



**Title:** There's a Shark in the Loo

**Author:** Sharon Boyce

**Illustrator:** Suzanne Houghton

**Publisher:** Larrikin House

**Target Age Group:** 3-8 years

**Key Curriculum Areas:** English, The Arts, Technologies and Health & Science

## SYNOPSIS

There's a Shark in the Loo is a laugh out loud story about a cheeky Shark who shows up unexpectedly in the bathroom on birthday party day. Mum, Dad and the party girl herself try all sorts of crazy ways to clear the house before the party guests arrive, and of course all their attempts are unsuccessful. In the end, the family must accept the additional party guest, who turns out to be a larger than usual extra mouth to feed.

## THEMES

Birthday parties, sharks, humour, problem-solving, rhyme.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sharon Boyce loves animals, going camping and having adventures. She believes the world is full of magic and hidden wonders waiting to be discovered, all of which are waiting to be turned into stories. Her other job is looking after sick kids in hospital.

Along with her husband and grown up kids, she shares her house with a dog, a cat, and some fish. One day, she'd like a pet donkey... and a wombat...and an owl. If you can't find her, she's probably curled up in a cosy corner reading a book.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Suzanne Houghton walks around with a head full of ideas and a sketchbook full of characters. She loves nothing more than to splash colour on a page and spends most of her time "colouring in". When it comes to her books there is one thing Suzanne wants more than anything. To make kids laugh. She believes that humour is essential and if kids don't find her funny, she isn't doing her job properly.



*Funny books by funny people*



## ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?  
(Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).

### DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to chomp like a shark and put up their hand when they notice the rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to pop like a fish and put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Clap the rhythm - On a selected page, students clap their hands along to the beat of the words. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think will happen next?
2. What do you notice about Mum and Dad's reaction to the problem?
3. How do you think the family will solve their shark problem?
4. Have you ever had anything strange in your toilet?
5. Have you ever visited an aquarium?
6. Can you make any connections to the story so far?  
(ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)

### AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Who was your favourite character, why?
3. Link to community - Organise a visit to an aquarium.  
(ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

**1. Cloze passages:** Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.

Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)

**2. Character Profile:** Students draw the characters in the story and write their name underneath each picture.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

**3. Word Search:** Create a word search using words from the text.

Curriculum links: (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007) (ACELY1653)

### 4. Retell Activities:

a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.

b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578)

**5. Acrostic Poem:** Students choose a character from the story and write an acrostic poem.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM056)

**6. Write a blurb:** Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own blurb.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACELA1586)

**7. Toilet investigation poster:** Students research the history of the toilet. Some questions they might like to answer: Which way does the water spin when the toilet is flushed? Why can't you smell poo from the sewer inside the house? When where the first toilets used? What did people do before toilets were invented?

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1575) (ACPPS003) (ACELY1663) (ACAMAM054) (ACPPS018) (ACPPS021)

**8. Who is in MY Loo?:** Ask students to draw (or cut and paste) pictures of a different character coming out of a toilet. Then have the students create their own short story based on their toilet character.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581)

**9. Making connections:** Students to choose a character from the story and draw them. Then ask students to draw themselves next to the character. Students write about a time that something happened to them that also happened to the character in the story.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1582)

### 10. A visit to the Aquarium - Reading Response:

Students write about a time they visited an aquarium either virtually or in real life. Ask: What did you see? How did you feel?

Remind: Remember to use words like firstly, then, after that and finally to begin your sentences. Use capital letters and full stops where necessary

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1575) (ACPPS003) (ACELY1663) (ACAMAM054) (ACPPS018) (ACPPS021)

**11. Party invitation:** Create an invitation to the Birthday party using prompts from the story. What time are the guests arriving? What activities will be planned? Is it a pool party? What might guests need to watch out for?

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1575) (ACPPS003) (ACELY1663) (ACAMAM054) (ACPPS018) (ACPPS021)



**FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

SEA LIFE Melbourne virtual aquarium: <https://www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/explore/virtual-aquarium/>

SEA LIFE Sydney virtual aquarium and awesome craft activities:  
<https://www.sydneyaquarium.com.au/explore/virtualaquarium/>

Shark Cam - Monterey Bay Aquarium: <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams/shark-cam>

**Related Titles:**

Who is at the Zoo? Written by Sharon Boyce, illustrated by Suzanne Houghton, published by Larrikin House.

Sharon Boyce Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sharonjboycebooks/>

Suzanne Houghton Website: <https://suzannehoughton.com.au/art/illustrations/>



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