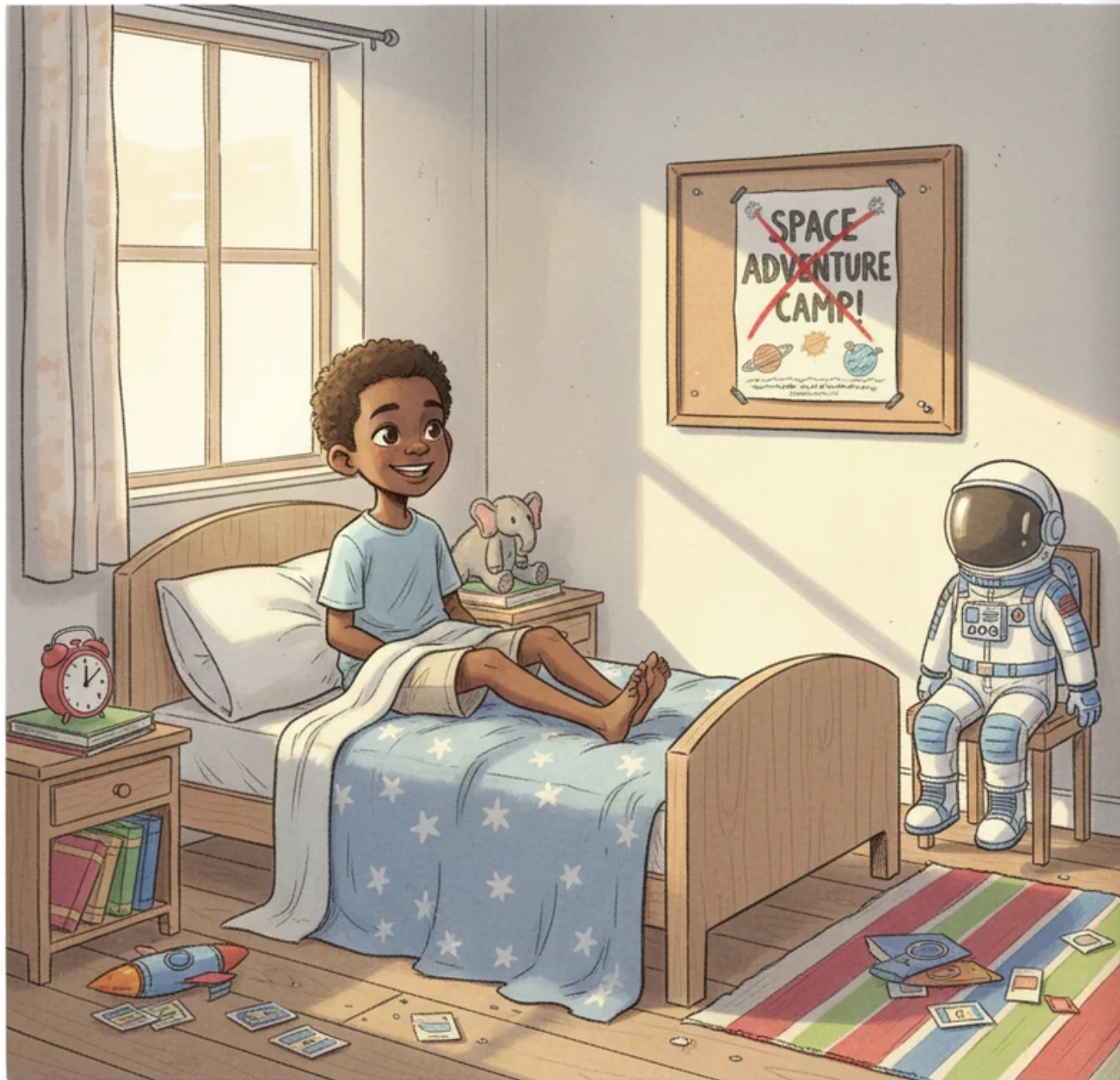




A Day at Salt Rock Beach

Jeanetta McGeer



Bongi wakes up in his neat bedroom as the warm South African sun streams through the window. He looks out at the bright Durban suburb, feeling excited for the coastal adventure ahead.



After changing into his beach clothes, Bonggi carefully packs his bag on the bed. He makes sure to include a realistic beach ball, a water bottle, and a tasty packet of biltong for the trip.



Outside the house, Bongi's friends Bianca and Brandon are waiting with their own beach gear and a large umbrella. Bongi opens the door with a wide, natural smile, ready to greet them in their quiet Durban North neighborhood.



The three friends walk together down the pavement of a coastal street lined with local trees and suburban houses. In the distance, a real South African public bus slows down as it approaches their stop near the Salt Rock area.



Inside the bus, Bongi looks out the window at the busy Durban traffic and city buildings. Brandon sits beside him and Bianca sits just behind them as they pass a road sign featuring a clear beach icon.



The children finally arrive at Salt Rock Beach, where the golden sand meets the blue Indian Ocean waves. Bongji feels the salty sea breeze on his face and smiles as he looks toward the tall lifeguard tower in the distance.



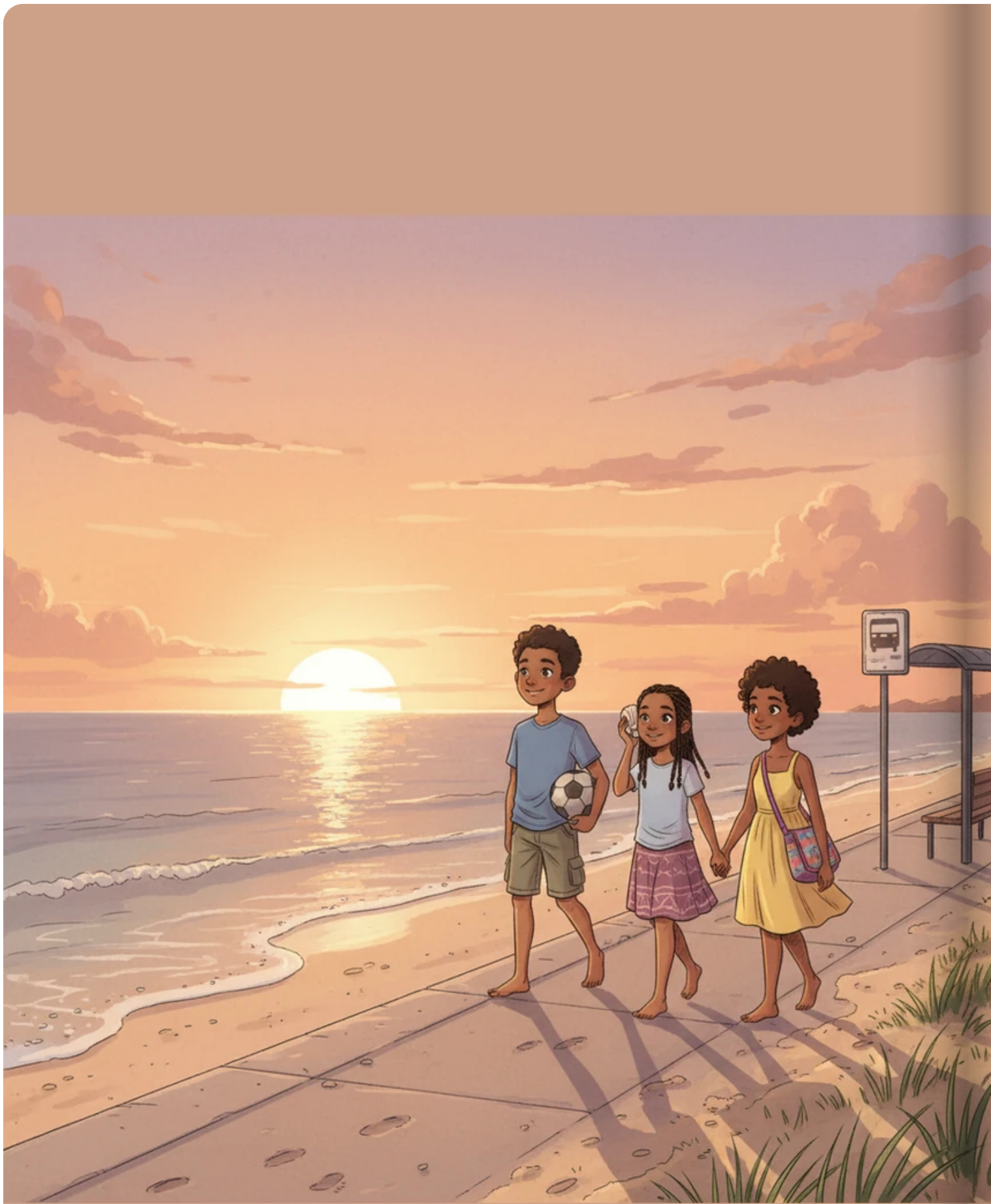
While Bianca focuses on building a detailed sandcastle with her bucket and spade, the boys play nearby. Bongi and Brandon kick a soccer-style beach ball, which looks like it might land right next to Bianca's sandy creation.



With big splashes and plenty of laughter, the three friends run across the sand and into the refreshing ocean waves. The water moves naturally around them as they enjoy the bright South African sunshine.



The children take a break on their towels under the shade of a large beach umbrella. They share their biltong and drink water while watching the local birds fly across the calm coastal sky.



As the sun sets over the ocean, painting the sky in shades of orange and pink, the tired friends walk back toward the bus stop. It has been a perfect day at Salt Rock Beach, and they are happy to head home together.