



Shark Baby

Written by Ann Downer
Illustrated by Shennen Bersani

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Where do I belong in this great big ocean?

"Who am I?" wonders Shark Baby. When his "mermaid's purse" egg case is torn loose in a storm, he finds himself on a journey through different ocean habitats: kelp forests, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows. He learns what kind of shark he isn't, but not what kind he is. He needs to find the "mermaid" to learn where he belongs, but the ocean is big and full of dangers. Will he find out who he is—and what he can do—in time?

(Ages 4-8)



For Creative Minds

Teachers and parents will love the educational section, which includes the following activities:

- Sharks: True or False
- Compare and Contrast Egg Cases



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Curriculum Connections

Shark Baby is Lexile leveled at 700L, and has a word count of 835.

More than 30 pages of **cross curricular activities** and three unique quizzes are available online.

Keywords for educators: Life cycles, ocean habitats, life science, marine animals

About the Author & Illustrator



Ann Downer has never lived very far from the ocean. When she was little, her uncle took her to a beach to see horseshoe crabs, and she has been interested in sea creatures ever since. She spent part of her childhood in and around the Pacific Ocean, living first in the Philippine Islands and then in Thailand. Now she lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, not far from the Atlantic Ocean. With her husband and son, she likes to go looking for sea creatures in tide pools in Maine. She once had a chance to go out in a very small boat with some scientists who study whales, and got to listen to the whales coming up for air. She used to be scared of sharks (she still is, a little!) but mostly thinks they are some of the most beautiful and fascinating creatures on Earth. Ann helped edit two books about the ocean for grown-ups: *Oceans: Heart of Our Blue Planet* and *Underwater Eden: Saving the Last Coral Wilderness on Earth*. She is the author of five novels for young readers and *Elephant Talk*, a book about the ways elephants communicate.

Award-winning children's book illustrator **Shennen Bersani** has two million copies of her illustrated books cherished and read by families throughout the world. She has been a freelance illustrator since 1989. She works primarily with colored pencils, sometimes using a mixed-media technique of colored pencils, crayon, and paint. Her art delivers a unique blend of realism, heartfelt emotion, love of nature, and life lessons for children of all ages. In addition to *Home in the Cave*, *The Glaciers are Melting!*, and *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* for Arbordale, Shennen has illustrated a number of best-selling books, including, *Snakes: Long, Longer, Longest*; *Sharks: Big, Bigger, Biggest*; *Ocean Counting: Odd Numbers*; *Icky Bug Shapes*; and *My Sister, Alicia May*. Her art also appears in many magazines, newspapers, and publications. Shennen lives with her family near Boston. For more information, visit her website at www.shennenbersani.com.



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