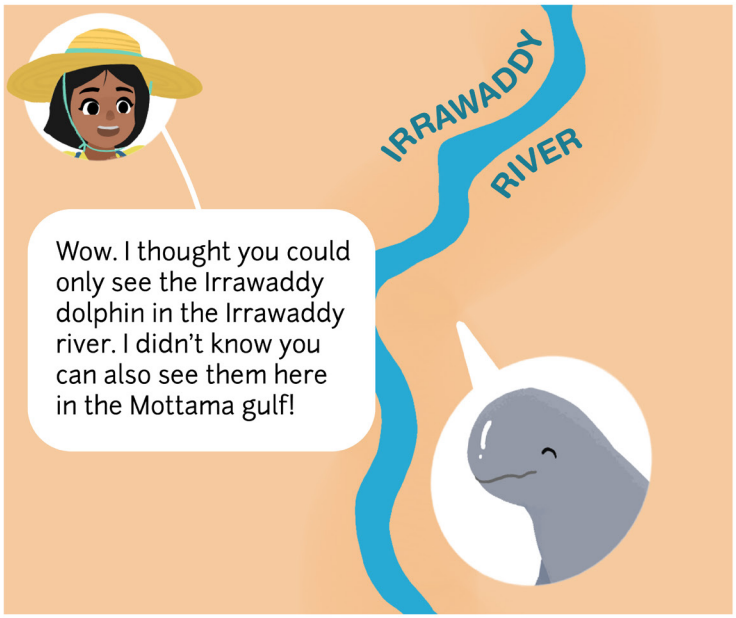
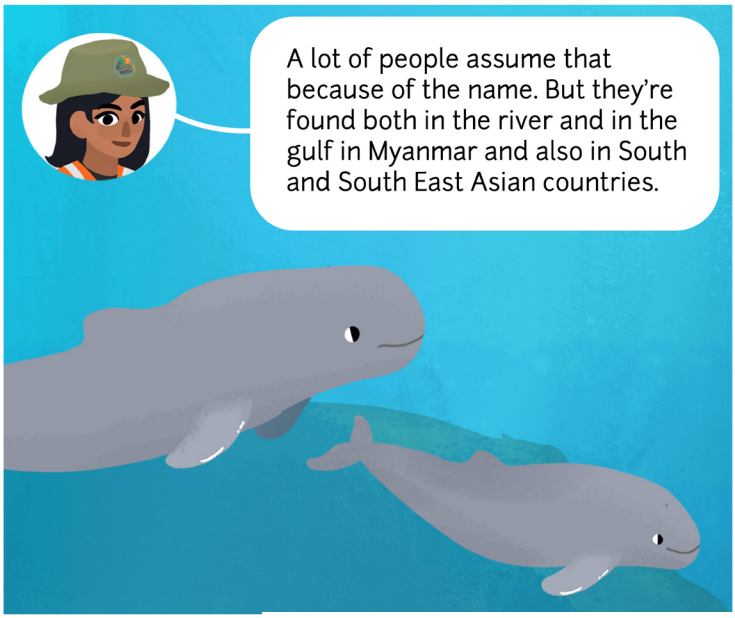
MYANMAR ocean PROJECT
MYANMAR COASTAL CONSERVATION LAB
HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
YANGON
Myanmar





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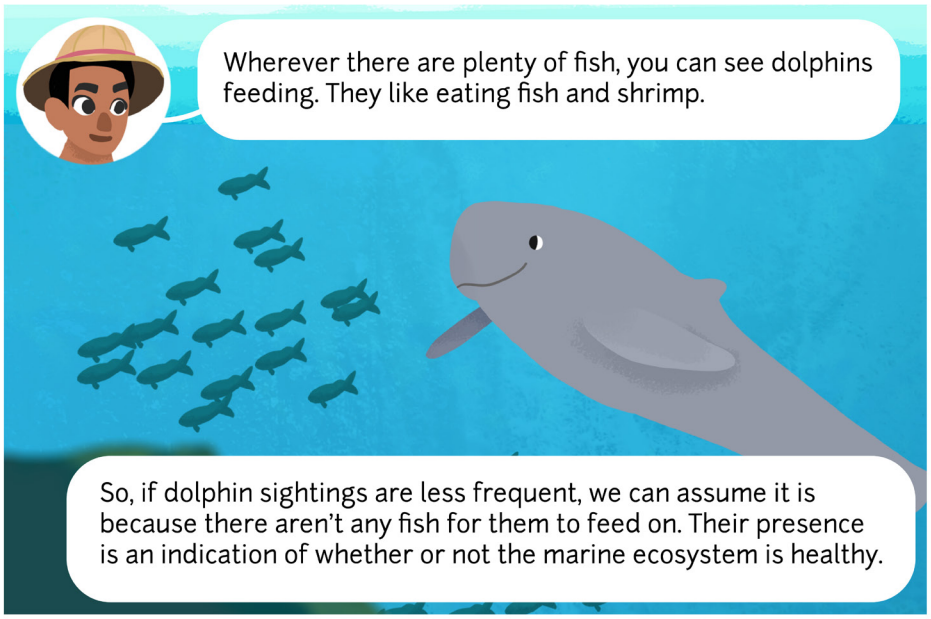
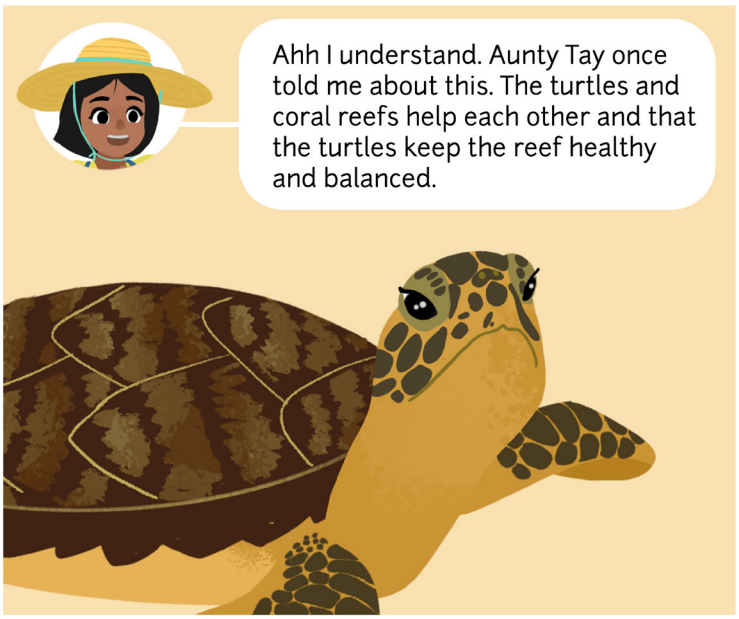
But, the Irrawaddy dolphin population is declining in numbers. That's why our team is conducting research to understand where they live and eat and what kind of threats they are facing in the wild.
All of this knowledge will help us plan conservation management efforts.

Us fishers love these dolphins too!

The fishers in Irrawaddy river work with the dolphins to catch fish together. Here in the gulf, we don't work together like that, but we still know when we see a dolphin, we're going to find lots of fish.

That's so interesting! How do you know there are lots of fish where the dolphins are?


Wherever there are plenty of fish, you can see dolphins feeding. They like eating fish and shrimp.
So, if dolphin sightings are less frequent, we can assume it is because there aren't any fish for them to feed on. Their presence is an indication of whether or not the marine ecosystem is healthy.

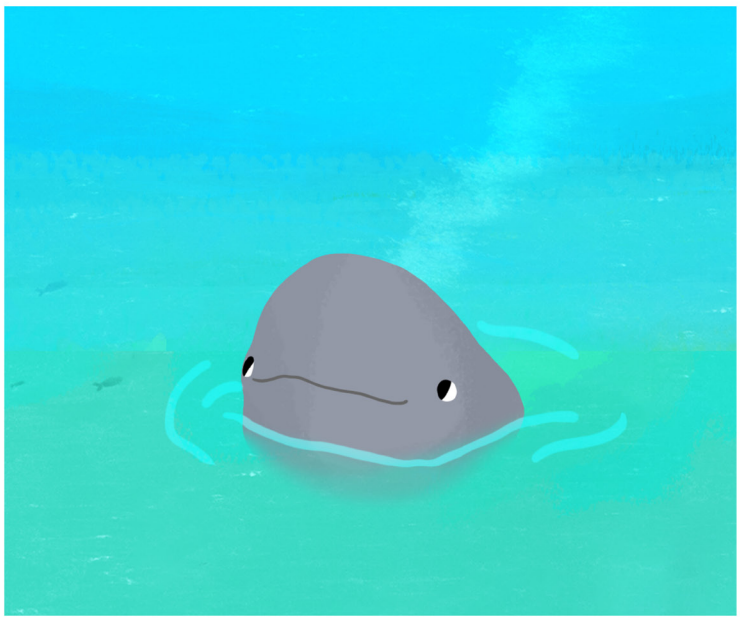

Ahh I understand. Aunty Tay once told me about this. The turtles and coral reefs help each other and that the turtles keep the reef healthy and balanced.

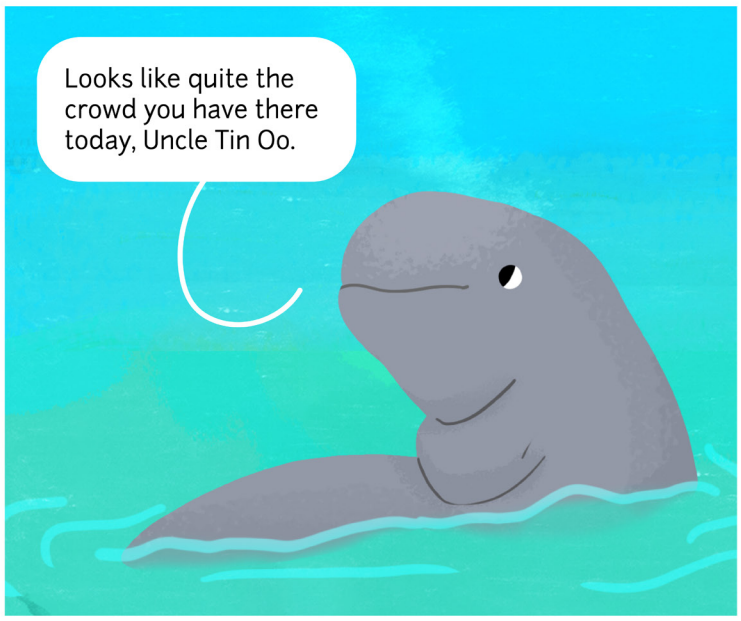
That's correct, Thazin! It looks like you have been learning a lot about the ocean already.

Oh wait, look! Speak of the devil!!

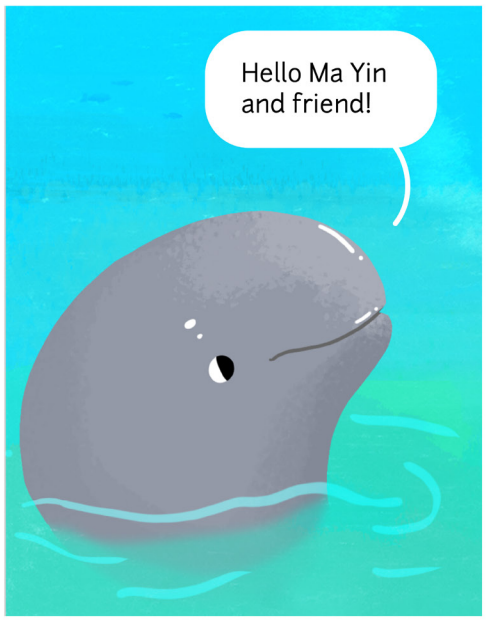
If I'm not mistaken, there's an Irrawaddy dolphin right there. I saw something grey swim by and it had a little fin.

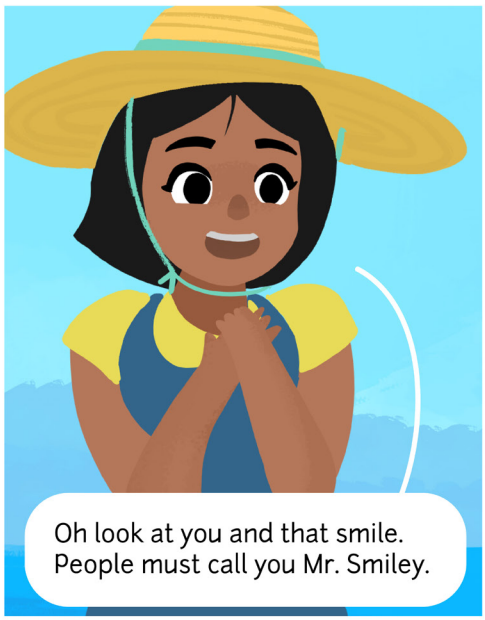
We should stop the boat engine and wait and see.



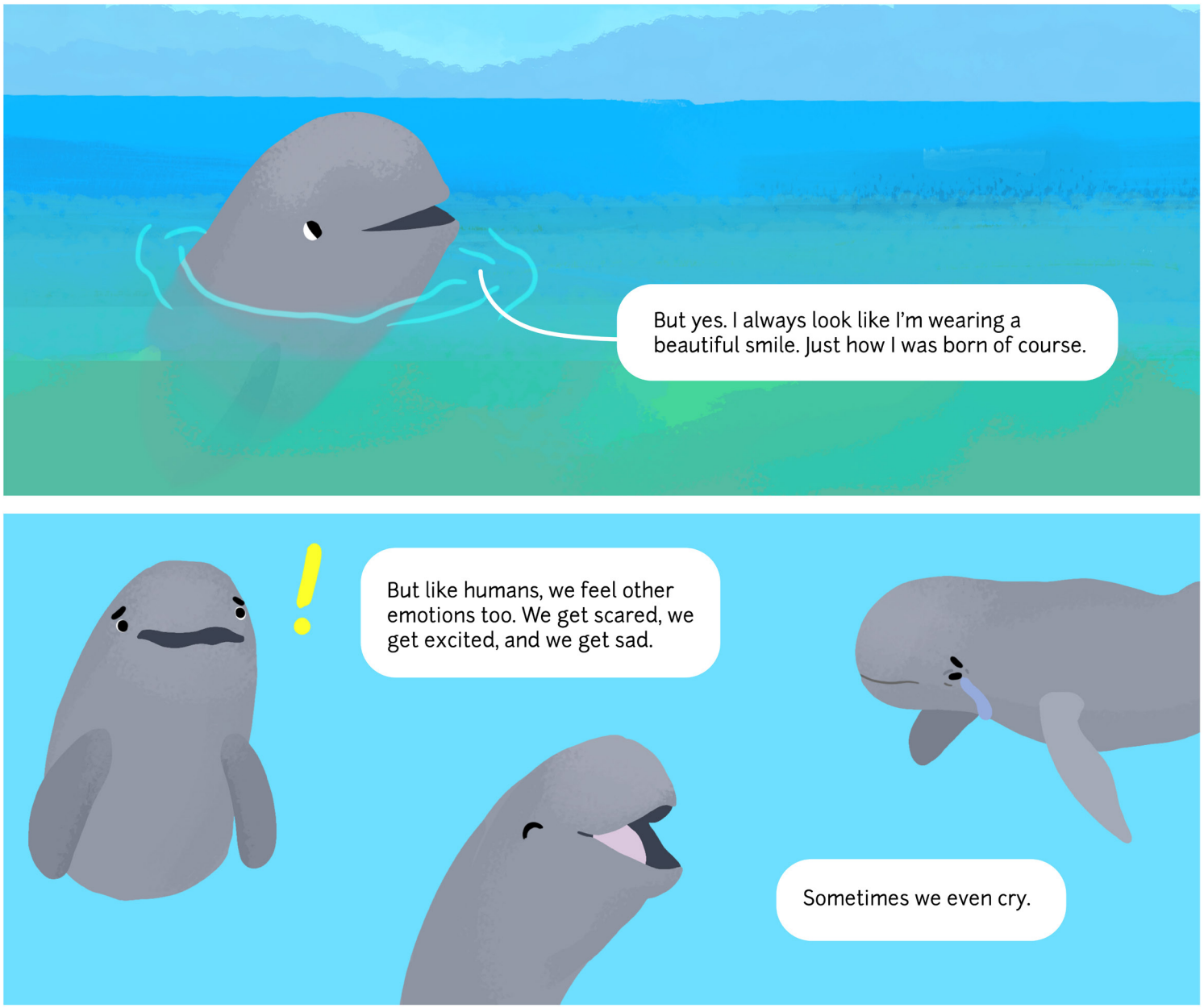

Looks like quite the crowd you have there today, Uncle Tin Oo.

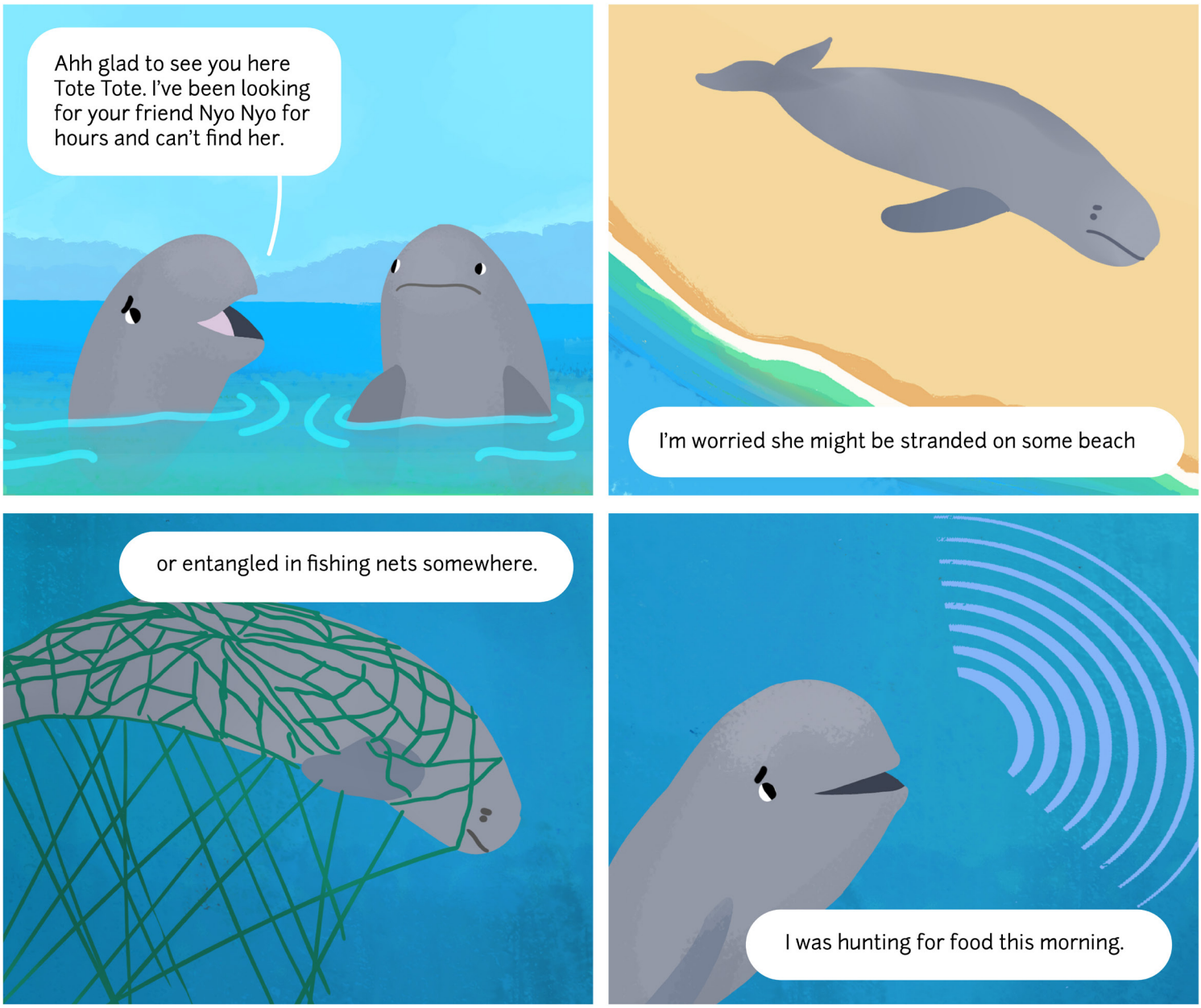
Yes! We have a special guest, Thazin, here accompanying Ma Yin's survey.

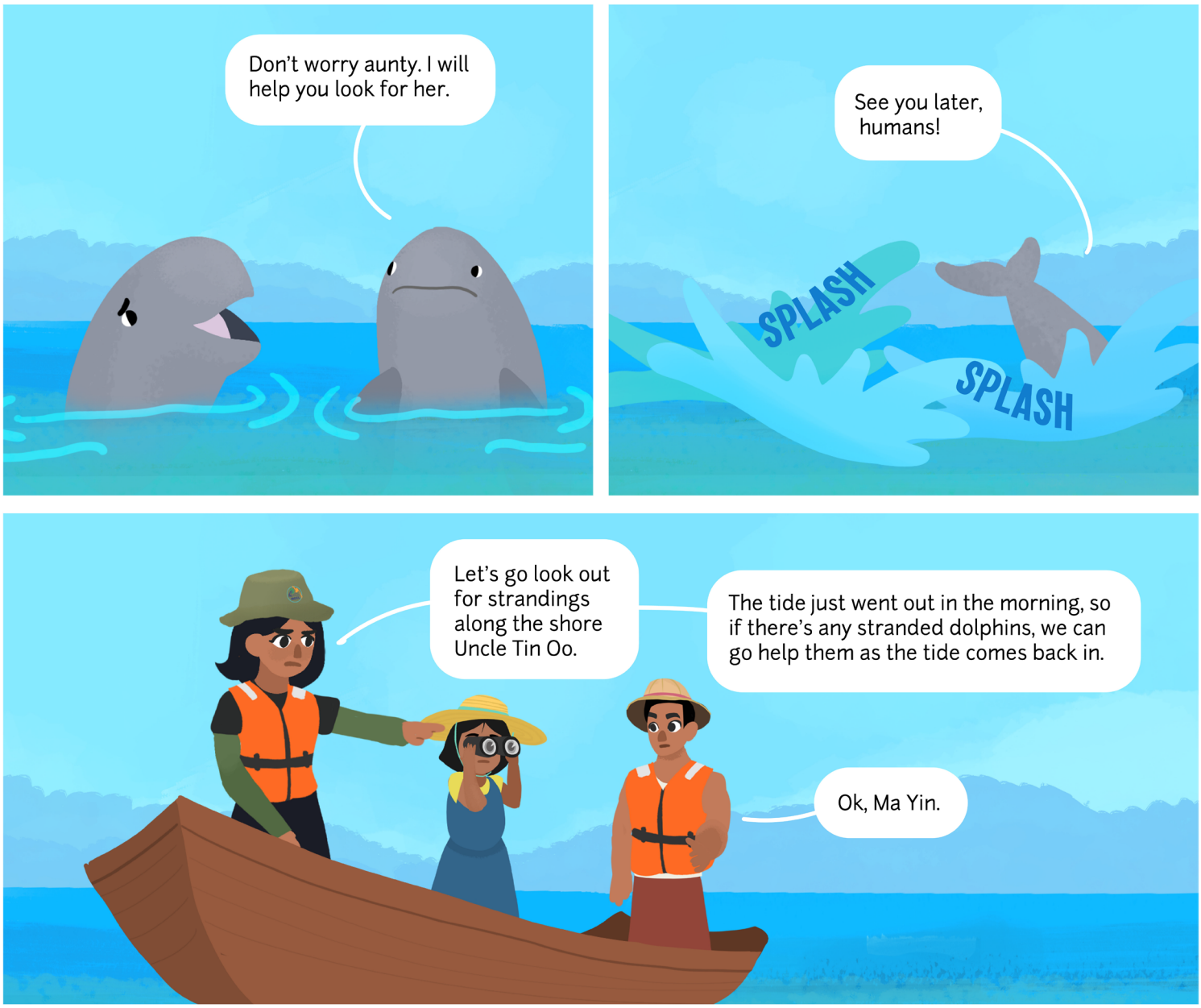

Hello Ma Yin and friend!


Oh look at you and that smile. People must call you Mr. Smiley.

Haha. No. My name is actually Tote Tote.


But yes. I always look like I'm wearing a beautiful smile. Just how I was born of course.
But like humans, we feel other emotions too. We get scared, we get excited, and we get sad.
Sometimes we even cry.
Wait.. what are you eating? Now I'm hungry as well.
SPLASH


Ahh glad to see you here Tote Tote. I've been looking for your friend Nyo Nyo for hours and can't find her.
I'm worried she might be stranded on some beach
or entangled in fishing nets somewhere.
I was hunting for food this morning.
Then I noticed she was missing. I tried to locate and call for her. But I worry there is too much noise from the boat engines and she can't hear me.


Don't worry aunty. I will help you look for her.
See you later, humans!
SPLASH
SPLASH
Let's go look out for strandings along the shore Uncle Tin Oo.
The tide just went out in the morning, so if there's any stranded dolphins, we can go help them as the tide comes back in.
Ok, Ma Yin.
Ma Yin! Ma Yin! I see something!
Ohh dear... it looks like we were right to be worried.
It looks like there is a dolphin stranded and the villagers have gathered to assist.

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