

Mr. Wordsmith Presents

**An Ocean
of Os**



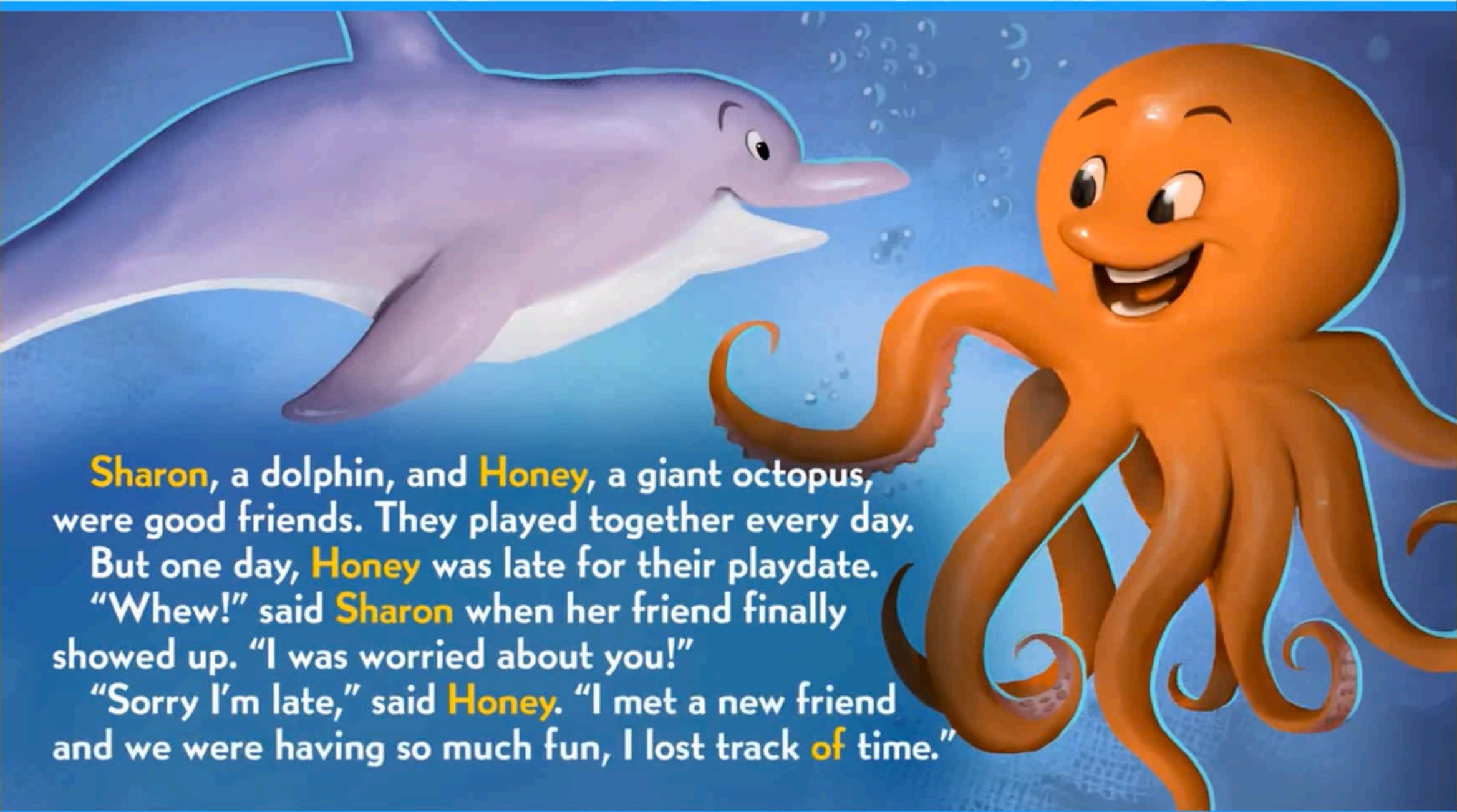
Hello, there! Mr. Wordsmith here! Today I'd like to talk about the wonderful letter o. You know that when it's not next to any other vowels, o can stand for the short o sound, as in *mop* and *stop*. It can also stand for the long o sound, as in *grow* and *cold*. You might also remember that o can stand for the long o sound in silent e words like *home* and *vote*.



But did you know that *o* can stand for other sounds, too? Listen to the words *son* and *from*. The *o* in the middle of these words stands for the “uh” sound—that’s a short *u* sound! Listen again: *son*, *from*.

And that’s not all—sometimes the letter *o* can stand for the short *u* sound in silent *e* words, like *come* and *glove*. The undersea story you’re about to read is swimming with words in which the letter *o* stands for the short *u* sound. See if you can spot them all!





Sharon, a dolphin, and **Honey**, a giant octopus, were good friends. They played together every day. But one day, **Honey** was late for their playdate. "Whew!" said **Sharon** when her friend finally showed up. "I was worried about you!"

"Sorry I'm late," said **Honey**. "I met a new friend and we were having so much fun, I lost track of time."



"Can I meet your new friend?" Sharon asked.
"Of course!" said Honey. "But we have to go
to the very bottom of the ocean."

Sharon didn't understand why Honey's friend couldn't
meet them near the surface, but she loved going on
adventures. The two friends swam to the ocean floor.

As they approached a colorful clump of coral, Honey paused. "We're almost there," she said. "I'll swim ahead and let my friend know I'm bringing someone with me so he's not surprised. He's a little shy."

Sharon watched as Honey scooted across the seafloor. Honey seemed to be talking to someone, but Sharon didn't see any other sea creatures.

Finally, Honey waved at Sharon, signaling her to swim over.



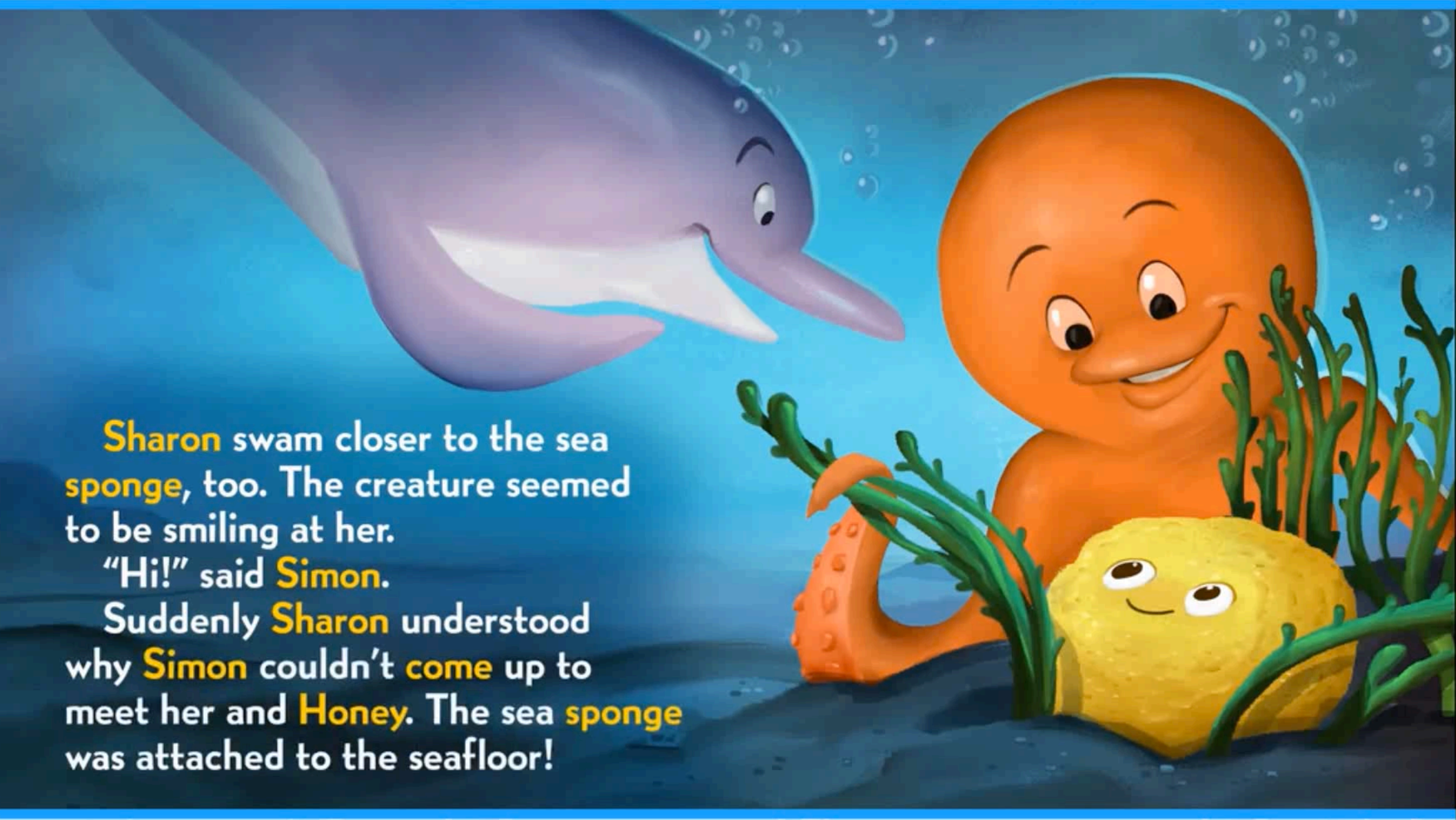
"Who are you talking to?"
Sharon whispered. "Where's
your new friend?"

Honey smiled and stretched
an arm in **front of** her. "Meet
my friend **Simon!**" she said.

Sharon looked around, but
all she saw was a bright yellow,
spongy-looking thing **among**
some swaying sea plants.

Honey could see that
Sharon was **confused**. She
scooted over to the yellow
thing. "This is **Simon**. He's a
sea **sponge!**"

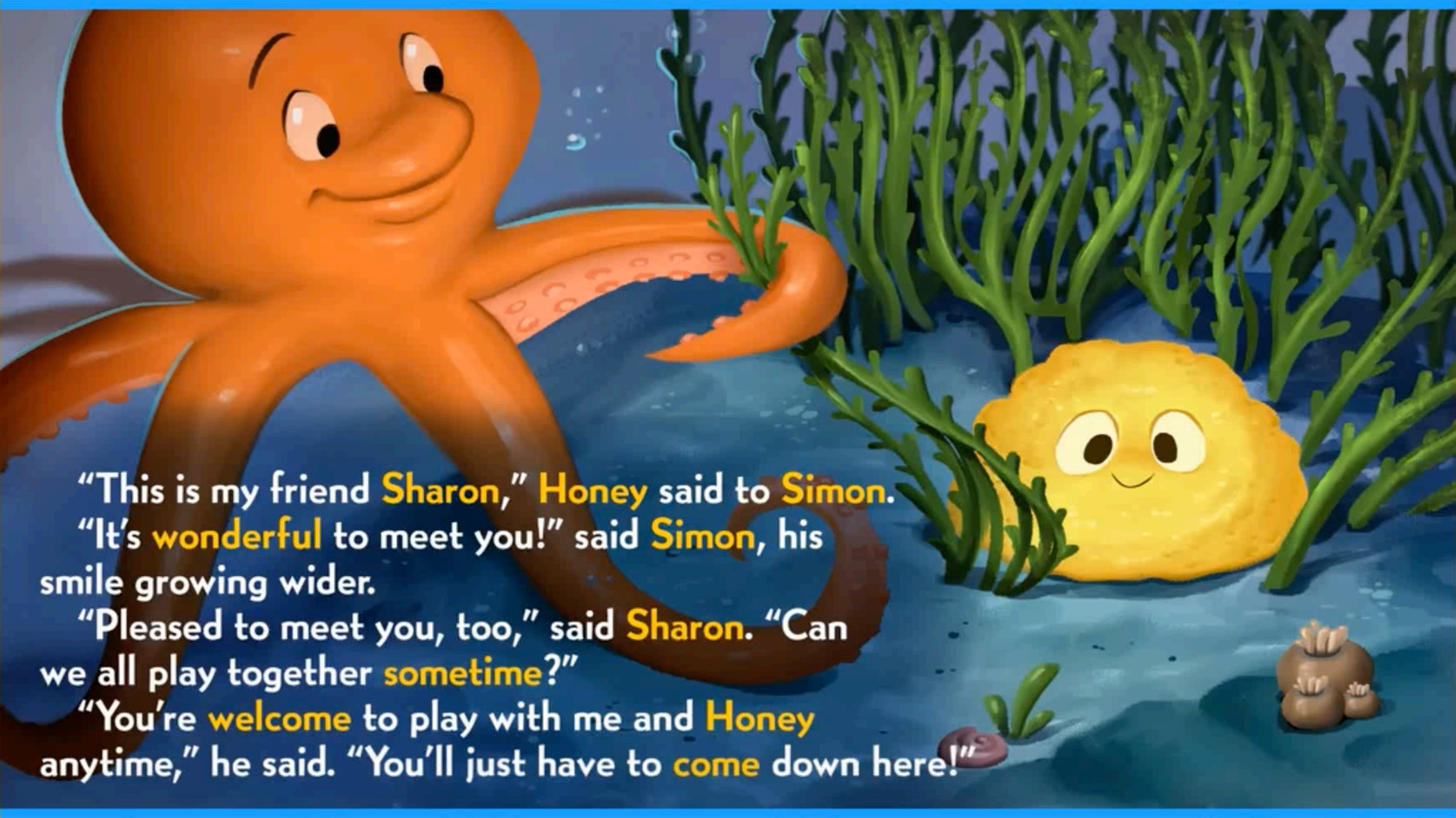




Sharon swam closer to the sea **sponge**, too. The creature seemed to be smiling at her.

"Hi!" said **Simon**.

Suddenly **Sharon** understood why **Simon** couldn't **come** up to meet her and **Honey**. The sea **sponge** was attached to the seafloor!



"This is my friend **Sharon**," **Honey** said to **Simon**.
"It's **wonderful** to meet you!" said **Simon**, his smile growing wider.
"Pleased to meet you, too," said **Sharon**. "Can we all play together **sometime**?"
"You're **welcome** to play with me and **Honey** anytime," he said. "You'll just have to **come** down here!"

Did you find all these o words with
the short u sound in the story?

spongy colorful

Sharon some

among

of loved

wonderful

someone

Honey

Simon

sponge

front

sometime

come

welcome

other

confused

