

WHOOOOSH... SHHHHHH.

The ocean at Bubble Buddies Bay was singing.

Theo the sleepy urchin snuggled between two pebbles, seaweed cape on.

Carci the crab tap-tap-tapped shell drums. Teresa the sea turtle soaked up the sun.

A wave rolled in. WHOOOOOSH! Then, like a giant sigh, the water slid back. SHHHHHHH.

“Hey!” Theo wobbled. “Something tugged my cape!”

“That’s the undertow,” said Teresa. “It’s the ocean breathing out, water sliding back along the bottom after a wave.”

Another wave. WHOOOOOSH and SHHHHHHH!

Theo tilted, Carci skittered, Teresa planted her flippers.

My shell!” Carci cried as it scooted away.

“Not a monster, just water going home,” Teresa said. “If the pull feels strong, we step back. And we never chase things into strong water.”

On the next wave in, boop! Teresa nudged the shell safely ashore. “Teamwork with the tide!”

“Undertow lesson: respect the pull!” cheered Theo.

“And hold a buddy’s (or an adult’s) hand if it’s strong!” added Carci.

“The ocean breathes in and out,” Teresa smiled. “We listen, watch, and play smart.”

WHOOOOOSH... SHHHHHHH, and the trio danced their In-Out Shuffle, giggling all the way.

