

# Scoot Dunehopper and the Eco-Kite Contest



Outer Banks, North Carolina

## Forward

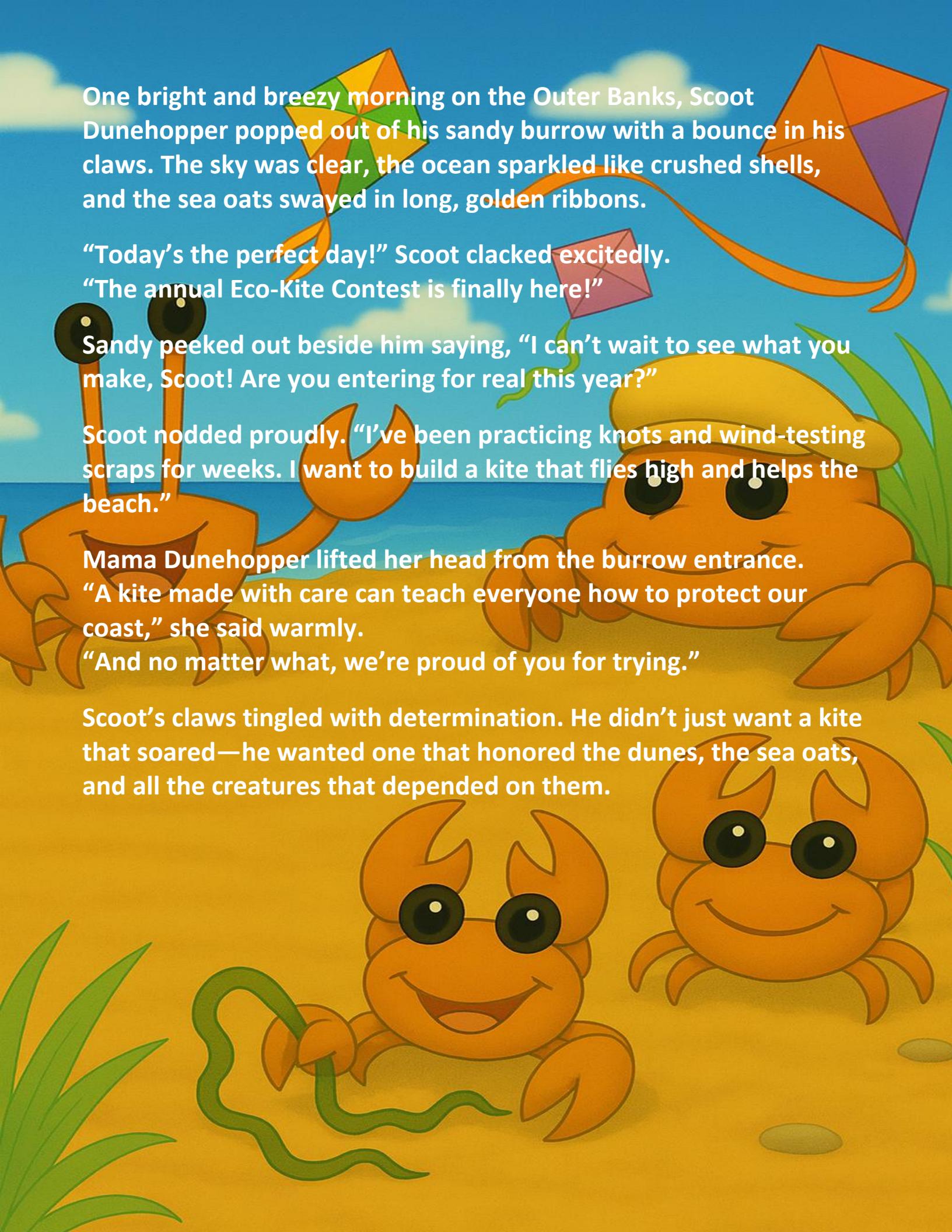
This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

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](http://www.theobcc.org).





One bright and breezy morning on the Outer Banks, Scoot Dunehopper popped out of his sandy burrow with a bounce in his claws. The sky was clear, the ocean sparkled like crushed shells, and the sea oats swayed in long, golden ribbons.

“Today’s the perfect day!” Scoot clacked excitedly.  
“The annual Eco-Kite Contest is finally here!”

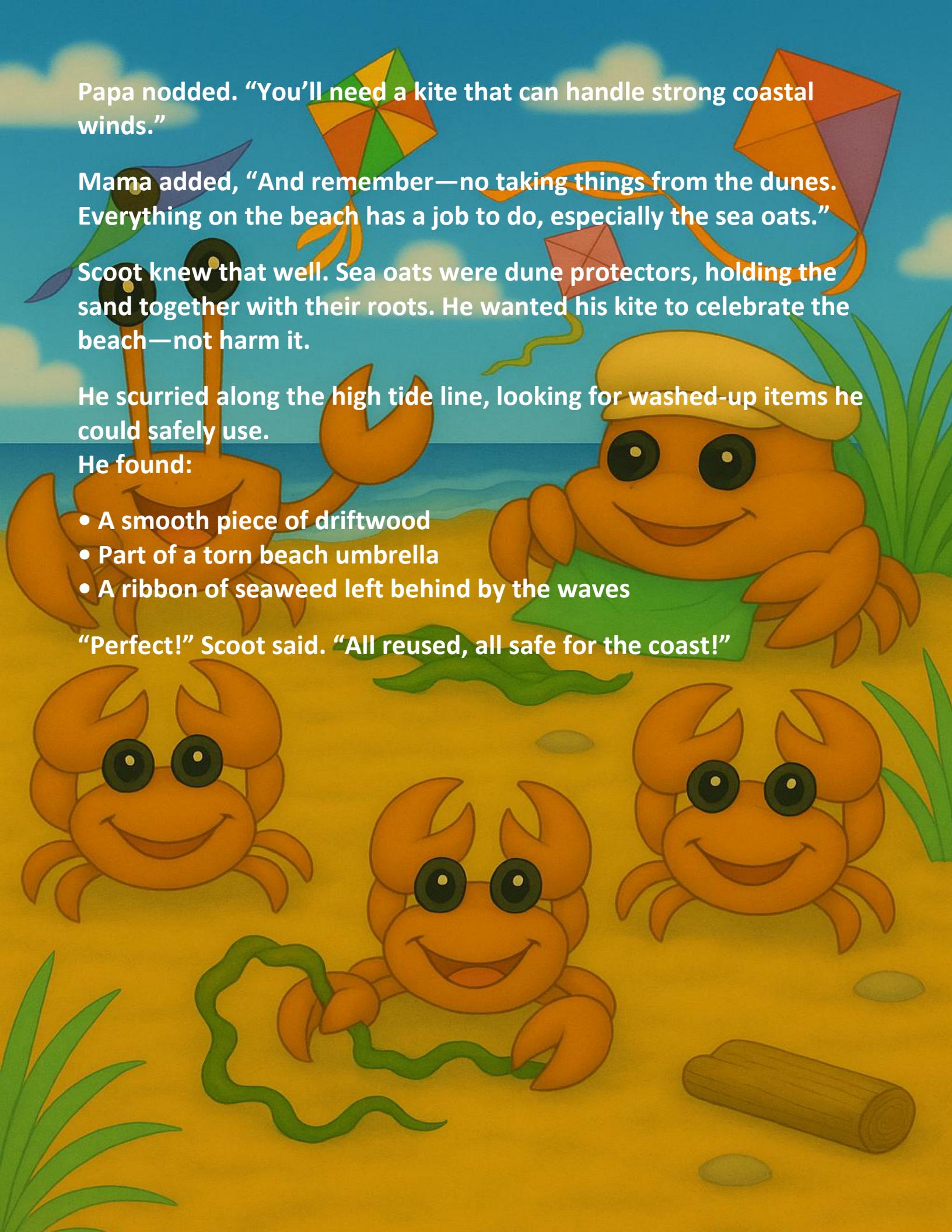
Sandy peeked out beside him saying, “I can’t wait to see what you make, Scoot! Are you entering for real this year?”

Scoot nodded proudly. “I’ve been practicing knots and wind-testing scraps for weeks. I want to build a kite that flies high and helps the beach.”

Mama Dunehopper lifted her head from the burrow entrance.  
“A kite made with care can teach everyone how to protect our coast,” she said warmly.

“And no matter what, we’re proud of you for trying.”

Scoot’s claws tingled with determination. He didn’t just want a kite that soared—he wanted one that honored the dunes, the sea oats, and all the creatures that depended on them.



Papa nodded. "You'll need a kite that can handle strong coastal winds."

Mama added, "And remember—no taking things from the dunes. Everything on the beach has a job to do, especially the sea oats."

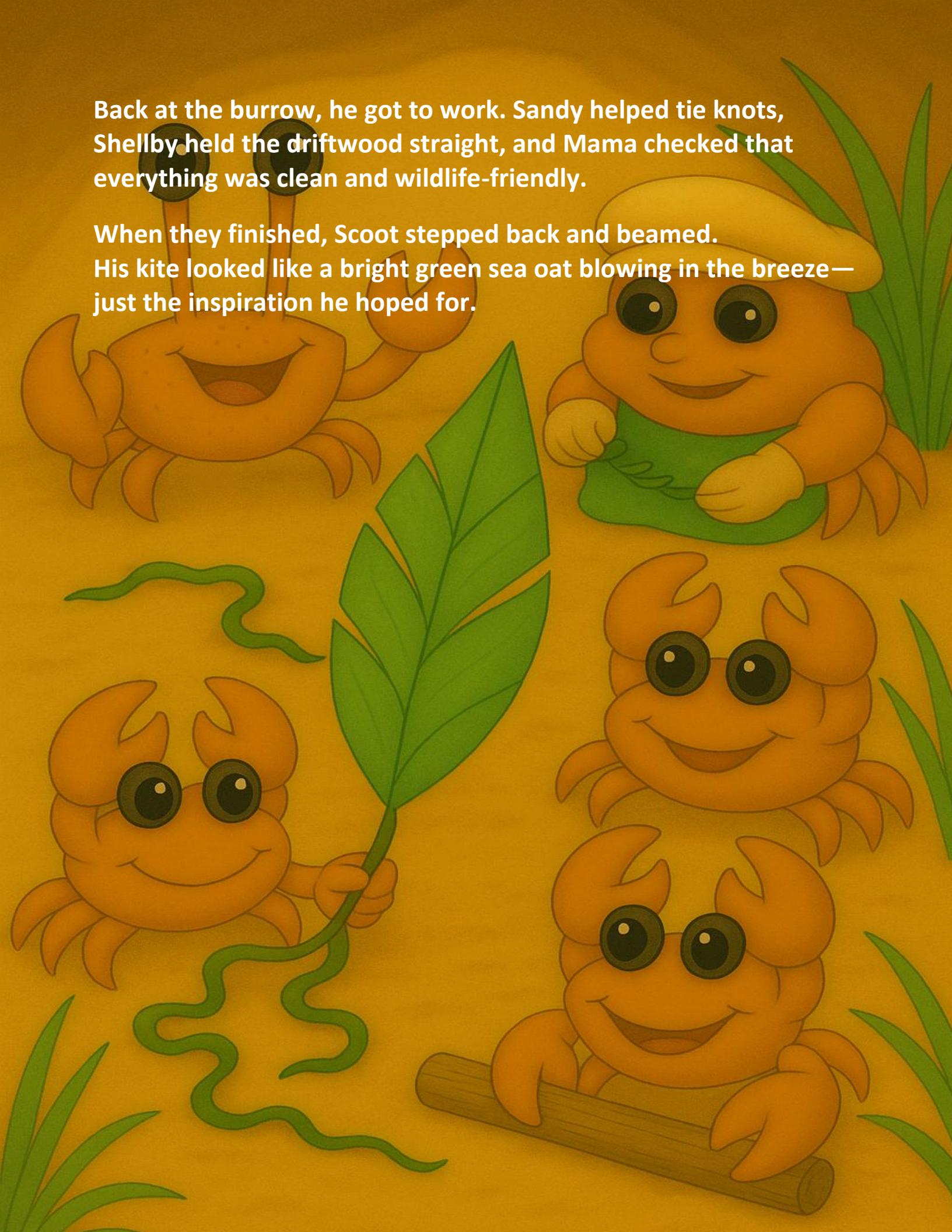
Scoot knew that well. Sea oats were dune protectors, holding the sand together with their roots. He wanted his kite to celebrate the beach—not harm it.

He scurried along the high tide line, looking for washed-up items he could safely use.

He found:

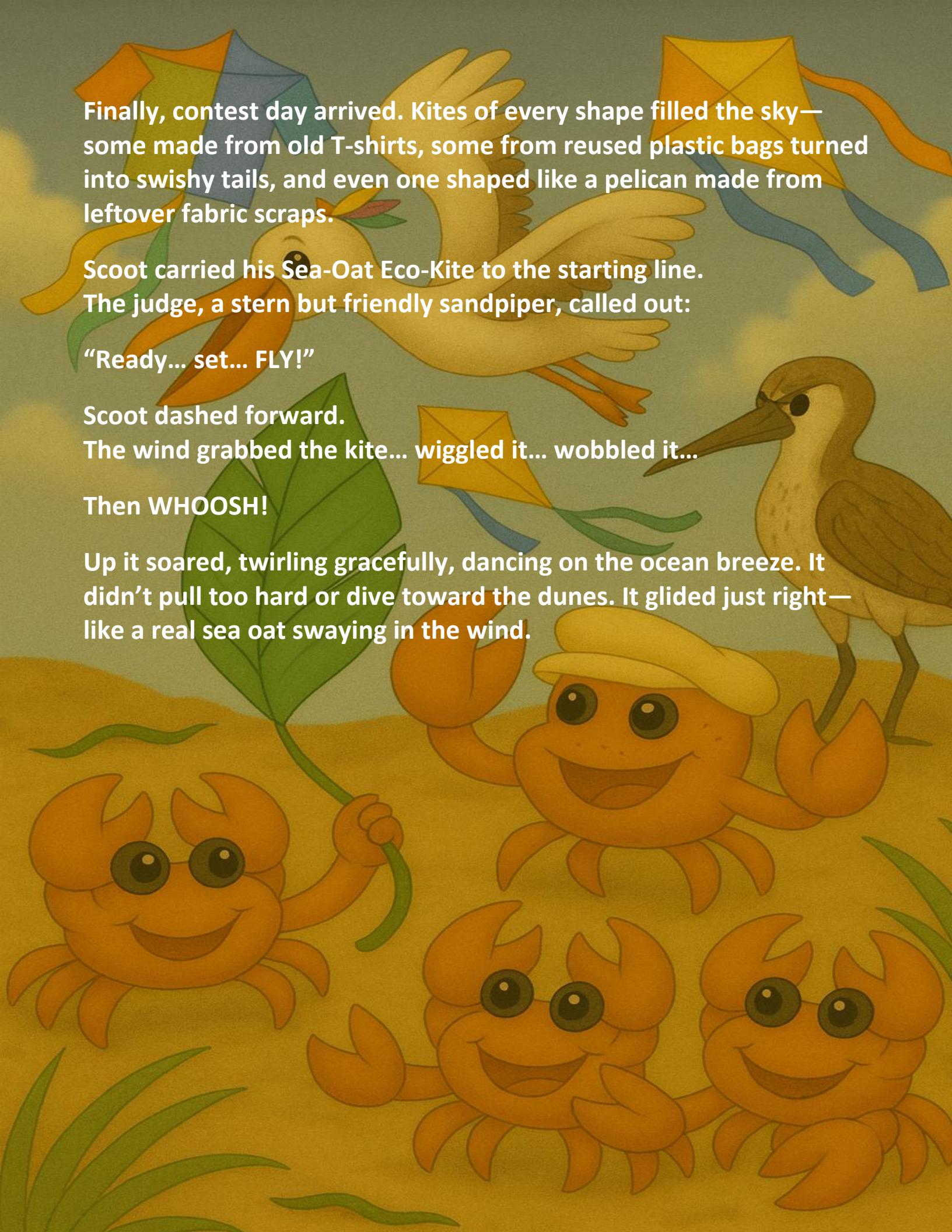
- A smooth piece of driftwood
- Part of a torn beach umbrella
- A ribbon of seaweed left behind by the waves

"Perfect!" Scoot said. "All reused, all safe for the coast!"



Back at the burrow, he got to work. Sandy helped tie knots,  
Shellby held the driftwood straight, and Mama checked that  
everything was clean and wildlife-friendly.

When they finished, Scoot stepped back and beamed.  
His kite looked like a bright green sea oat blowing in the breeze—  
just the inspiration he hoped for.



Finally, contest day arrived. Kites of every shape filled the sky—some made from old T-shirts, some from reused plastic bags turned into swishy tails, and even one shaped like a pelican made from leftover fabric scraps.

Scoot carried his Sea-Oat Eco-Kite to the starting line. The judge, a stern but friendly sandpiper, called out:

“Ready... set... FLY!”

Scoot dashed forward.

The wind grabbed the kite... wiggled it... wobbled it...

Then WHOOSH!

Up it soared, twirling gracefully, dancing on the ocean breeze. It didn’t pull too hard or dive toward the dunes. It glided just right—like a real sea oat swaying in the wind.



The crowd cheered. Even the sea oats seemed to rustle proudly.

After all the kites came in, the sandpiper puffed up her feathers and announced:

“For creativity, skill, and *excellent beach stewardship*... first place goes to Scoot Dunehopper!”

Scoot froze.

Then he clacked with joy so loudly that even the gulls squawked in surprise.

Mama hugged him close. “You didn’t just fly a kite—you showed everyone how to protect our coast.”

Papa added, “When we reuse materials, clean our beaches, and care for the dunes, the whole shore becomes stronger.”

Scoot held his tiny trophy high.

“I wanted to build something fun,” he said, “but I also wanted to help the beach stay healthy.”

The wind lifted his kite once more, sending it fluttering above the dunes like a green ribbon of hope.

And Scoot knew something important:

He wasn’t just a kite flyer—  
He was a Coastal Caretaker, too.

# REUSE MATERIALS

## Did You Know?

Ghost crabs—and kids—can be Coastal Caretakers, too!

Staying off the dunes protects sea oats, whose strong roots keep the beach from washing away during storms. Even small footprints can weaken them!

Reusing materials—like driftwood, scraps, or old fabric—helps reduce trash and inspires creativity, just like Scoot's amazing eco-kite made from safe, washed-up items.

Cleaning up trash keeps wildlife safe. Crabs, turtles, birds, and fish can mistake litter for food or become tangled in it. Every wrapper you pick up helps the whole beach stay healthy!

When everyone works together, the coast becomes stronger, cleaner, and happier—for animals *and* people!

# STAY OFF THE DUNES

# CLEAN UP TRASH