

FIN FEAR

That morning, Dad had warned me to be careful. He had said, "Stay away from Pinchy Point. Someone said they saw a shark down there this morning. A really big one."

Why hadn't I listened?

I was out in the waves, on my board, when I spotted something. A lone fin sticking out of the water.

My heart thumped loudly. My blood turned cold.

I paddled quickly, then stopped. Someone once told me that you should stay still if you see a shark. Sharks attack things that move!

My board kept me floating. The whole time I just had my eyes locked on that fin. It was getting closer.

Silly thoughts went through my head. Would anyone notice when I was not at school? Would they miss me?

There was only one other person on the beach. She was asleep on her towel. I yelled and waved, but nothing happened.

I was alone.

Suddenly, the fin moved. It zoomed to the right — away from me! But then it went under the water. Oh, no!

I waited and watched. The fin popped out of the water again. The shark must have smelt me. I gripped my board so tightly, my knuckles turned white.

I closed my eyes. This was it. No more school, no more friends and no more parents. No more me.

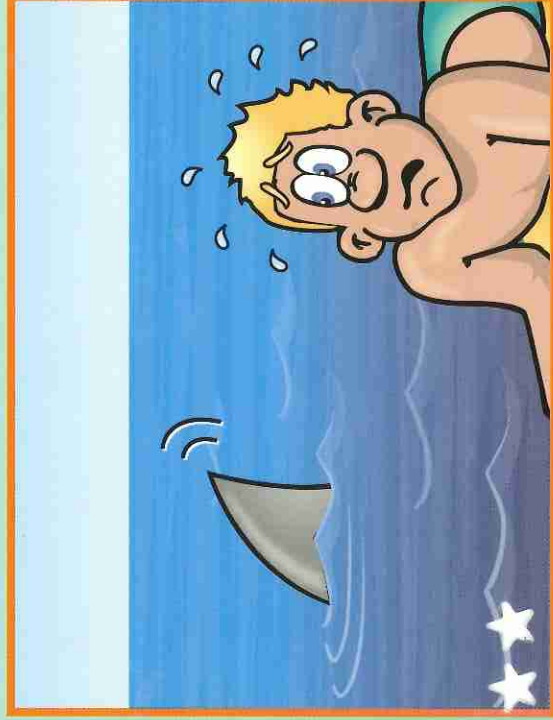
Then I heard the best sound.

SQUEAK! A shiny dolphin leapt out of the water. It back-flipped over me, then plunged back into the water.

I laughed so hard that I cried.

Questions

- 1 The surfer's blood
a thumped.
b turned cold.
c spotted a shark.
- 2 Where was the fin?
a under water
b above the board
c sticking out of the water
- 3 What do sharks attack?
a things that move
b boards on the water
c people at Pinchy Point
- 4 The person on the beach was
a helping.
b sleeping.
c screaming.
- 5 What did the fin belong to?
a a dolphin
b a big shark
c a surfboard
- 6 What does 'SQUEAK' mean?
a This was the name of the dolphin.
b It was someone trying to yell 'SHARK!'
c It was the sound made by the dolphin when it leapt.



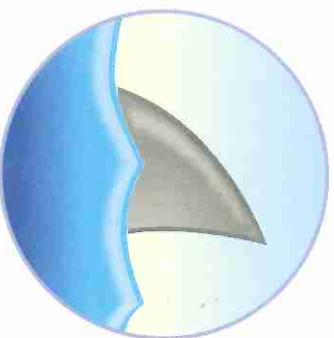
Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

lone plunged morning
knuckles thumped

- 7 The early part of the day
- 8 Joints in the hand
- 9 A single thing
- 10 Beat very loudly
- 11 Dived

Phonics



Silent Letters

Silent letters are not always found at the beginning of a word, e.g. **b** as in **bomb**.

Write **one** word in each pair that has a silent letter or letters.

- 12 keen, knuckles
- 13 with, write
- 14 whole, warden
- 15 trend, thumb

Back To The Text...

- 16 Who warned the surfer to be careful?
 - a Mum
 - b Dad
- 17 In what part of the story does the surfer cry?
 - a the beginning
 - b the end
- 18 How many fins were sticking out of the water?
 - a one
 - b two

Think About This

- 19 Why did the surfer's heart thump loudly?
 - a He was happy.
 - b He was scared.
 - c He was cold.
- 20 The fin in the picture belongs to
 - a a shark.
 - b a dolphin.
 - c a fish.

Challenge Option

Using pictures and letters, create a title for a shark attack story.

