

# I SURVIVED

## BOOK CLUB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Survived The Shark Attacks of 1916



## READ-ALOUD

Assign roles to your family and friends for this read-aloud from *I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916*. Chet is in the hospital, recovering from his wounds, when some special visitors arrive.

### CHARACTERS:

Narrator  
Doctor  
Chet

Uncle Jerry  
Nurse  
Dewey

Sid  
Monty  
Minnie

**Narrator:** Chet lies in his hospital bed as he and Uncle Jerry talk to a nurse and doctor about his recovery.

**Chet:** Is my leg going to heal?

**Doctor:** It will take some time, but it will heal. I promise.

**Nurse:** The “miracle kid”—that’s what the newspapers are calling you, you know that?

**Doctor:** You were lucky, son.

**Uncle Jerry:** You’re a fast swimmer!

**Nurse:** You also have good friends who helped you.

**Uncle Jerry:** (to the nurse, with a wink) He’s a popular kid. He gets that from me.

**Doctor:** Popular indeed. There are more flowers and cards in this room than any other in the whole hospital!

**Chet:** I can’t believe they’re from all over the country.

**Nurse:** People want you to get well soon.

Speaking of which, you get some rest now.

**Chet:** I will. Thank you.

**Uncle Jerry:** I’ll be back with a surprise later.

**Narrator:** Uncle Jerry and the nurse and doctor leave the room, and Chet lies there, staring up at the ceiling. He doesn’t want to fall asleep—when he does, the shark is there, lurking, watching him with its black eyes, its teeth glistening—but Chet is exhausted, and soon his eyes close...

**Uncle Jerry:** Chet? Are you awake?

**Narrator:** Chet opens his eyes, sweating, his heart pounding from his nightmare.

**Uncle Jerry:** Hi, kiddo. You have some visitors.

**Narrator:** There, in the doorway, next to Uncle Jerry, is Dewey, Sid, Monty, and Minnie. Chet can’t believe his eyes—they must have traveled for hours just to see him. He raises a weak hand and waves.

**Chet:** Hi.

**Narrator:** His friends rush toward his bed, all talking at once.

**Dewey:** Chet, they dynamited the creek!

**Sid:** A guy caught a shark in the bay and says

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## READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

it's the same one that attacked you!

**Monty:** It was ten feet long, and when they cut open its stomach, they found human bones! Can you believe that?

**Narrator:** Minnie shoots the boys a look.

**Minnie:** Your uncle said your leg is going to be okay, so that's good. I'm glad.

**Chet:** Thanks, Minnie. Me too.

**Minnie:** Does it hurt?

**Chet:** It's not too bad.

**Sid:** You're probably going to have a huge, cool scar!

**Chet:** And a limp, too.

**Uncle Jerry:** Just like me, kiddo. And don't you worry—a limp won't slow you down a bit.

**Narrator:** For a moment, everyone is quiet.

Then Chet notices Sid look at Uncle Jerry, who gives Sid a quick nod.

**Uncle Jerry:** Minnie, how about you and I step out into the hall for a minute?

**Minnie:** Sure. Feel better, Chet. See you when you come home.

**Narrator:** The boys wait until Uncle Jerry and Minnie leave, but as soon as the door closes:

**Dewey:** Told you she was sweet on you!

**Monty:** She did come all this way...

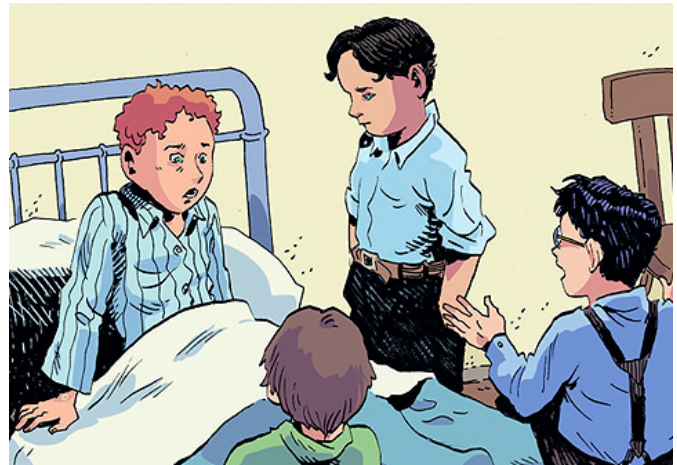
**Narrator:** Chet cracks a smile. The boys fall silent again. Then Sid moves closer to Chet, and tears fill his eyes.

**Sid:** We're sorry, Chet.

**Monty:** Yeah, we're sorry for everything.

**Sid:** It's my fault.

**Chet:** What? You didn't put the shark in the



creek.

**Narrator:** The boys laugh, and Sid wipes his eyes on his sleeve.

**Monty:** We should have listened to you. If we had gotten out of the water, you wouldn't have gotten bit.

**Dewey:** And if you hadn't come, we'd be...

**Narrator:** None of them want to think about that.

**Chet:** Well, if I hadn't played that stupid prank, you *would* have believed me.

**Sid:** You saved me.

**Chet:** You guys saved *me*.

**Narrator:** Chet looks at his friends and realizes something amazing.

**Chet:** We saved each other.

**Dewey:** You're right.

**Sid:** We're calling a truce. No more pranks, okay? Any arguments?

**Dewey:** None from me.

**Monty:** Me neither.

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## READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

**Sid:** Then it's settled.

**Narrator:** Just then, Uncle Jerry comes back into the room.

**Uncle Jerry:** All right boys, time to go. Wait out in the hall for me, will ya?

**Narrator:** The boys file out, closing the door behind them.

**Uncle Jerry:** Your mom called the hospital. She and your dad will be here after dinner tonight. And you know, I had an idea. Maybe your dad would like to help me run the diner. What do you think about that?

**Chet:** You mean he and Mama would move here? And stay?

**Uncle Jerry:** I'm not sure he'll say yes, but I

think it's worth a try, don't you?

**Narrator:** Chet feels a flutter of hope in his chest. His loneliness—and his fear—start to melt away.

**Chet:** Yes. Definitely.

**Uncle Jerry:** Okay then, kiddo, it's a plan. See you tomorrow.

**Narrator:** After Uncle Jerry leaves, Chet lies there for a long time, thinking about introducing Mama and Papa to his new friends, the boys who saved him by reaching out, holding on tight, and not letting go. Slowly, Chet's eyes close, and this time—for the first time in a long while—he falls into a deep and peaceful sleep. ■