

The Fishing line Tangle

A Dunehopper Safety Story



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Forward

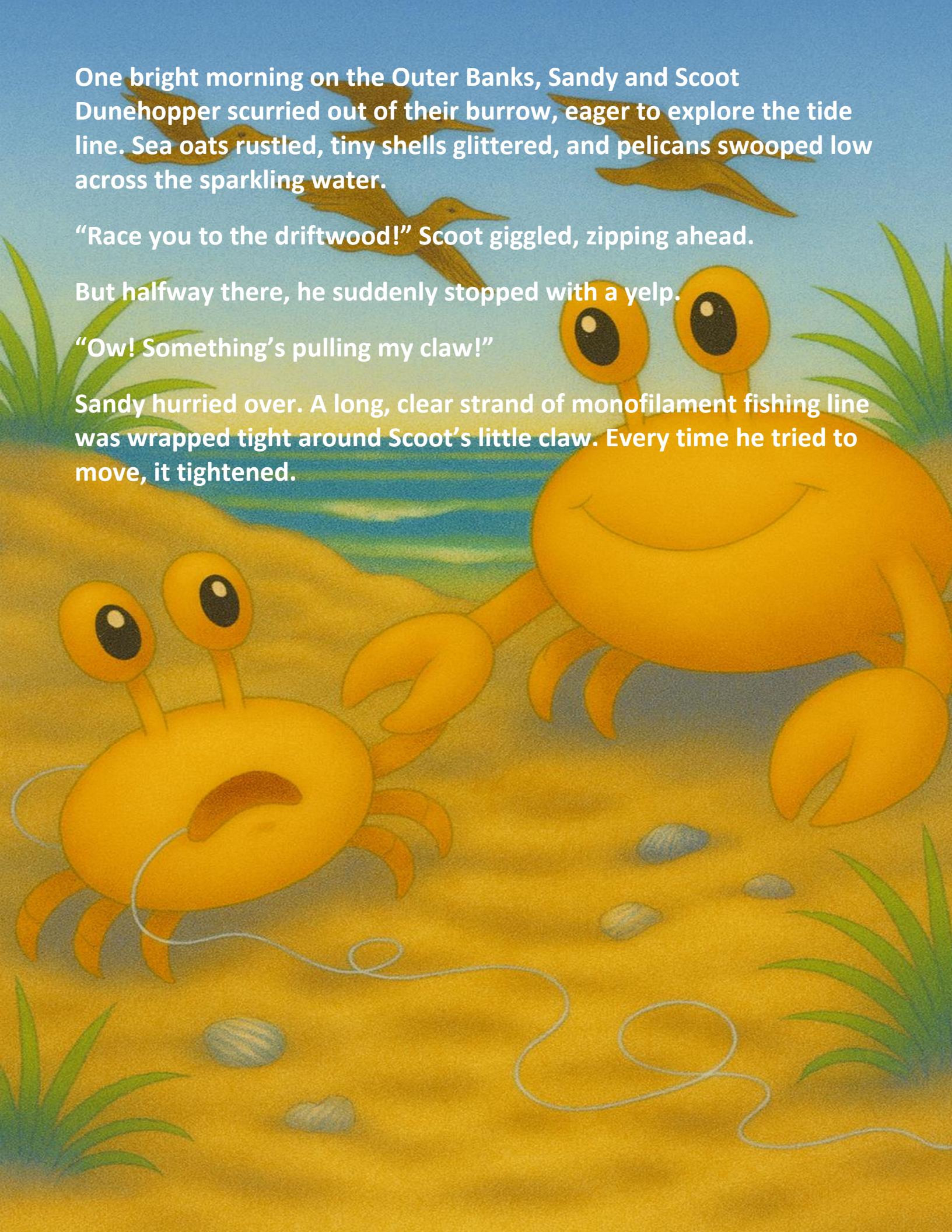
This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

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.





One bright morning on the Outer Banks, Sandy and Scoot Dunehopper scurried out of their burrow, eager to explore the tide line. Sea oats rustled, tiny shells glittered, and pelicans swooped low across the sparkling water.

“Race you to the driftwood!” Scoot giggled, zipping ahead.

But halfway there, he suddenly stopped with a yelp.

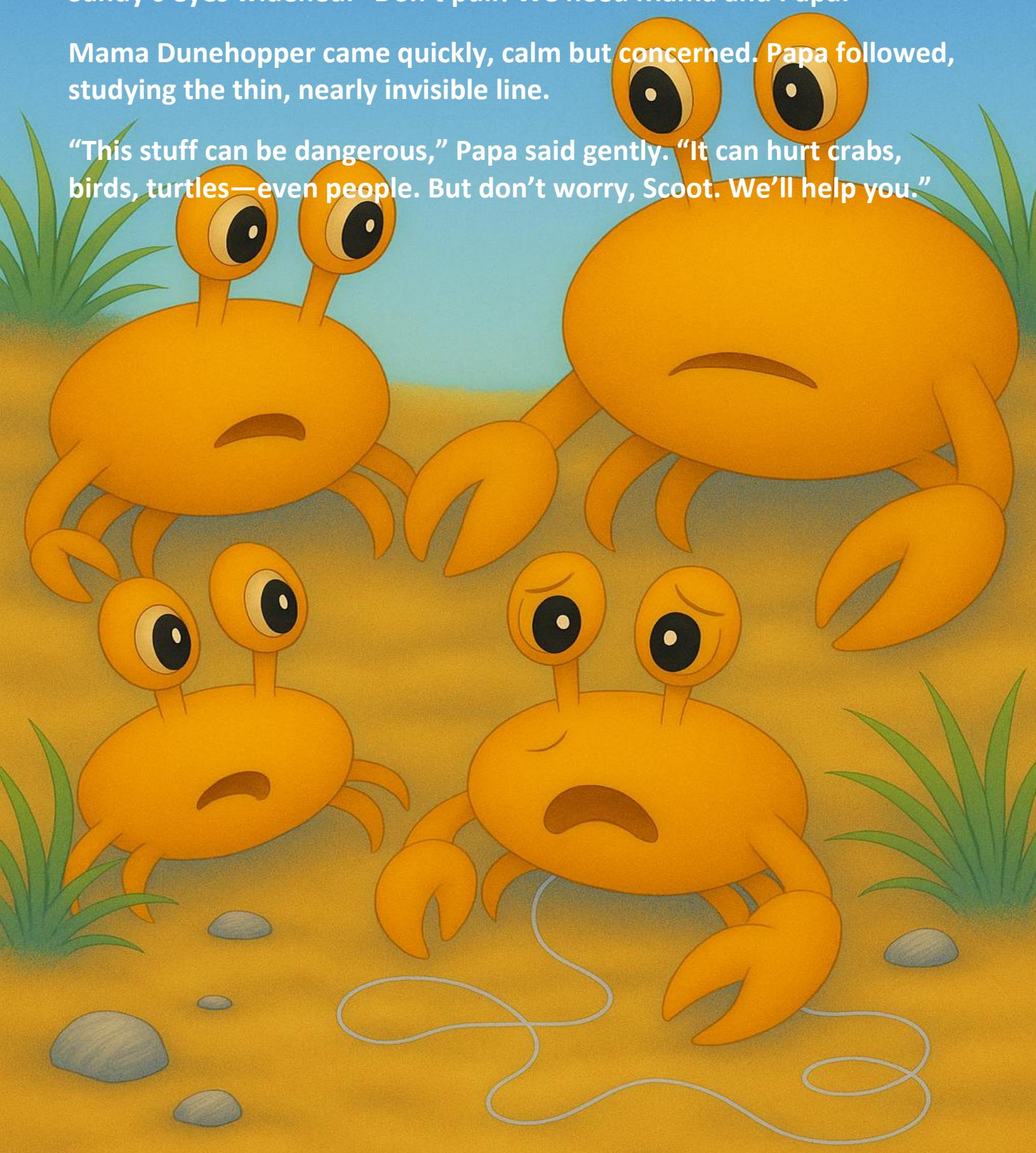
“Ow! Something’s pulling my claw!”

Sandy hurried over. A long, clear strand of monofilament fishing line was wrapped tight around Scoot’s little claw. Every time he tried to move, it tightened.

Sandy's eyes widened. "Don't pull! We need Mama and Papa."

Mama Dunehopper came quickly, calm but concerned. Papa followed, studying the thin, nearly invisible line.

"This stuff can be dangerous," Papa said gently. "It can hurt crabs, birds, turtles—even people. But don't worry, Scoot. We'll help you."



They worked as a team:

Mama held Scoot steady so he wouldn't wiggle.

Sandy found where the line began.

Papa used his strongest claw to carefully snip the tangled loop.

And Shellby, the littlest, gathered the loose pieces so none would blow away.

At last—*snap!*—the final strand loosened, and Scoot's claw was free.

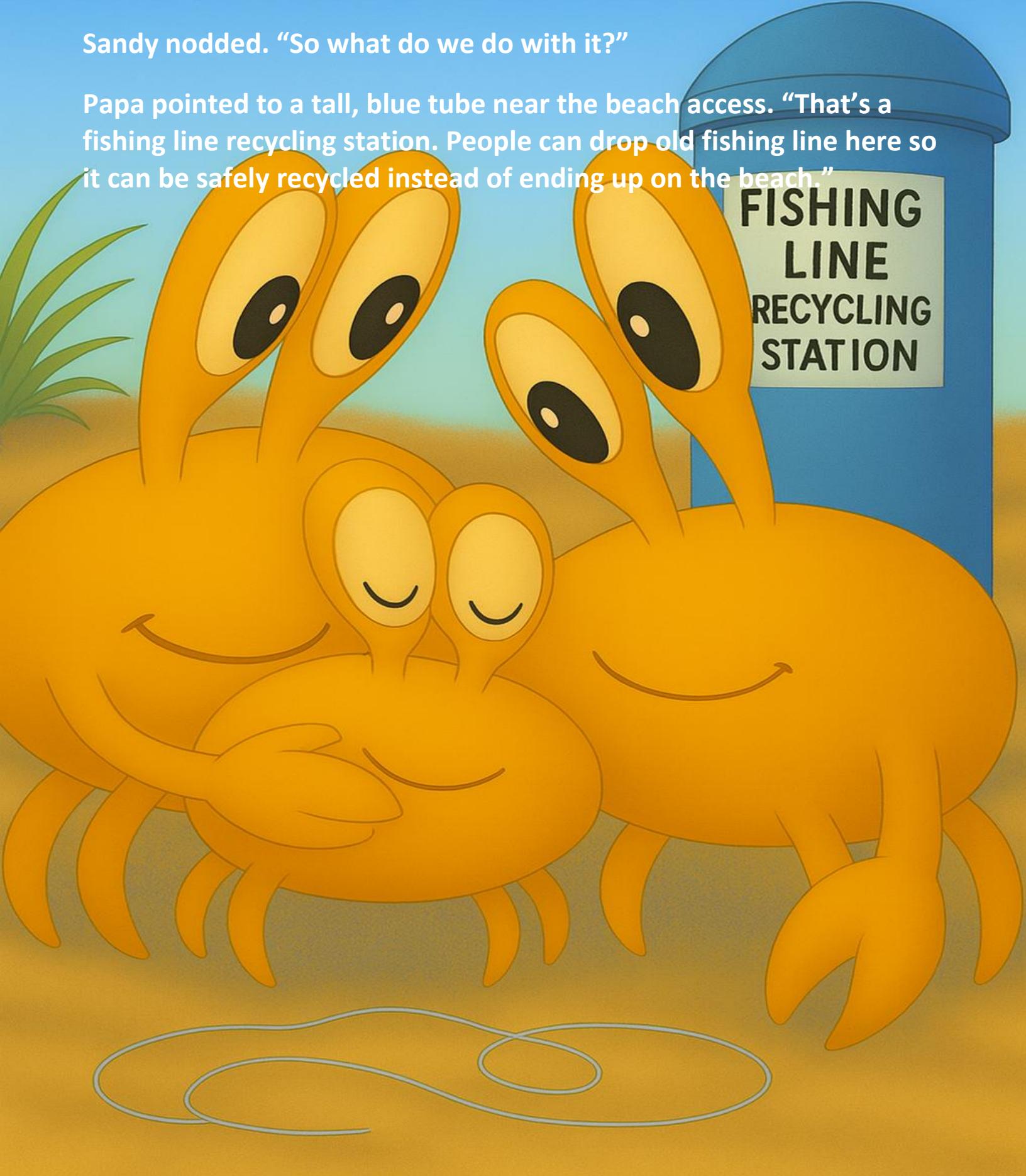
"Whew," Scoot sighed, wiggling it happily. "Thank you! That was scary."



Mama hugged him close. “Fishing line isn’t meant to hurt anyone. But when people leave it behind, it can tangle all sorts of wildlife.”

Sandy nodded. “So what do we do with it?”

Papa pointed to a tall, blue tube near the beach access. “That’s a fishing line recycling station. People can drop old fishing line here so it can be safely recycled instead of ending up on the beach.”



**FISHING
LINE
RECYCLING
STATION**



As the family walked home, the sea breeze whispered across the dunes, carrying a simple message:

When everyone cleans up—even the littlest pieces—we keep the Outer Banks safe for all who call it home.

Sandy bumped Scoot's shoulder. "You okay?"

Scoot grinned. "Yup! And I learned something important."

"What's that?" Sandy asked.

"That teamwork untangles everything."

And together, the Dunehoppers scurried off, claws clicking cheerfully, ready for their next adventure.

Did You Know?

- Fishing line can last hundreds of years in the ocean, which is why recycling it is so important. Animals like birds, crabs, turtles—even people—can get tangled in it.
- Many beaches, including the Outer Banks, have blue fishing line recycling stations. These special tubes help keep wildlife safe by giving people a place to put old fishing line.
- Fishing line is almost invisible underwater, making it easy for animals to swim into or step on. Picking up even tiny pieces helps protect the whole beach community!
- Teamwork can save wildlife—just like the Dunehopper family working together to free Scoot. When people team up to clean the beach, fewer animals get hurt.
- Ghost crabs are real Outer Banks animals! They dig deep burrows, run very fast, and have great eyesight—perfect for spotting trouble like tangled fishing line.