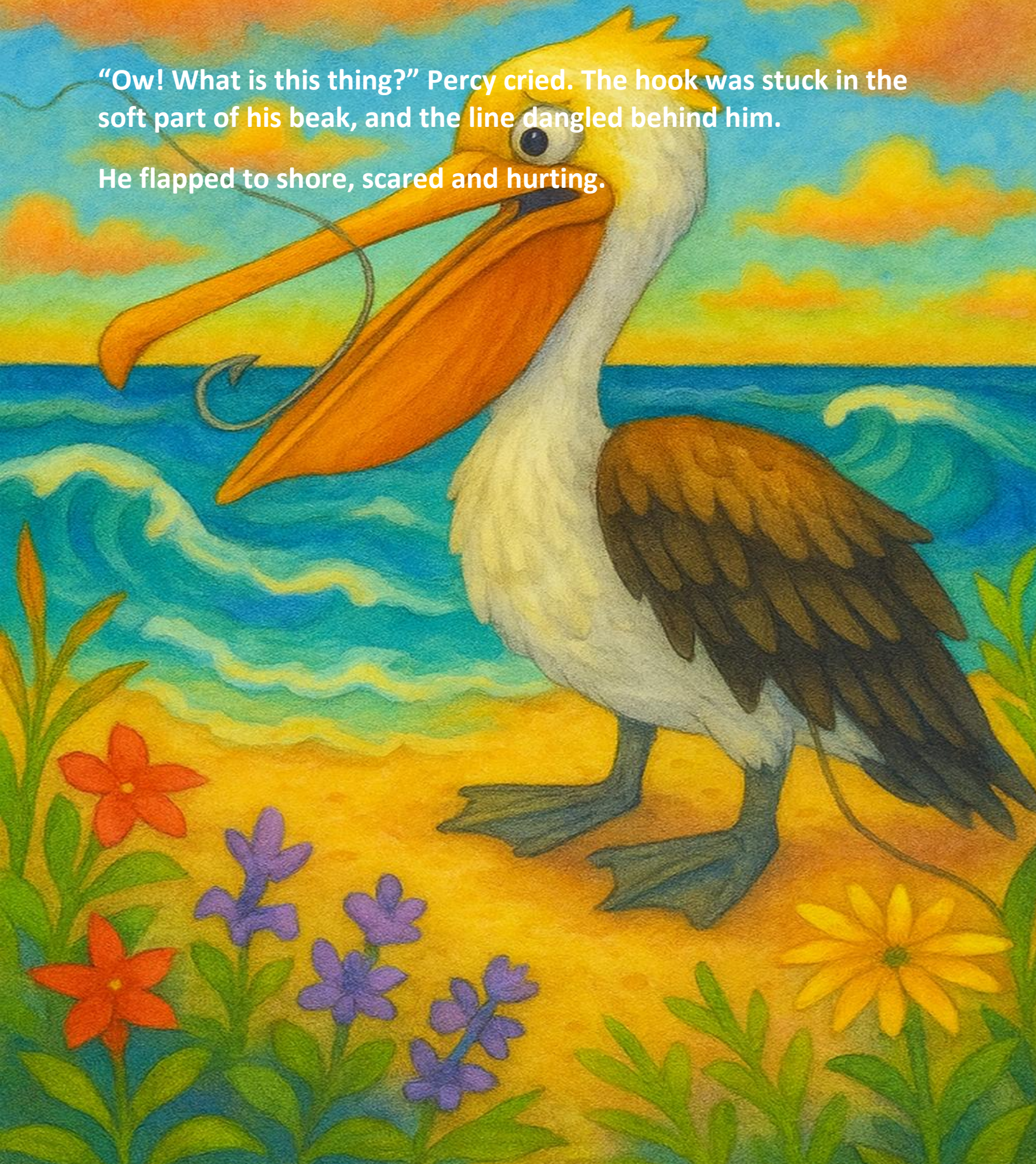


Snap!

Instead of a tasty fish, Percy had accidentally snapped up a fishing line—with a hook still attached!

“Ow! What is this thing?” Percy cried. The hook was stuck in the soft part of his beak, and the line dangled behind him.

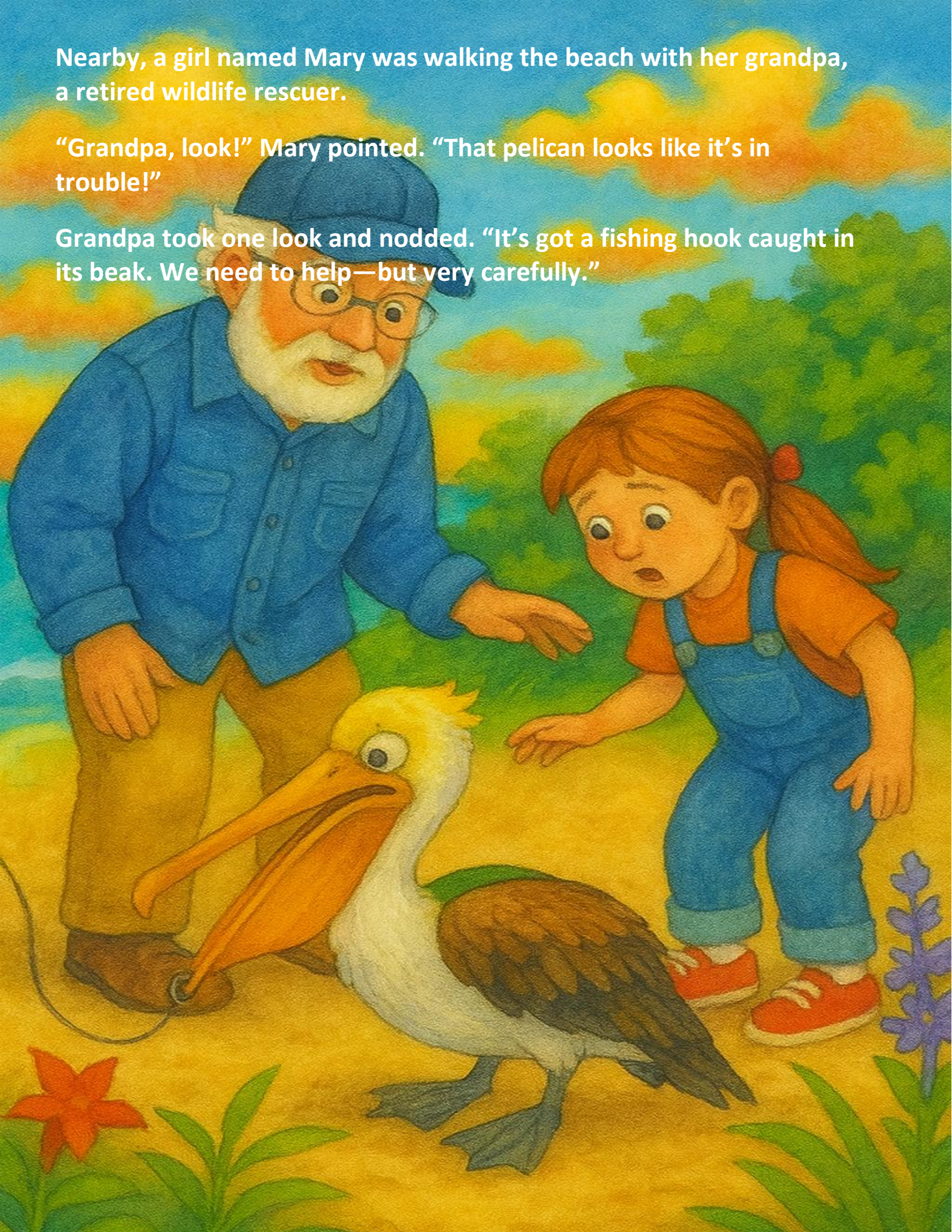
He flapped to shore, scared and hurting.



Nearby, a girl named Mary was walking the beach with her grandpa, a retired wildlife rescuer.

“Grandpa, look!” Mary pointed. “That pelican looks like it’s in trouble!”

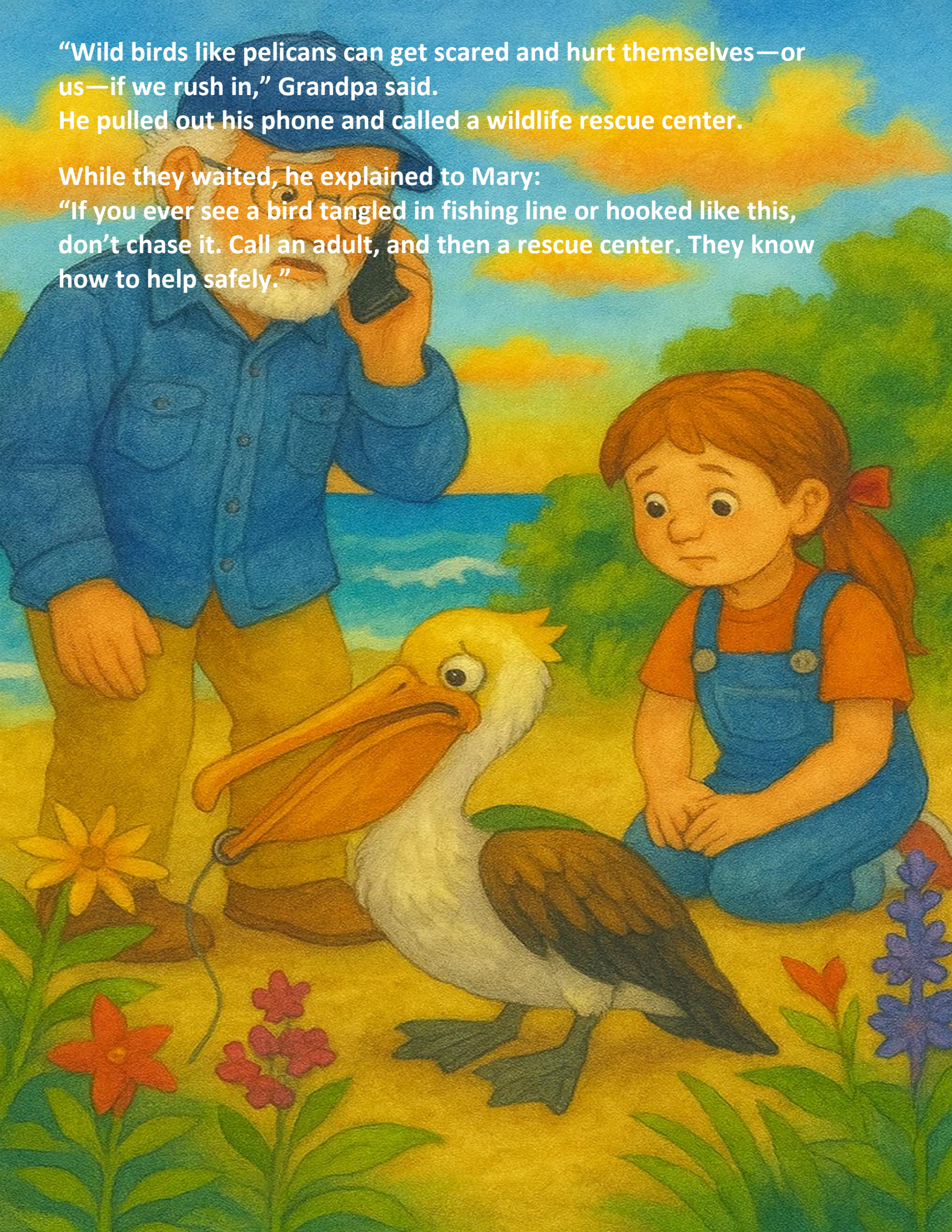
Grandpa took one look and nodded. “It’s got a fishing hook caught in its beak. We need to help—but very carefully.”



“Wild birds like pelicans can get scared and hurt themselves—or us—if we rush in,” Grandpa said. He pulled out his phone and called a wildlife rescue center.

While they waited, he explained to Mary:

“If you ever see a bird tangled in fishing line or hooked like this, don’t chase it. Call an adult, and then a rescue center. They know how to help safely.”



Soon, a rescuer named Jamie arrived with gloves, a towel, and a special pelican-safe net.

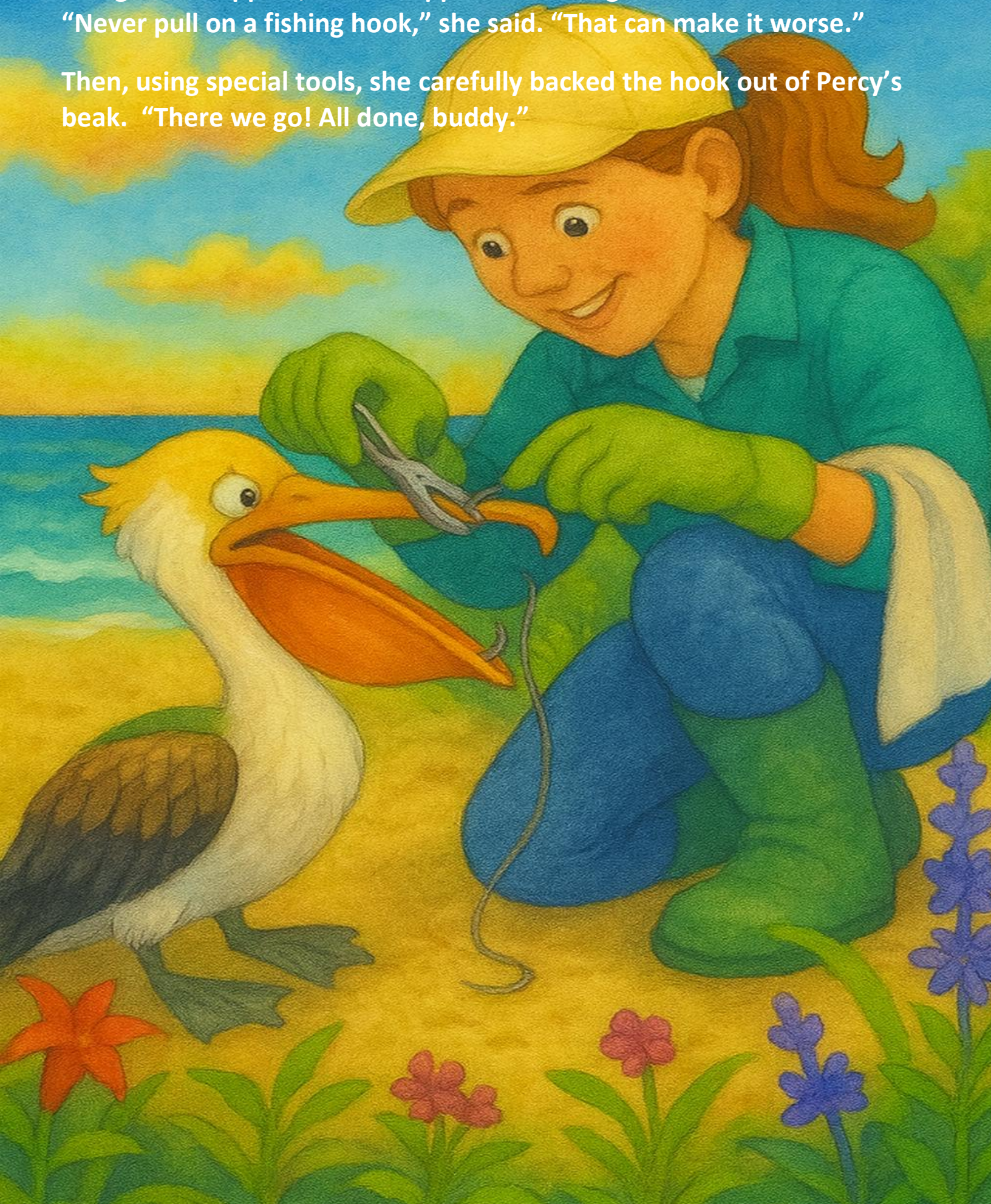
She moved slowly and spoke softly:
“Easy there, Percy. We’re going to help you.”



Using small clippers, Jamie snipped the fishing line first.

"Never pull on a fishing hook," she said. "That can make it worse."

Then, using special tools, she carefully backed the hook out of Percy's beak. "There we go! All done, buddy."



Percy blinked his big eyes, stretched his wings, and with a whoosh—he took off into the sky!

“Thank you!” he squawked, circling above them.

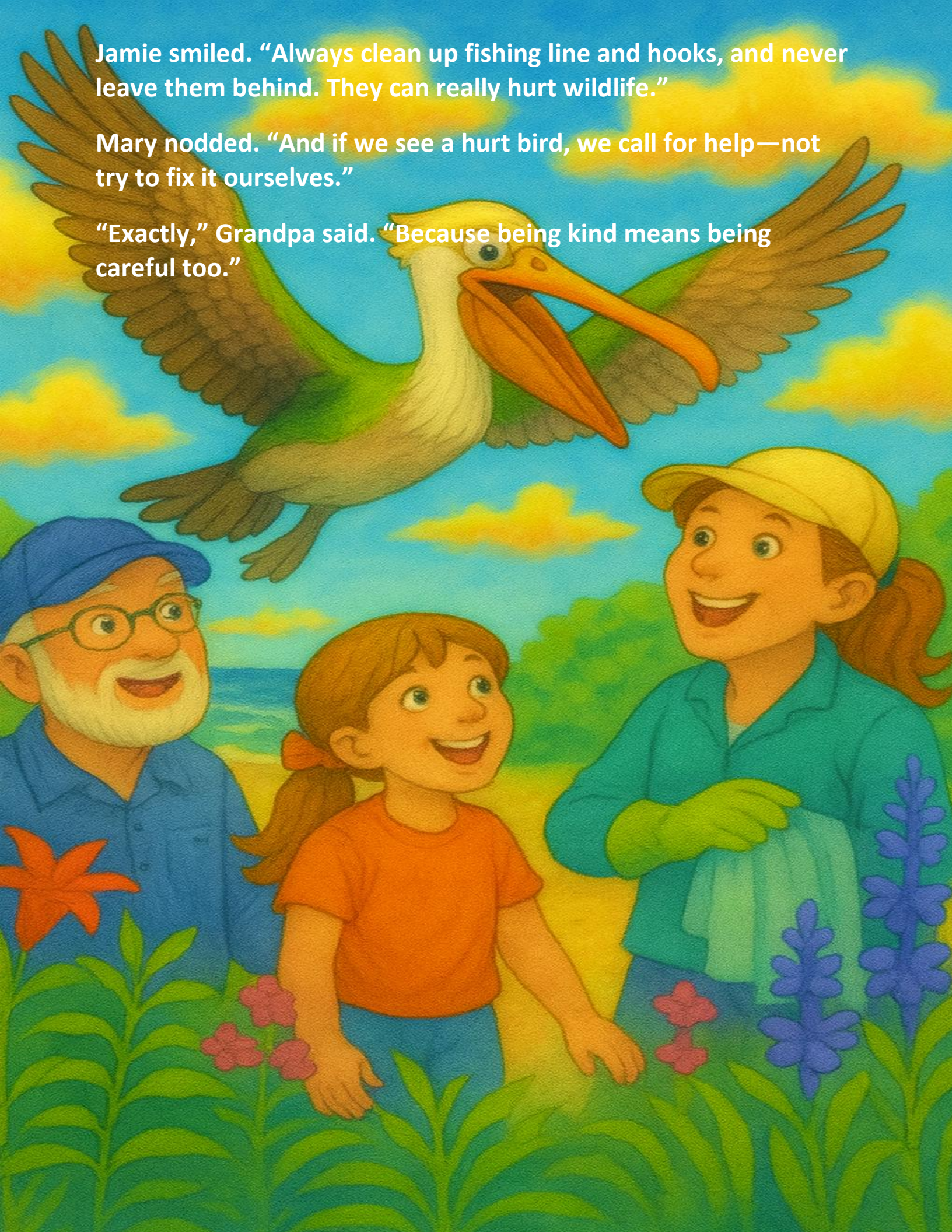
Mary beamed. “That was amazing!”



Jamie smiled. "Always clean up fishing line and hooks, and never leave them behind. They can really hurt wildlife."

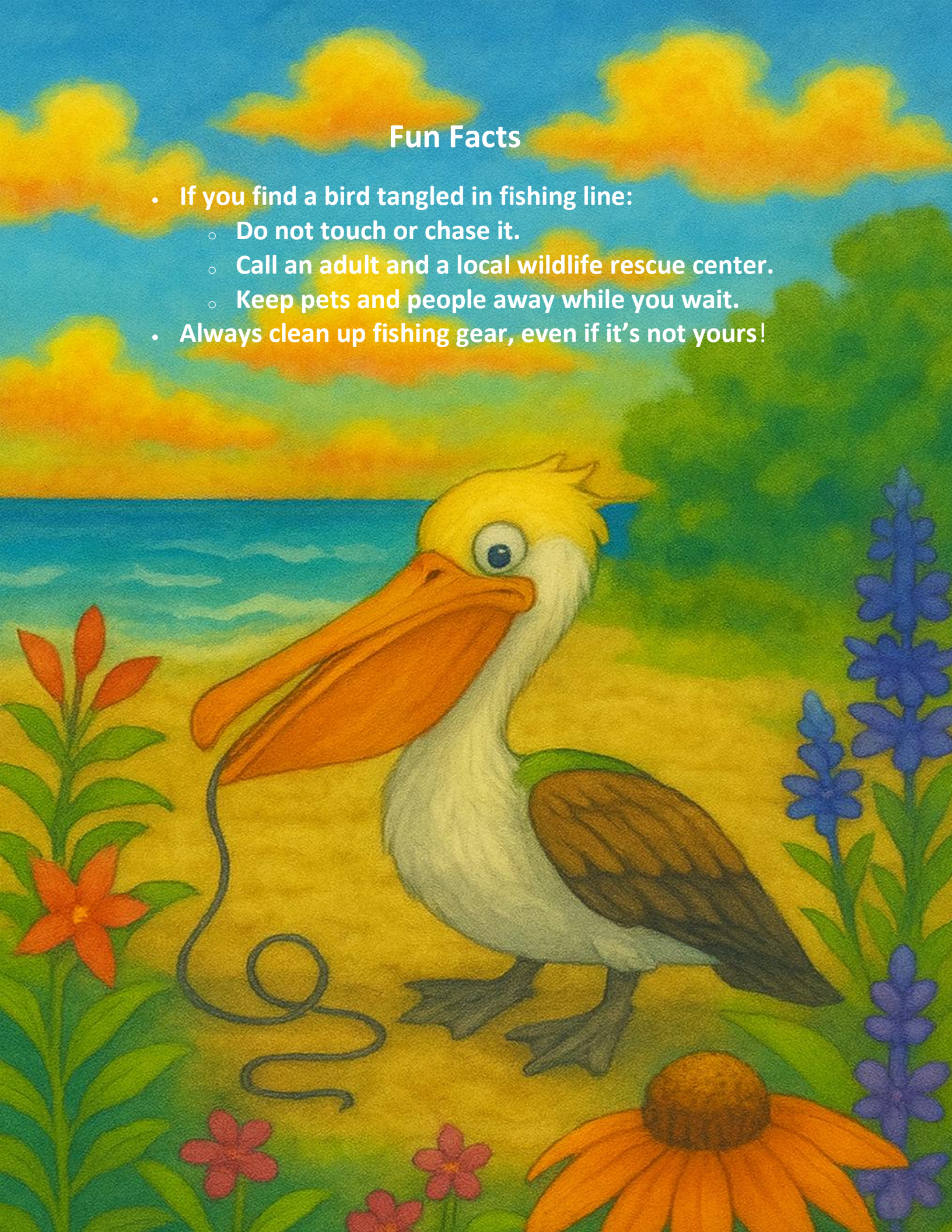
Mary nodded. "And if we see a hurt bird, we call for help—not try to fix it ourselves."

"Exactly," Grandpa said. "Because being kind means being careful too."



Fun Facts

- If you find a bird tangled in fishing line:
 - Do not touch or chase it.
 - Call an adult and a local wildlife rescue center.
 - Keep pets and people away while you wait.
- Always clean up fishing gear, even if it's not yours!



References

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