



Shades Meets the Whale Shark

A Storybook Reef original from Pediatric Dentistry of Florida



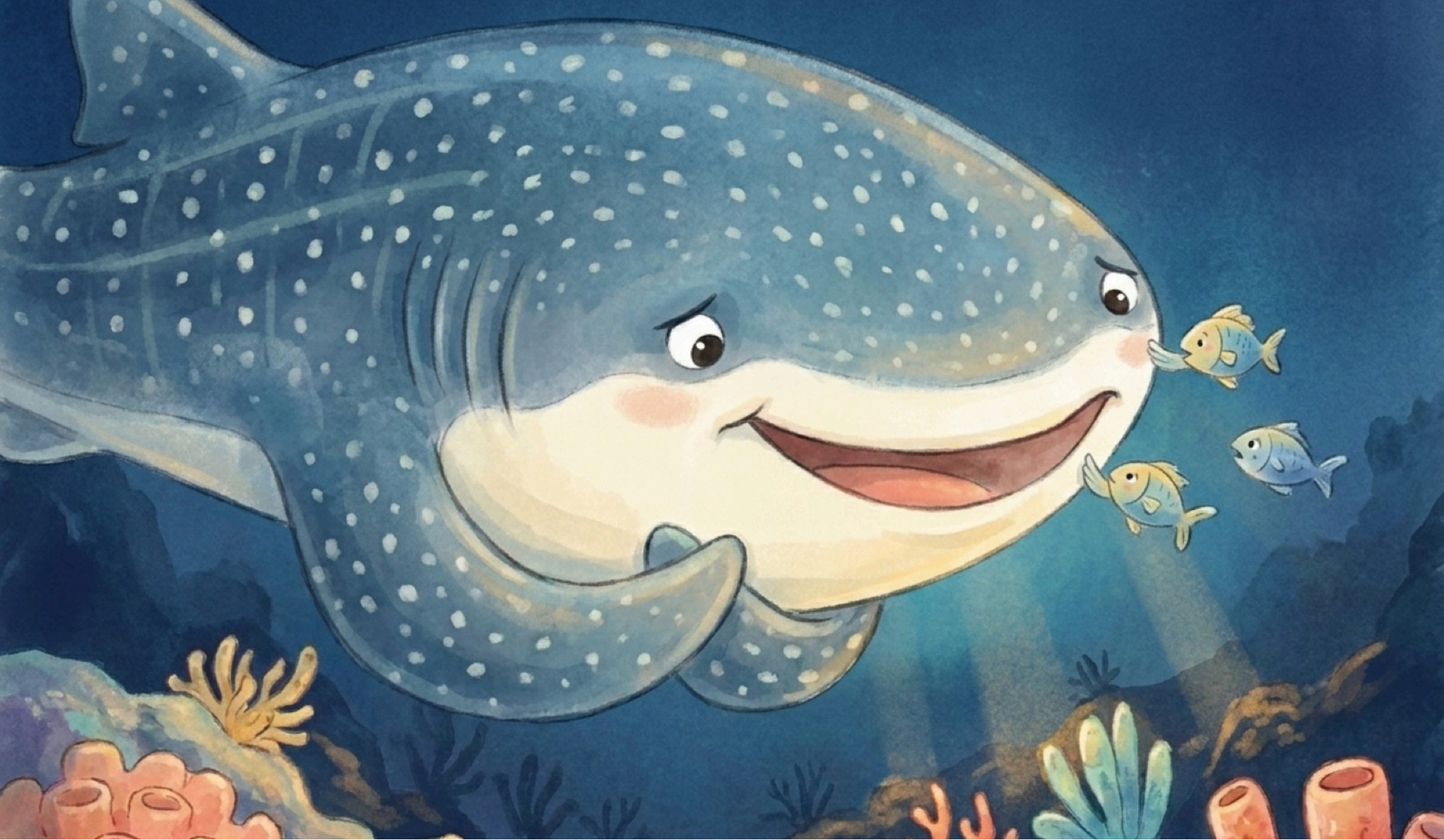
In a town called Naples, by the warm blue Gulf, there is a place where the sea comes inside.
Children visit every day. The fish know all of them by name.



And high above the hallway swims Wanda the whale shark.
Sixteen feet of gentle. Sixteen feet of smile.



When the last light clicks off and the moon climbs the sky, the reef wakes up.
And Wanda... stretches.



But tonight, Wanda looked shy.

“My smile is SO big,” she sighed. “And there are SO many tiny teeth in it.”

“Who could ever keep up with a smile like mine?”



Up swam Shades with his little blue brush.

“Every smile is the right size,” he said.

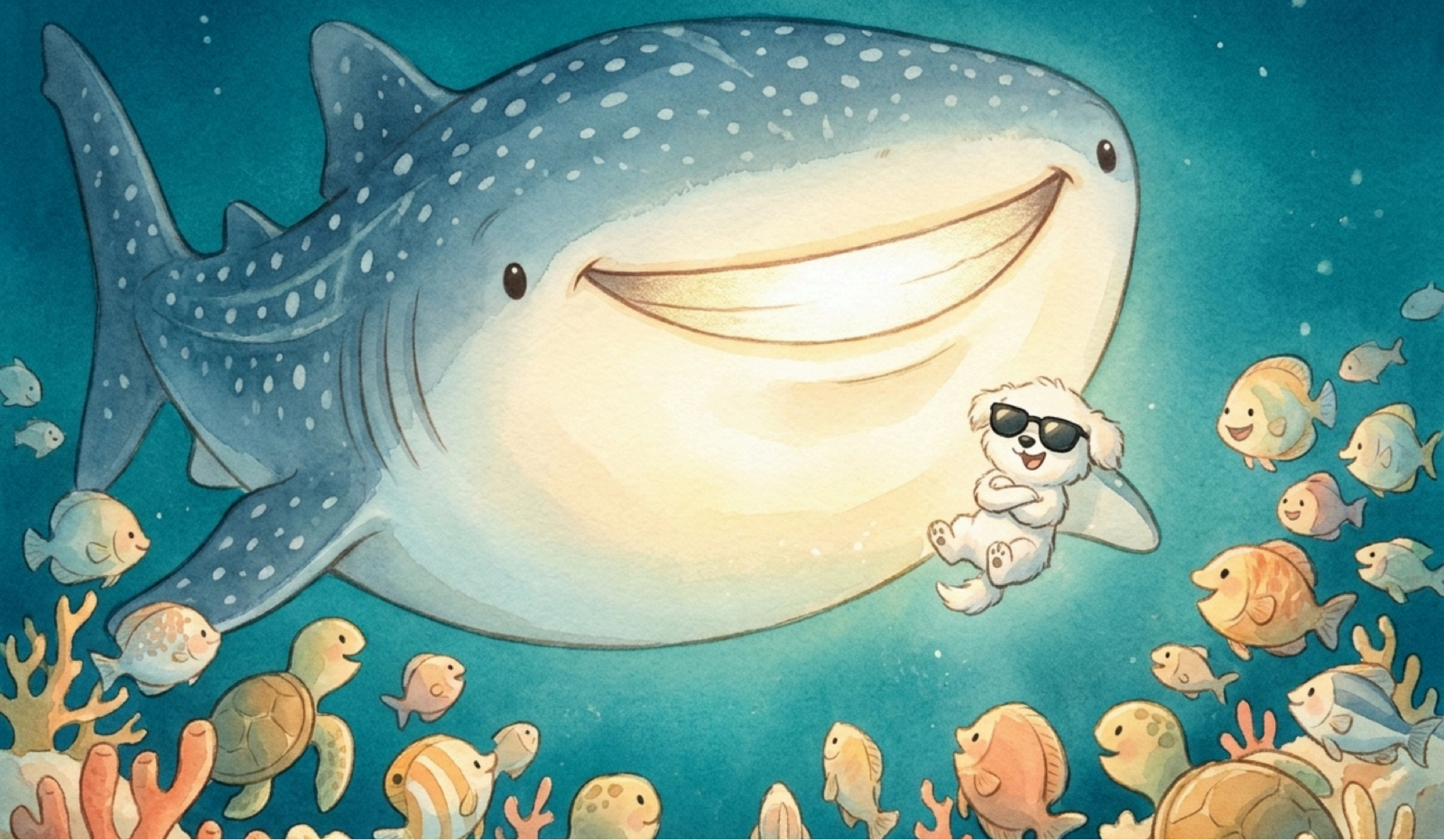
“Big ones just need a friend.”



So they counted.
They counted teeth like stars.
They lost count twice, and laughed, and started over.



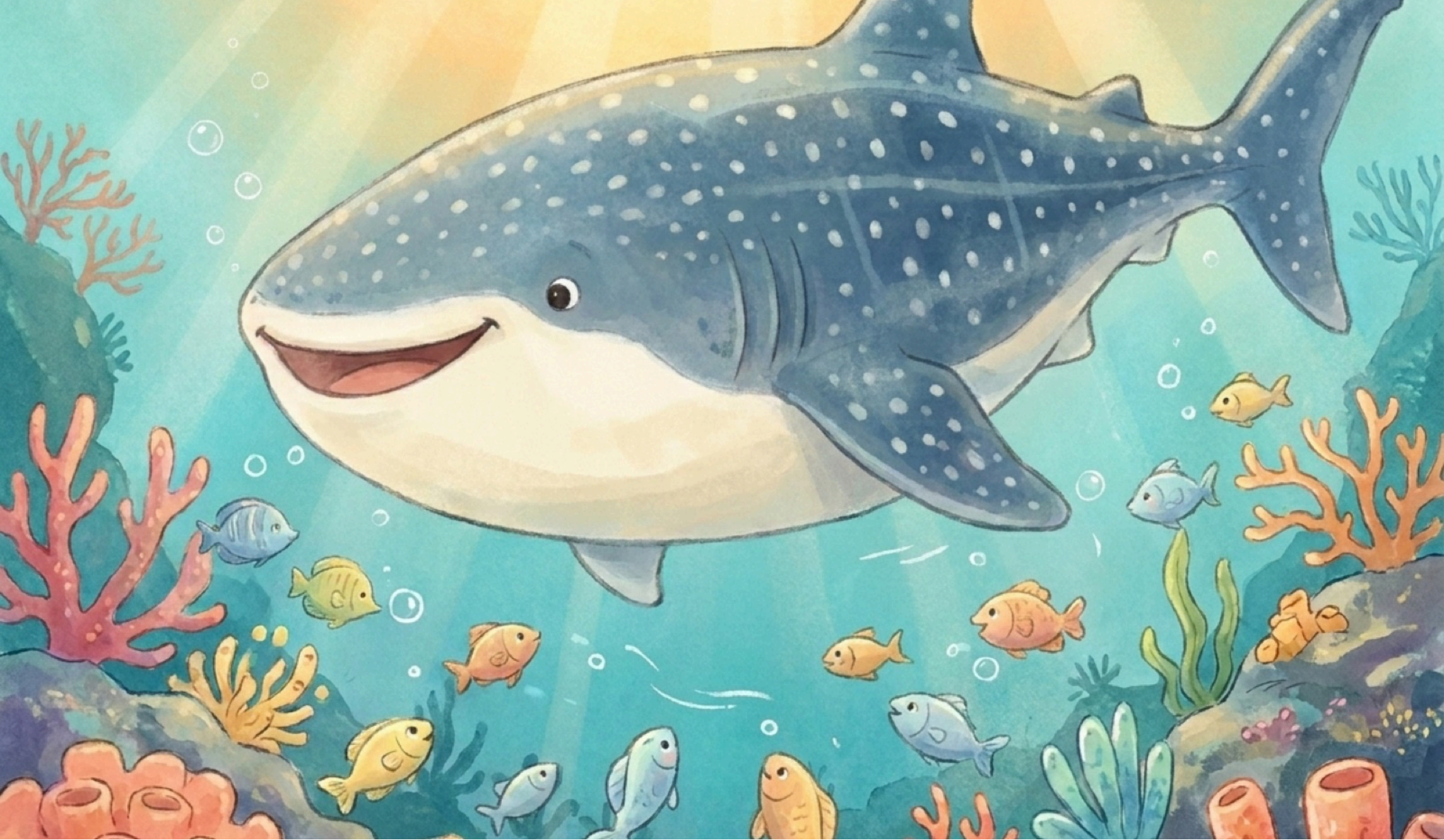
Brusha, brusha, brusha went the little blue brush.
Wanda hummed. The seahorses kept the beat.



When they finished, Wanda's smile shone like moonlight on the water.

"It is a lot of smile," said Shades.

"And every bit of it is wonderful."



Now, when children visit the reef and look up, Wanda holds extra still.
That is her way of smiling back.



So if you ever see her, give her your very biggest grin.

She has sixteen feet of grin waiting for you.

The end.



The Storybook Reef

Written and illustrated for the families of Southwest Florida by Pediatric Dentistry of Florida, Dr. Tim Verwest, DMD and Associates. Read all five books, and print the coloring pages too, any time you like.

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