

Title: There's a Shark at my School

Author: Sharon J Boyce

Illustrator: Suzanne Houghton

Publisher: Larrikin House

Target Age Group: 3-8 years

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

SYNOPSIS

My pet shark Seymour is bored in our backyard pool. He wants to come to school with me and I think that's a brilliant idea! He promises to do everything I say, but I'm not so sure...

THEMES

School, sharks, humour, problem-solving, rhyme.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sharon J 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.



Stories with Humour & Heart

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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 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 other people's reactions to Seymour on the way to school?
3. How do you think the Annie will solve her shark problem?
4. Have you ever taken anything strange to school?
5. How do you think people react to Seymour at school?
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 - a visit to a water park!
(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. Shark investigation poster: Students research sharks and create a poster for classroom display.

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

8. 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)

9. Who is at MY School?: Ask students to draw (or cut and paste) pictures of an animal of their choice coming to school. Then have the students create their own short story based on their animal.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581)

10. A visit to to a Water Park - Reading Response:

Students write about a time they visited a waterpark or pool. Ask: What did you see? How did you feel? Did you play any games? 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. The day a shark came to school: Choose a character from the story and write about how you think they felt when a shark came to school using prompts from the story. Were they happy about a shark at school? Why or why not?

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



FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Related Titles:

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

There's a Shark in the Loo written by Sharon Boyce, illustrated by Suzanne Houghton, published by Larrikin House.

Sharon J Boyce Website: www.sharonjboyceauthor.com

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

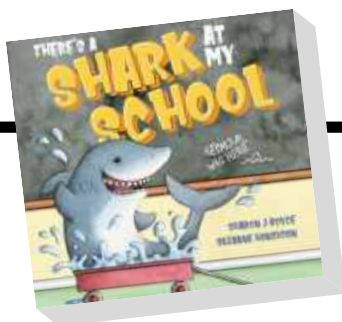
Suzanne Houghton Website: <https://suzannehoughton.com.au>



To order copies of this title visit: www.larrikinhouse.com

There's a ? at MY School

Draw or paste an animal that you would like to bring to school below:



THERE'S A SHARK AT MY SCHOOL
ISBN: 9781922503299
PUBLISHER: Larrikin House
ORDER FROM: larrikinhouse.com

WRITTEN BY: Sharon J Boyce
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