

Scoot the Prankster

Googly Eyes, Silly Tricks, and One Big Lesson



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 April 1 on the Outer Banks, and the sun rose golden over the dunes. Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby Dunehopper had just finished their breakfast of crunchy seaweed scraps and were getting ready for school.



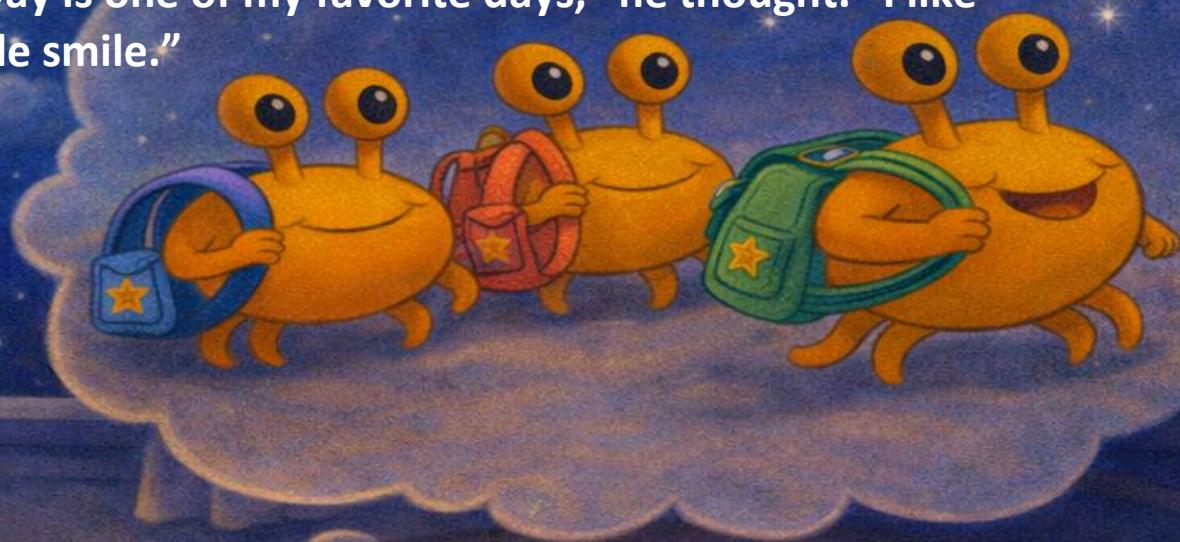
Scoot slung his knapsack over his shoulder and announced, "I'm heading to school early today. I have a few things to take care of. I'll see you there!"

Before Sandy or Shellby could ask what he meant, Scoot scurried off down the sandy path.



The night before, Scoot had been wide awake in bed, thinking about April Fools' Day.

"April Fools' Day is one of my favorite days," he thought. "I like to make people smile."



Carefully, Scoot had tiptoed over to the toy box. At the very bottom, he found an old rubber snake.

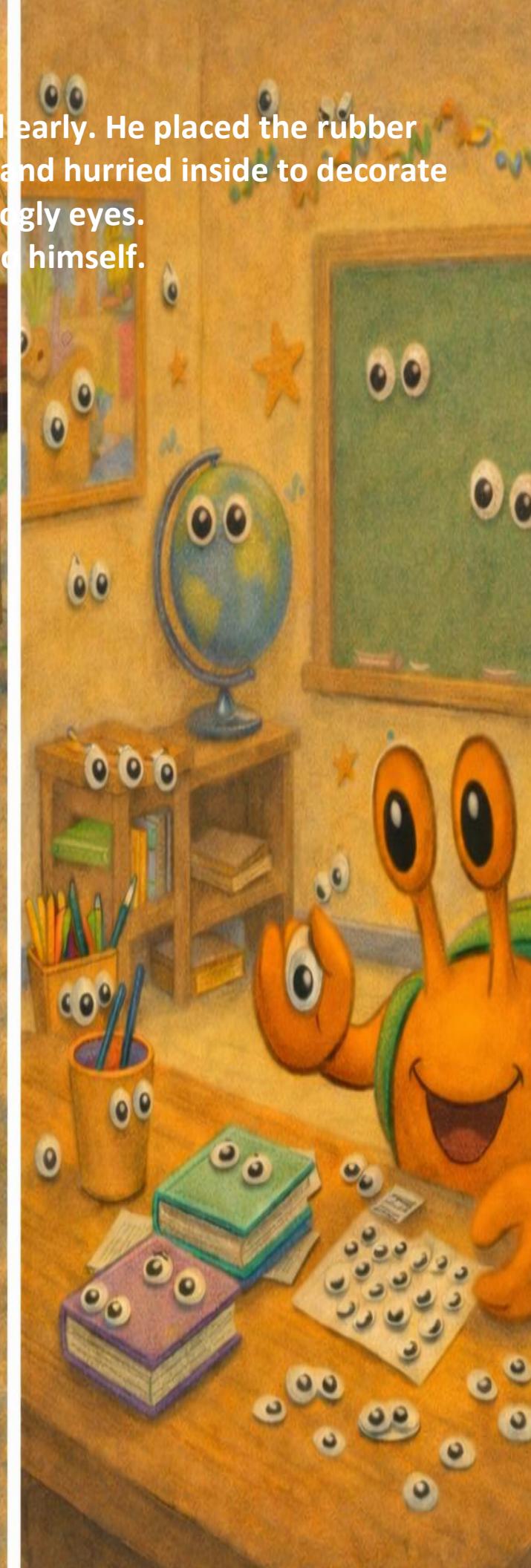
“That’s it!” Scoot whispered. “I’ll place this on the walkway to school. Everyone will think it’s real!”



Then he spotted a container of googly eye stickers.
“And these,” Scoot grinned. “I’ll stick them all over the classroom!”



That morning, Scoot arrived at school early. He placed the rubber snake right in the middle of the path and hurried inside to decorate the classroom with wiggly, staring googly eyes.
"This will be funny," Scoot chuckled to himself.



Soon, Sandy and Shellby arrived with their friends—Sam the sea turtle, George the grasshopper, and Milo the mole crab.

“Yikes! A snake!” someone shouted.

Everyone froze. But after a moment, Sandy leaned closer.

“Wait,” she said. “It’s not moving.”

She tapped it gently with a claw. “It’s rubber!”

The friends stared at one another.

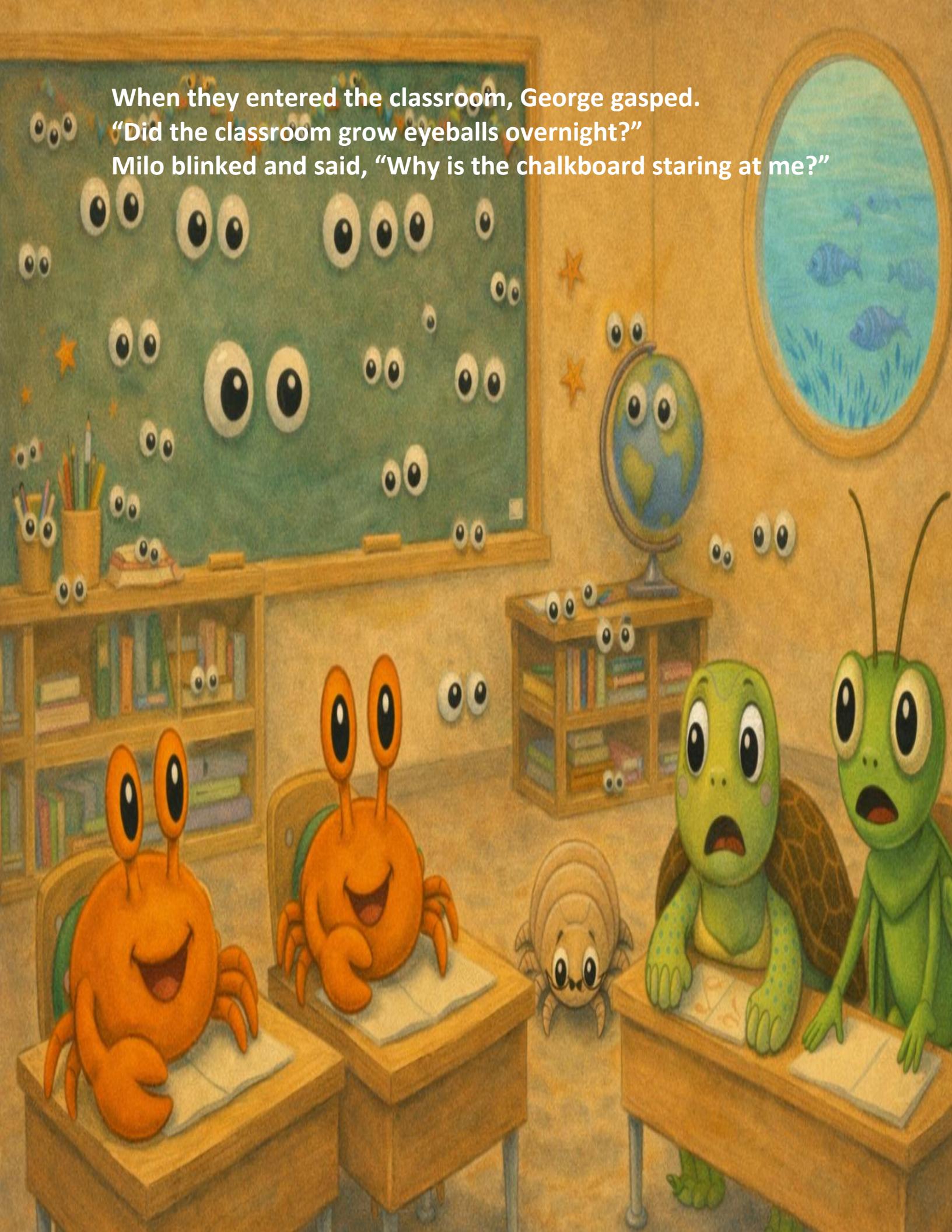
“Who would put a fake snake on the path?” they wondered.



When they entered the classroom, George gasped.

“Did the classroom grow eyeballs overnight?”

Milo blinked and said, “Why is the chalkboard staring at me?”





Just then, Professor Driftclaws walked in and looked around slowly. "Well now," he said, adjusting his glasses. "Is this an art project... or have I wandered into a comedy show?"

Then he smiled gently. "All right. Who is responsible for this?"

No one spoke.

Professor Driftclaws nodded.

"Creativity is wonderful," he said kindly, "but it must follow classroom rules."

He clapped his claws together. "Let's all work together to clean this up. April Fools' Day should make people laugh—not distract them from learning."

Scoot helped remove every sticker, feeling quieter with each one he peeled away.

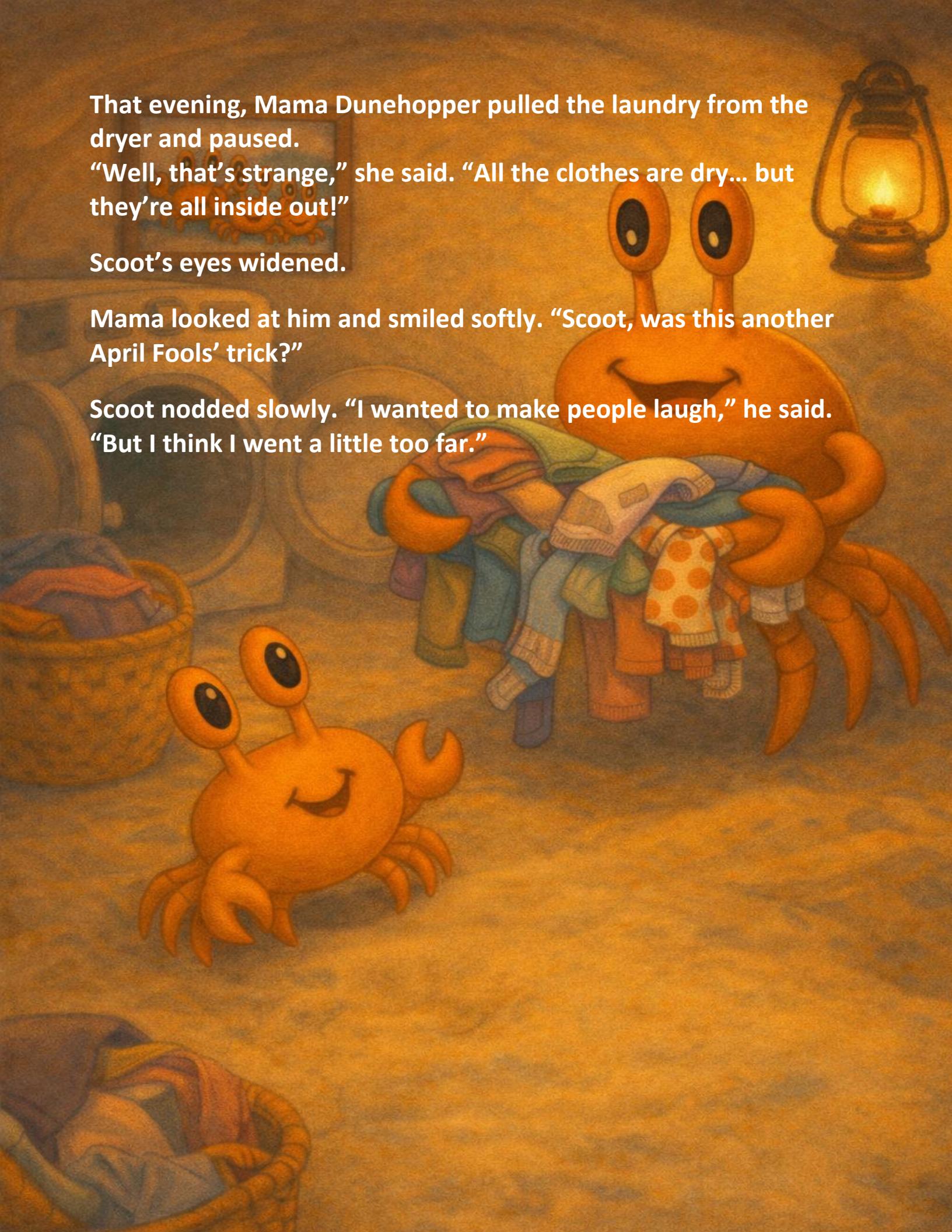
After school, Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby scurried back to the Dunehopper burrow.

“I wonder who played those tricks today,” Sandy said.

“Not me,” Shellby replied.

Scoot stayed silent, staring at the sand.





That evening, Mama Dunehopper pulled the laundry from the dryer and paused.

“Well, that’s strange,” she said. “All the clothes are dry... but they’re all inside out!”

Scoot’s eyes widened.

Mama looked at him and smiled softly. “Scoot, was this another April Fools’ trick?”

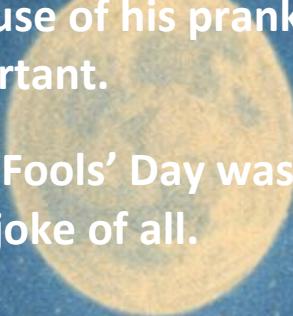
Scoot nodded slowly. “I wanted to make people laugh,” he said. “But I think I went a little too far.”

Mama placed a claw on his shoulder.

"Making people smile is a wonderful goal," she said. "But the best jokes are the ones that don't confuse, scare, or cause extra work for others."

Scoot smiled shyly. "Next year, I'll choose a kinder trick."





That night, as the moon rose over the dunes, Scoot felt proud—not because of his pranks, but because he had learned something important.

April Fools' Day was still fun... but kindness, he realized, was the best joke of all.



Did You Know?

April Fools' Day is called that because people play silly jokes, and the person tricked is called an April fool.

It's a day for fun laughs — as long as everyone feels happy and safe.

The best tricks are the ones that don't scare or confuse others.

Just like Scoot, we all learn as we grow.

If a joke goes too far, it's important to say sorry and make it right.

Kindness is the best joke of all.

