

INTERACTIVE
READING GUIDE

***Everything Awesome About
Sharks and Other Underwater
Creatures!***

by Mike Lowery

Readers will discover a wealth of weird and wonderful facts about the oceans, sharks, and other sea creatures presented in Mike Lowery's signature comic style with bright and energetic artwork. This will be a cherished book for curious readers and make them eager to know absolutely everything there is to know about sharks.

Want to read more books like this one? Visit your local or school library to check out more!

CREATE SUCCESSFUL READING HABITS

When you read a book multiple times with your child, they:

- increase vocabulary development
- improve word recognition
- develop fluency

Fluency is the ability to read words and sentences accurately, at a good pace, and with expression.

Current research shows that children can learn more from books when they are read multiple times.* When a teacher reads the same book 2–4 times, children will become familiar with the content, and might “read” to themselves or others. Reading books multiple times also allows teachers opportunities to review topics that were taught during the previous readings of the books.

* U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, What Works Clearinghouse. (n.d.). Practice Guides. <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuides>

WORD WORK

When your child reads longer words, help them look for and identify **base words**, **prefixes**, and **suffixes**.

- **Base words** are single words that cannot be broken into smaller word parts and still have meaning, like the word *friend*.
- A **prefix** is a word part that is added to the beginning of a base word, like *un* in the word *unfriendly*. Prefixes have meaning and will change the meaning of the base word when added.
- A **suffix** is a word part that is added to the end of a base word, like *ly* in the word *friendly*. Suffixes have meaning and will change the meaning of the base word when added.

Here is an example of how to identify **base words**, **prefixes**, and **suffixes** using the following words from the book.

disappear (p. 14)

shallowest (p. 15)

endangered (p. 14)

- Point to the word *disappear*. Say the word and ask your child to repeat it.
- Cover the prefix, *dis* with your finger and say, “What is the base word in *disappear*?” (appear)
- Then say, “Point to the prefix in *disappear*.” (dis)
- Say, “Now run your finger under the whole word and read the word parts together.”
- Repeat the steps for the words *shallowest* and *endangered*
 - The base word in *shallowest* is *shallow* and the suffix is *est*.
 - The base word in *endangered* is *danger*, the prefix is *en*, and the suffix is *ed*.

TALK ABOUT NEW AND INTERESTING WORDS

When children encounter unfamiliar words, take a moment to talk about the words using child-friendly explanations or definitions. Here are some interesting words and child-friendly definitions to discuss from the book:

claimed (p. 14)

If someone **claims** something, they say that they believe it is correct or real. Some people **claim** that aliens like to visit the Bermuda Triangle.

surrounded (p. 17)

To **surround** someone or something means to be all around it on all sides. There is an island in the South Pacific that is **surrounded** by 1,000 miles of ocean on all sides.

constantly (p. 18)

Something that is **constant** happens all the time without stopping. The outer layer of Earth is made up of rock plates that are **constantly** moving.

harmless (p. 23)

If something is **harmless**, it is safe to be near or to use. One drop of ocean water can contain up to one million viruses, but most of them are **harmless**.

ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE CONNECTIONS

Help your child understand what they read by pausing to have conversations before, during, and after they engage with a book. Encourage them to make connections to their lives, other books, and the world around them. Have your child go to the page or chapter number listed to help them answer the questions.

Before:

- The title of this book is *Everything Awesome About Sharks and Other Underwater Creatures!* What other underwater creatures do you think you'll learn about?
- What other ocean creatures have you seen in real life or on TV?
- What do you know about animals that live underwater?

During:

- What animals live in the Arctic Ocean? (p. 15)
- What are the five zones of the ocean? (p. 20)
- How do you know that sharks are fish? (p. 29)
- What is the largest shark that has ever existed? (p. 39)
- How are the zebra bullhead shark and the horn shark different? How are they the same? (p. 45 - 46)
- Why is the white shark considered the deadliest shark? (p. 50)
- What is unique, or special, about the blue whale? (p. 90 - 93)
- How can you help save sharks and other ocean animals? (p. 101 - 102)

After:

- Which underwater creature from the book would you most want to meet? Why?
- Which underwater creature in the book would you least want to meet? Why?
- What underwater creature fact did you learn while reading this book?
- What other books have you read that have the same ocean or underwater creatures that were in this book?

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Throughout the book, the author gives awards to different underwater creatures, such as the *Biggest Animal Ever Award*. Use the spaces below to give your own awards to creatures in the book. Write the animal's name on the line inside the award. In the box on the right, write 2-3 complete sentences explaining why you gave that animal the award.



This animal wins the **Favorite Creature Award** because _____



This animal wins the **Creature with the Coolest Name Award** because _____
