

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Shark Attacks of 1916



LITERARY ELEMENT ACTIVITY, CONTEXT REVIEW, AND GRAPHIC NOVEL ANALYZER

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: Authors often show their main characters changing and growing over the course of the story. This journey is called **character development**. Answer the questions below to explore Chet's development over the course of the story.

1. What is Chet struggling with at the beginning of the book?

2. How does this change by the end of the book?

3. How does Uncle Jerry help Chet make this change?

4. How do the shark attacks help Chet get closer to his new friends?

CONTEXT REVIEW: Use the information at the back of the book to answer the questions below.

1. What can you do to avoid a shark attack?

2. Why are sharks endangered?

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GRAPHIC NOVEL ANALYZER (CONTINUED)



I SURVIVED THE SHARK ATTACKS OF 1916: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

GRAPHIC NOVEL 101

WHAT'S A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

A book in which the illustrations and the text work together to tell the story. To understand what's happening, you have to read the text *and* study the pictures.

HOW DO I READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

On each page, start with the top row and read left to right, then repeat all the way down the page. In other words, zig-zag your way from the top left to the bottom right.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- There are many kinds of text in a graphic novel, like speech bubbles and narration boxes.
- There are illustrated words that provide sound effects, like "SPLASH," "SNAP," and "BANG."
- The illustrated boxes on the pages are called panels.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS: Below, analyze how three illustrations in the book offer information that is important to understanding the story.



1. What do you notice about the illustration of the shark on page 78? How much of the shark can you see?

2. On pages 86–89, there are hardly any words. Why do you think this is?

3. How does the illustrator convey that Chet sees the shark in his nightmares in the middle panel on page 133?

ANSWERS

LITERARY ELEMENT ACTIVITY:

1. Chet is struggling with missing his parents and feeling like he doesn't belong anywhere.
2. Thanks to his new friendships, and the possibility of his parents settling in Elm Hills, Chet is starting to feel at home.
3. Uncle Jerry helps Chet learn about friendship and plans to offer Chet's dad a job at the diner.
4. Because of the shark attacks, Chet and his friends learned that they can rely on each other. They also decide together to stop pulling pranks, which will help them trust each other.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. Swim in groups; leave jewelry at home because bright objects like flashing metal can attract sharks; don't swim in the ocean if you are bleeding.
2. Every year, humans kill nearly 100 million sharks, mostly for their fins, which are a prized ingredient for something called shark fin soup.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS:

1. You can see the whole shark—the part that's above the water as well as the part that's below the water.
2. What's happening with the shark on those pages is so dramatic and scary that the author and illustrator decided to let the pictures tell the story.
3. In the middle panel, it looks like there are two eyes and a giant mouth full of teeth in the corner of the room.