Read to Find Out
What will the children do to build a sand castle?
“Your castle needs a moat,” said the boy.
He dug a circle around Jen’s castle with his bucket.
The castle grew taller.
The moat grew deeper.
“Can I help?” asked a girl with a spoon. “I am making the moat,” said the boy. “This is my castle,” said Jen.
“If I dig a path to the lake, the moat will fill up with water,” the girl said.
She scooped a path in the sand. Water sloshed into the path and headed toward the moat.
The castle grew taller.
The moat grew deeper.
The path grew wider.
“Can I help?” asked a boy with a cup.
“I am digging the path to the water,” said the girl.
“I am making the moat,” said the boy.
“This is my castle,” said Jen.
“You will need a wall to protect your castle,” said the boy with the cup.

The boy filled the cup with wet sand. Pat, Pat. He turned it over. Tap, tap. One sand block stood. Pat, tap. Two sand blocks.
The castle grew taller.
The moat grew deeper.
The path grew wider.
The wall grew longer.
“Can I help?” asked a girl holding a rake.
“I am building the wall,” said the boy with the cup.  
“I am digging the path to the water,” said the girl with the spoon.  
“I am making the moat,” said the boy with the bucket.  
“This is my castle,” said Jen.
“You need a road, so people can get to the castle,” said the girl with the rake.

Dragging the rake in the sand, the girl traced a winding road. With the rake teeth, she swirled wavy shapes.
Hands patted and pushed the squishy sand.
The castle rose high.
The moat dipped deep.
The path flowed long.
The wall stood strong.
The road lay wide and welcoming.
Shadows stretched across the sand.
“Angela! Time to go!”
“Robert! We’re leaving!”
“Tanisha! It’s late!”
“Louis! Rinse your feet!”
“Jen! Say good-bye!”
“But what about the castle? We worked so hard,” Tahisha said. “As soon as we leave, someone will wreck it,” said Louis
“I know what to do!” Jen said. Splat! She jumped on the castle.
In a flurry they all kicked the road, toppled the wall, flattened the path, filled the moat, and crushed the castle.
“Good-bye!” the beach friends shouted as they scattered across the cooling sand. “Let’s do it again tomorrow!”
Meet the Author and Illustrator

Brenda Shannon Yee says she got the idea for this story while building a sand castle with her children at the beach.

Thea Kliros says, “As a child, I was read to every night.” She hopes her illustrations will help children enjoy and love books.
Brenda Shannon Yee and Thea Kliros told a story about building a sand castle. Write about something you can build. Tell how you would build it.
Think and Compare

1. What happens when the other kids help Jen build?
2. What do you like to do in the sand or at the beach?
3. Why do children sometimes wreck a sand castle they made?
4. How are Sand Castle and “The Town that Grew” alike? How are they different?