

The More the Merrier



Pam Schiller

illustrated by Lisa Workman

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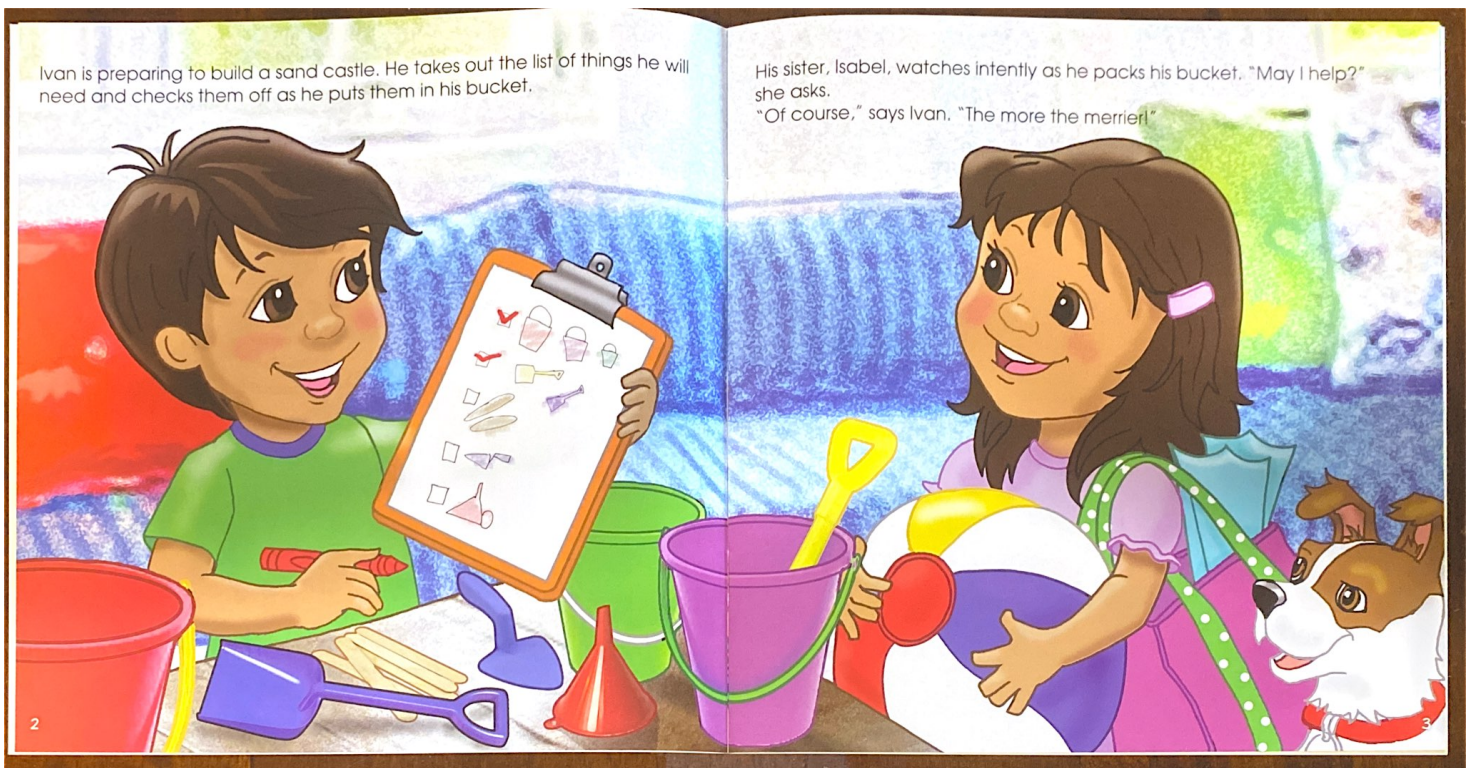


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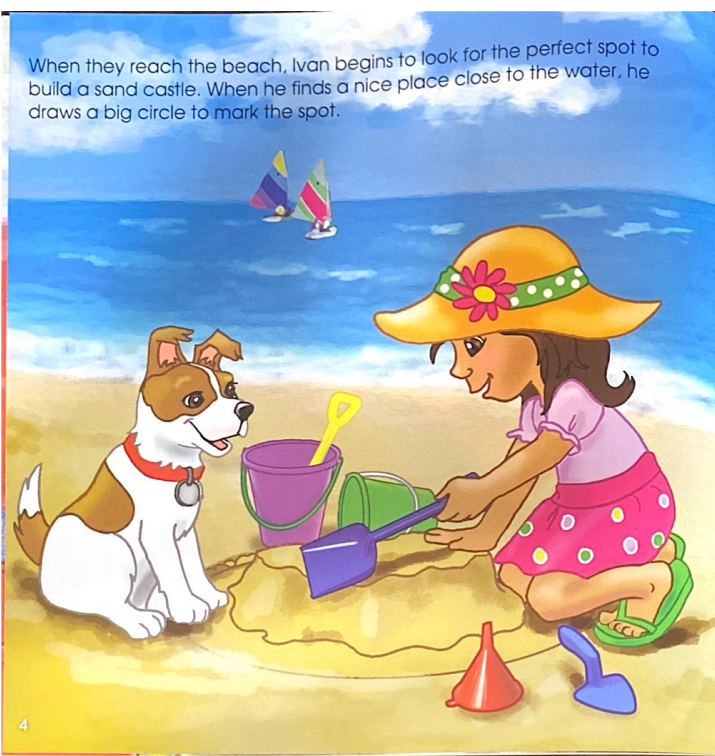
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Ivan is preparing to build a sand castle. He takes out the list of things he will need and checks them off as he puts them in his bucket.

His sister, Isabel, watches intently as he packs his bucket. "May I help?" she asks. "Of course," says Ivan. "The more the merrier!"



When they reach the beach, Ivan begins to look for the perfect spot to build a sand castle. When he finds a nice place close to the water, he draws a big circle to mark the spot.



Ivan and Isabel fill the large bucket with wet sand and dump it in the middle of the circle. Ivan tells Isabel to use the large scoop to pound the sand down while he gets another bucket of wet sand.

When the sand is nice and smooth, the children begin to build. They dump more wet sand, but this time they use the smaller bucket to shape the sand into towers.



When one tower of the castle is almost finished, their friend, Marcus, shows up. "May I help?" he asks. "Of course," says Ivan. "The more the merrier!"



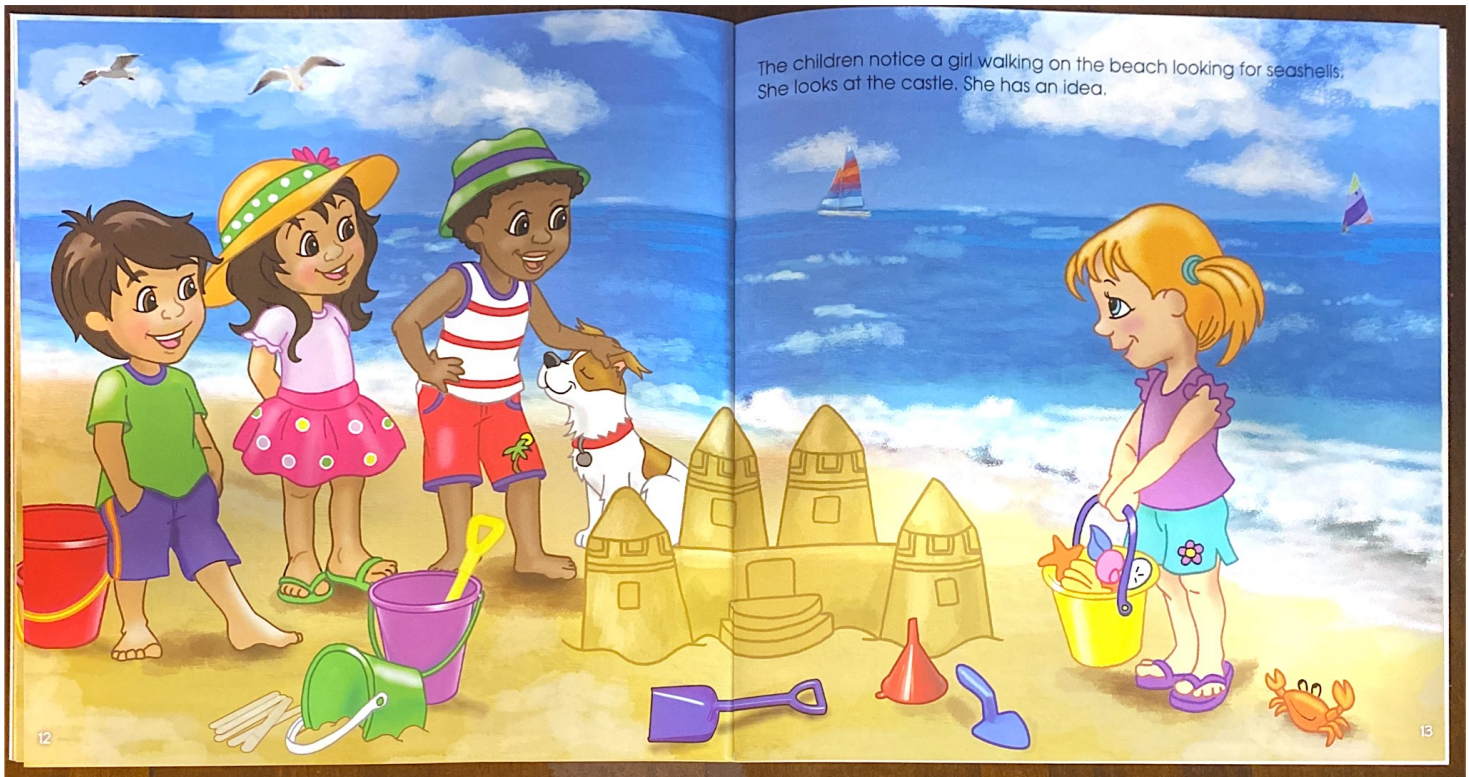


The children continue shaping the sand. Marcus uses the funnel to shape a pointed roof on top of each tower. Ivan uses a tongue depressor to make a design in the castle walls.

Isabel gathers more wet sand to make a mound that Ivan will shape into steps with the hand trowel.

The castle is starting to take shape now. The builders stand back and look at their work.
"It looks a little plain," says Isabel.
"Yes, it does," Ivan agrees. "But I am not sure what it needs."

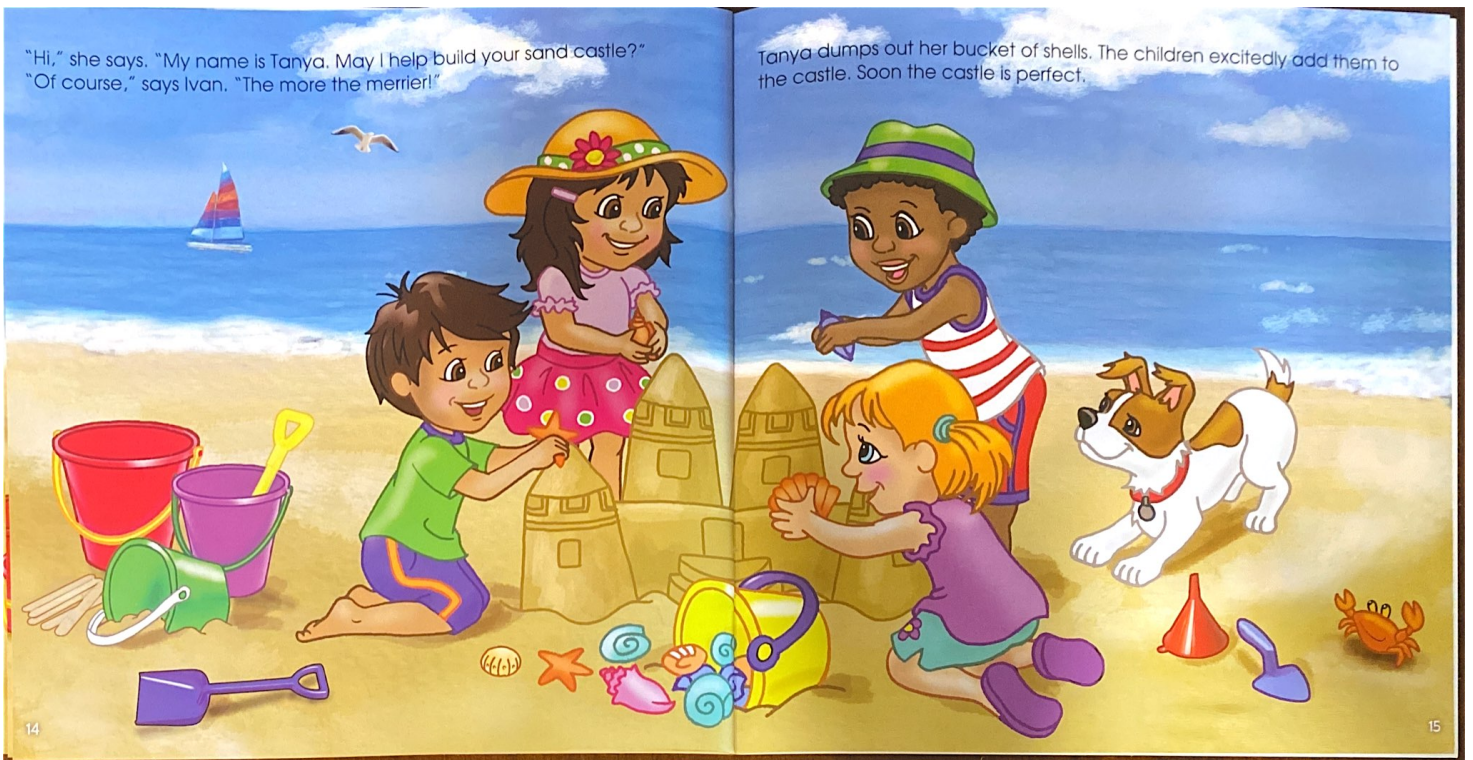




The children notice a girl walking on the beach looking for seashells. She looks at the castle. She has an idea.

"Hi," she says. "My name is Tanya. May I help build your sand castle?"
"Of course," says Ivan. "The more the merrier!"

Tanya dumps out her bucket of shells. The children excitedly add them to the castle. Soon the castle is perfect.





The children look at their sand castle with pride. Ivan says, "With a little help from everyone we have made a beautiful castle. The more the merrier!"