written by BELINDA MOORE

DBWN

BY THE

SEA

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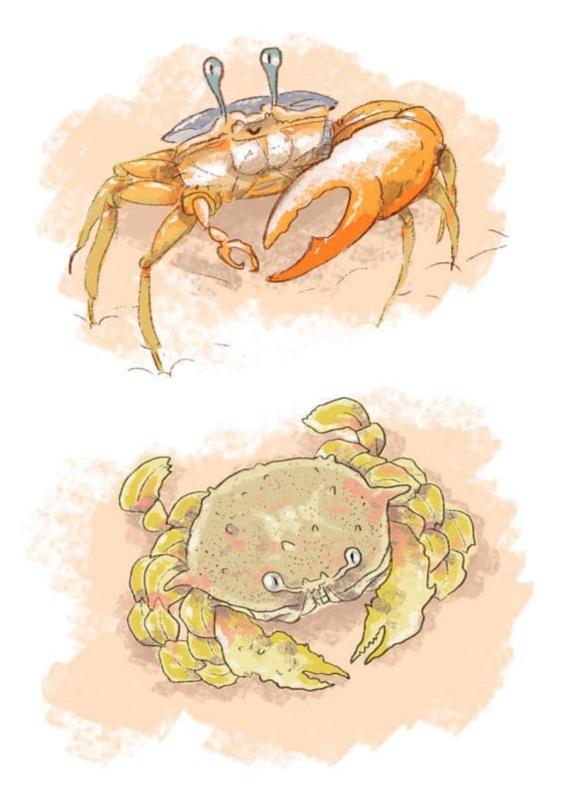
This is Nip. She is a young crab. Her mum said that they could go down to the sea today. Nip cannot wait. She loves it by the sea.

Nip looks at the shells as she walks by
them. She thinks that the shells are
pretty. Some are flat. Some are like a cone. Some have a curve to them.

Nip sees a new crab. He has one mammoth claw and one small one. The big one is for fighting. She waves. He waves back. He is a very nice crab.

There are also a lot of crabs that are the same as her. Nip feels like they might have something in common. She wants to talk to them all. Here is a pale crab. He is not the same as Nip. He is round. His legs are in thick segments. Nip thinks that he must be quite strong with legs like that.





The first crab that she met is friends with the pale, round crab. They like to stroll along the beach and chat. They tell Nip and her mum a cool spot to check out on the shore. This is great! There are so many crabs about. There are crabs on the rocks. There is one on the ball. Others are on buckets and spades and castles. So many crabs to meet and things to do! Nip sees the water and runs over. She is not looking. She bumps into a small, brown crab. That crab gets very grumpy. She tells Nip to watch where she is going.

An old crab hears. He comes over. He knows Nip. He says that there is no need to be mean. Nip was just happy to get to the sea. The small, brown crab says that she is sorry. She has had a long day looking for food. She tells Nip and her mum a good spot to get some algae. They say thank you.



They have a great day by the sea, but then the tide starts to come up. They need to get home before that happens. Nip's mum walks her back up the hill. Nip's mum is glad that they had such a nice day. Nip met so many crabs and made a lot of pals. Now she is ready to have a big sleep.







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