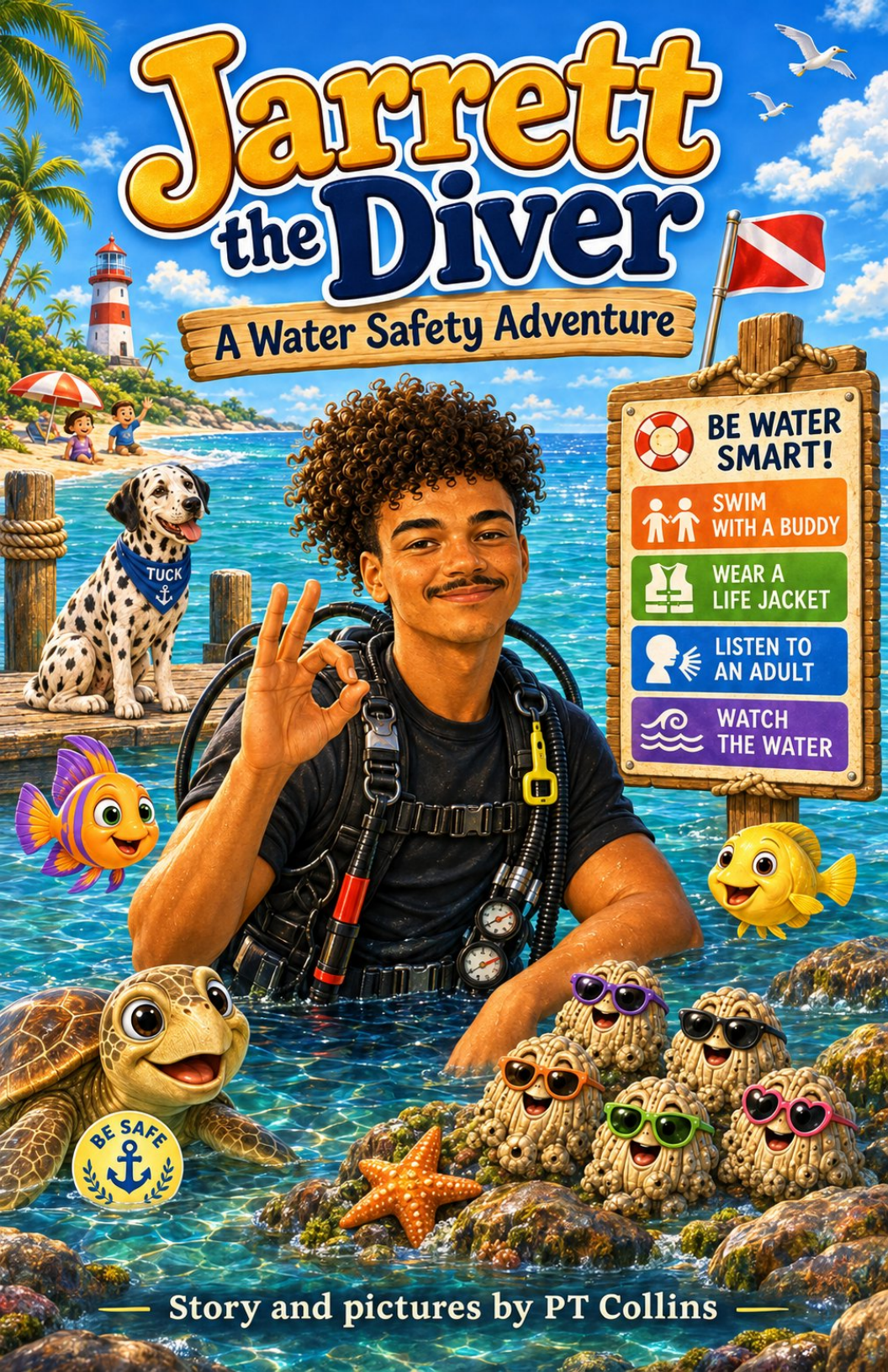
Jarrett the Diver
A Water Safety Adventure
BE WATER SMART!
SWIM WITH A BUDDY
WEAR A LIFE JACKET
LISTEN TO AN ADULT
WATCH THE WATER
TUCK
BE SAFE
Story and pictures by PT Collins



Jarrett the Diver

A Water Safety Adventure

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Meet Jarrett

This is Jarrett. He’s a diver. He works down where the water is deep and green.

He scrubs the boats. He checks the ropes. On his way back up, he waves to the fish.



One bark

Tuck, Jarrett’s best friend, waits on the dock. Every time Jarrett comes up, Tuck gives one bark.

The Barnacles hear it. They hear everything. They’re stuck to a piling, wearing sunglasses they did not pay for.



At the pool gate

Two kids are waiting at the pool. “Can we get in?” they ask their grown-up.

She puts her phone away. “I’m ready to watch,” she says. Later, when she calls them out, they come right away.

LISTEN UP!



Two by two

The kids pick each other for swimming buddies. They stay together where their grown-up can see them.

Tuck has a buddy too. His is Jarrett. He follows him all the way to the boat.



Ready for the boat

At the dock, Jarrett checks their life jackets before the boat leaves. Snap. Zip. Tug.

One jacket slides up too far when he lifts the shoulders. Jarrett finds a smaller one and checks it again. Now it fits snugly.

JACKET ON!



Slow feet

Back at the pool, somebody is in a hurry. “Slow feet,” says Jarrett. “The deck is slippery.”

They walk to the steps. Jarrett shows them where the water gets deep. Their grown-up helps them choose where to get in.

WATCH THE WATER!



Belly to the sky

With her grown-up beside her, one of the kids practices floating. Ears in the water. Face up. Slow breaths.

“If you get tired or need help,” says Jarrett, “float on your back and call out.” Tuck gives one bark.

FLOAT AND YELL!



Help from dry land

“What if my buddy needs help?”

“Yell for a grown-up or a lifeguard. Stay out of the water.” Jarrett lies low on the deck and shows how a grown-up can reach someone with a long pole.



Ask the lifeguard

At the beach, a yellow flag snaps in the wind. The kids stop beside the lifeguard stand.

“What does yellow mean today?” Jarrett asks. The lifeguard tells them where the current is stronger and where to stay.

CHECK THE FLAGS. ASK THE LIFEGUARD.



Loud enough to scare a pelican

LISTEN UP!

BUDDY UP!

JACKET ON!

WATCH THE WATER!

FLOAT AND YELL!

REACH — DON’T GO!



One last question

“Can we get in?”
The grown-up looks up and down the beach. “Right here. Stay with me.”

They wade in together. Tuck barks. A Barnacle pushes up his sunglasses. “He always gets the last word.”

Be water smart

1. **LISTEN UP!**

   Ask your grown-up before you go near or into the water.

2. **BUDDY UP!**

   Stay with your swim buddy and have a grown-up watch you.

3. **JACKET ON!**

   Wear a snug life jacket on a boat. Ask a grown-up to check the fit.

4. **WATCH THE WATER!**

   Walk near pools. Check the water and ask before you get in.

5. **FLOAT AND YELL!**

   If you need help in the water, float on your back and call out.

6. **REACH — DON’T GO!**

   Yell for a grown-up or lifeguard. Stay out of the water.

For the grown-up doing the reading

Watch closely

Name a water watcher. Keep attention on the water and stay within arm’s reach of young children and weak swimmers. Keep watching even when a lifeguard is present.

Use layers of protection

Use four-sided isolation fencing around home pools with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Choose a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket. Pool toys and water wings cannot replace it.

Practice before you need it

Choose age-appropriate swim lessons and learn CPR. If someone is in trouble, alert the lifeguard and call 911. Help from a secure place using reaching or throwing equipment.

Read Florida’s beach flags

Green means low hazard. Yellow means moderate surf or currents. Single red means high hazard. Double red closes the water. Purple warns of stinging marine life. Ask a lifeguard about conditions before entering.

American Red Cross water safety • Florida beach flags



A day by the water

Jarrett knows the harbor from the bottom up. Tuck knows every board on the dock.

Come along for a day at the pool, on the boat, and at the beach, with six rules you can shout and a few Barnacles who hear everything.

PT Collins