

NICOLE in

The Surf is my Turf



by Lulu & Tee



save our seas
FOUNDATION

For Dean, Nicholas and Leah - with even more love from your mums

This book was created by two Kommetjie mums. It was written by Linda "Lulu" Fellowes and illustrated by Theresa "Tee" Acker, the team which brought you "Peter, Pamela and Percy in the Big Spill" and "Eric in It's a Piece of Cake".

Once again we have aimed to make a book that is fun and educational, with a touch of magic.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to:

- My dear friend and editor, Lisa Templeton, for her great insight, gentle correction and excellent grammar!
- Alison Kock, a Great White Shark scientist who has devoted her life to the study of these magnificent creatures, for her input and incredible support throughout this project.
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 - Shark Spotters for their input and for being featured in this book.
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The tracking of Nicole was a study conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Marine and Coastal Management Branch, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, White Shark Trust, University of Cape Town and University of Pretoria.

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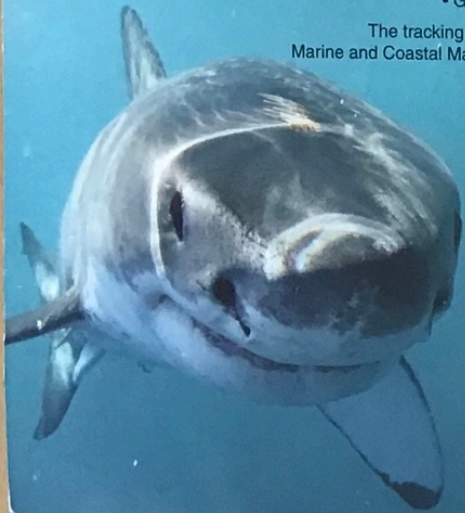
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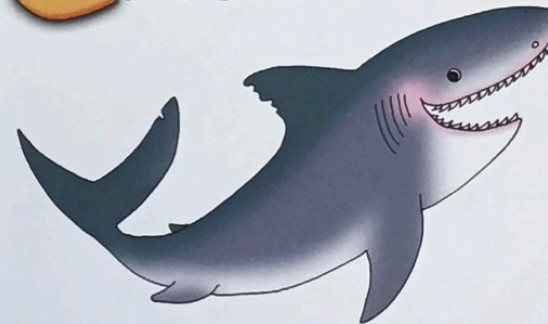
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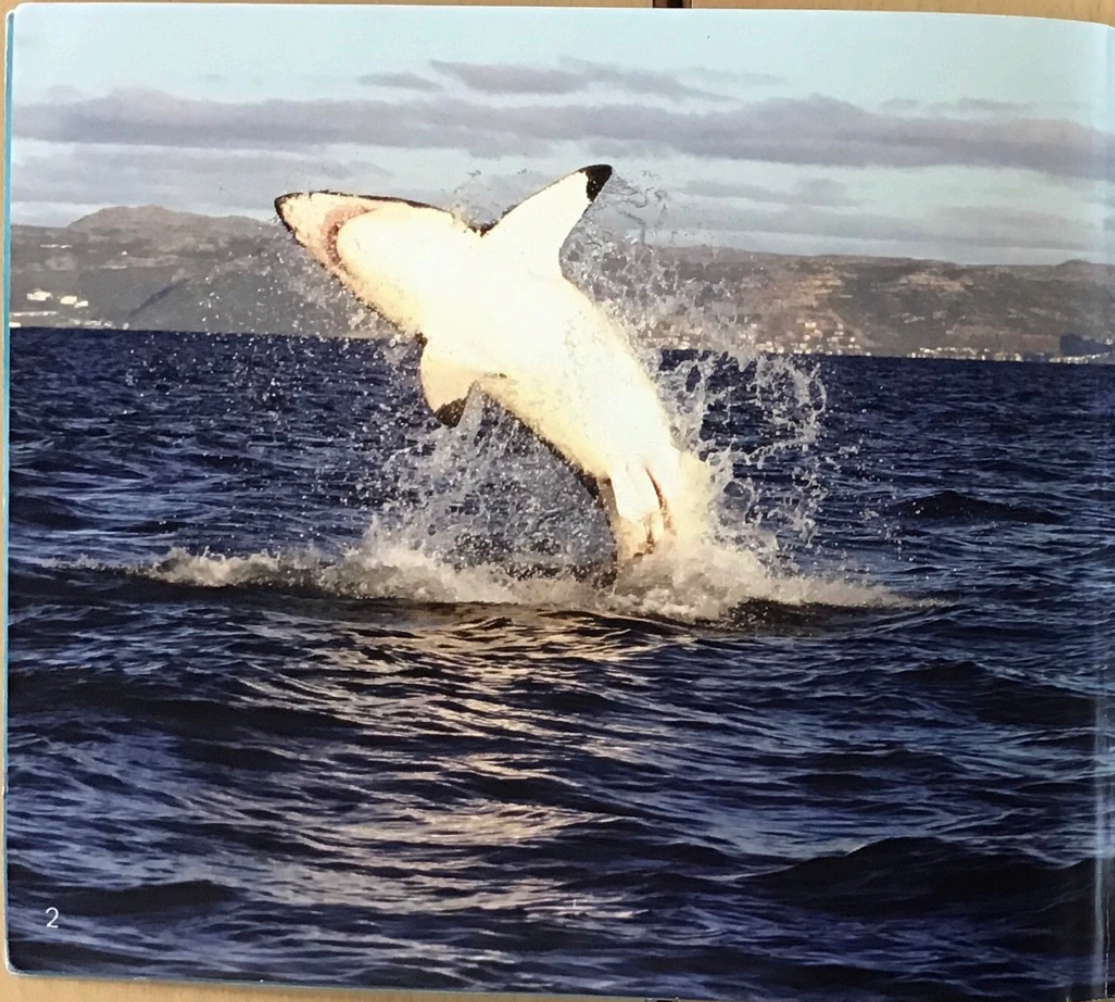
NICOLE

in
The Surf is my Turf



by Lulu & Tee

See if you can spot Eric, Peter, Pamela and Percy. They're here on these pages!



Foreword

*"As long as there are people who care and take action,
we can and we will make a difference."*
The Founder, Save Our Seas Foundation

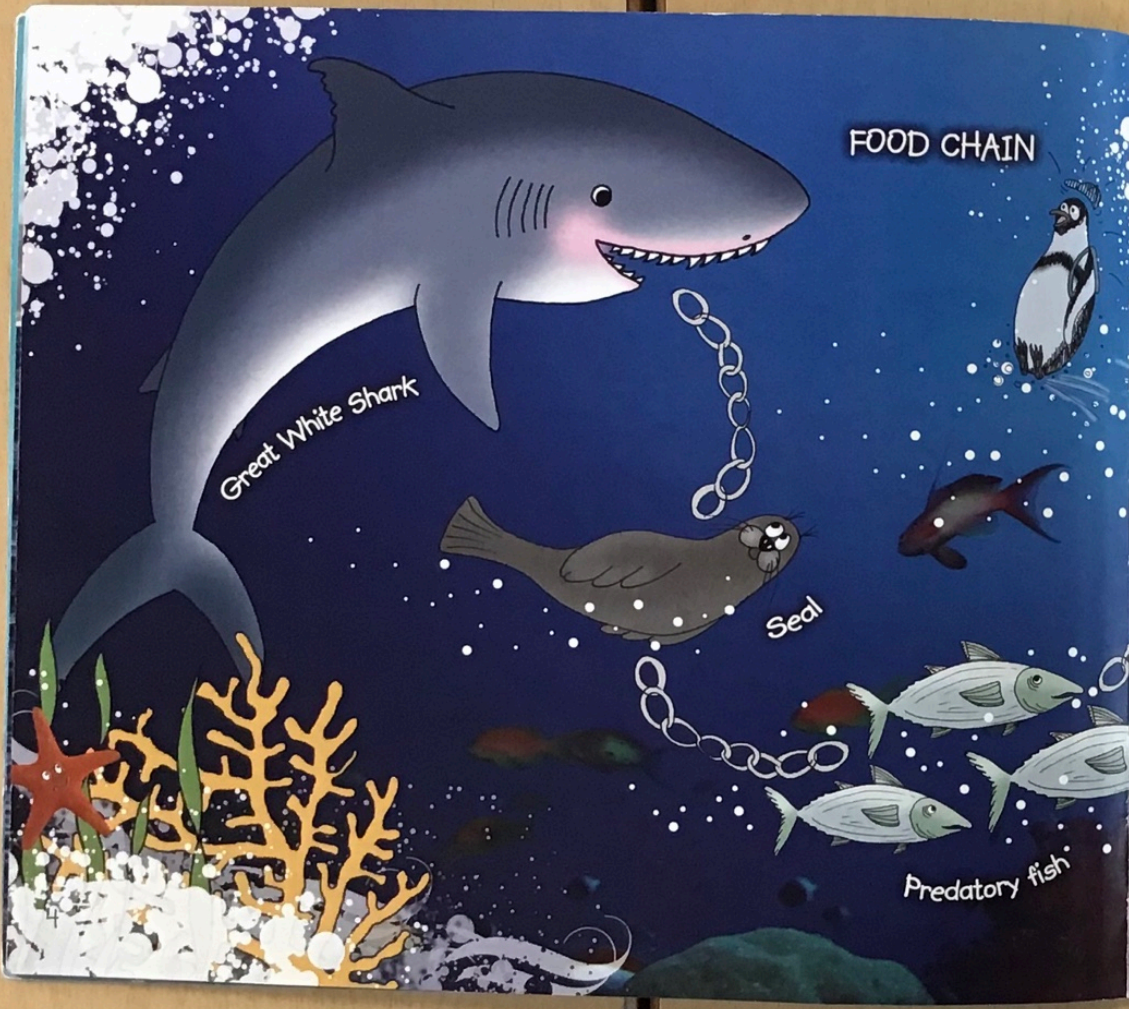
Save Our Seas Foundation is a non-profit international marine conservation organisation committed to encouraging awareness, protection and preservation of the global marine environment through research and education. Many of our projects are focused on sharks because of the increasing threats to their survival and because they are vital for maintaining healthy and balanced marine ecosystems.

Inspiring people, especially children, to fall in love with the sea by providing information and educational material will assist in their better understanding the ocean world and the many challenges that affect its delicate ecosystems. The future of our oceans lies in our hands today, but it is crucial that we encourage our children to embrace their role as guardians of the oceans tomorrow.

Chris Clarke
Executive Director,
Save Our Seas Foundation



 save our seas
FOUNDATION

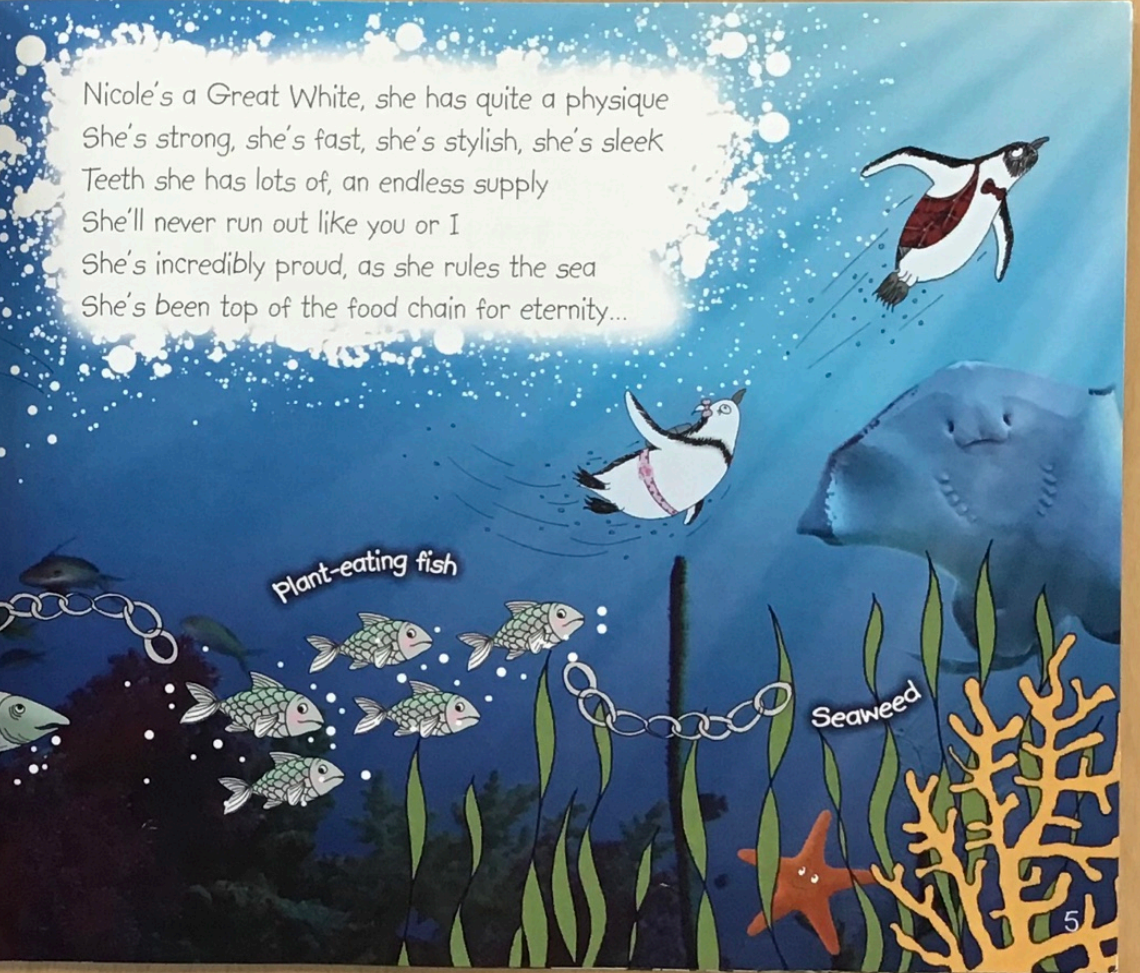


FOOD CHAIN

Great White Shark

Seal

Predatory fish



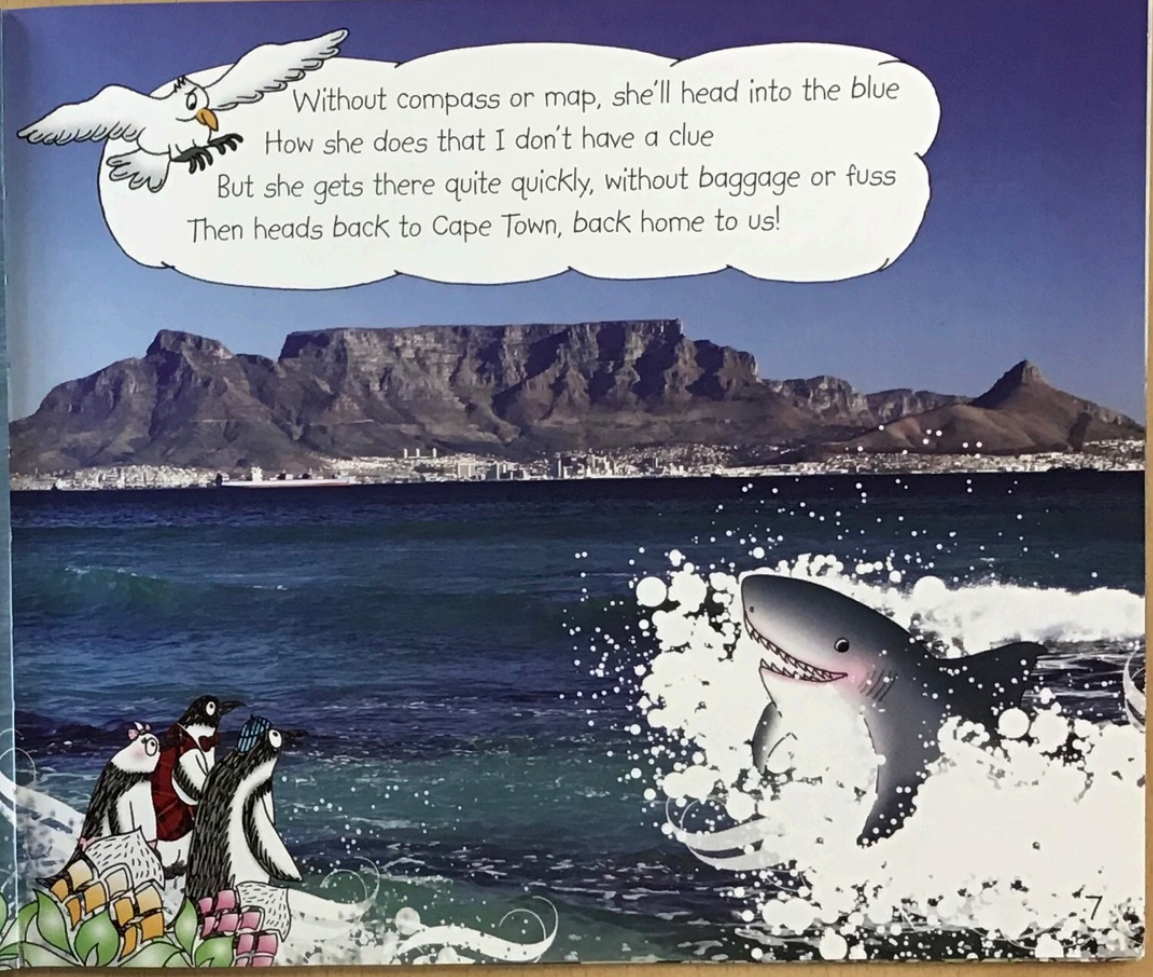
Nicole's a Great White, she has quite a physique
She's strong, she's fast, she's stylish, she's sleek
Teeth she has lots of, an endless supply
She'll never run out like you or I
She's incredibly proud, as she rules the sea
She's been top of the food chain for eternity...

Plant-eating fish

Seaweed



Now Nicole likes exploring and she'll think on a whim
"I'll head for Perth, I need a good swim
It won't take long, just three months and a bit
For me it's no problem... I am young, I am fit!"

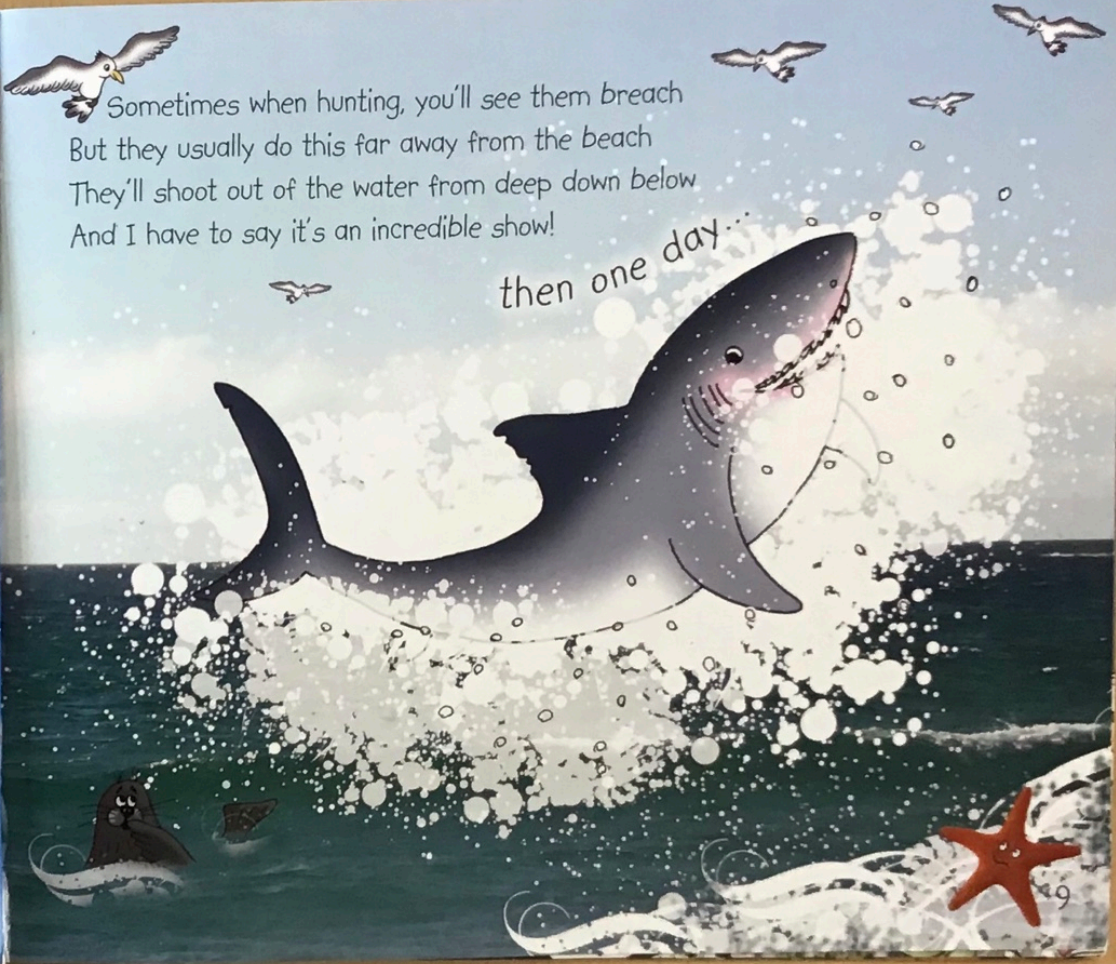


Without compass or map, she'll head into the blue
How she does that I don't have a clue
But she gets there quite quickly, without baggage or fuss
Then heads back to Cape Town, back home to us!

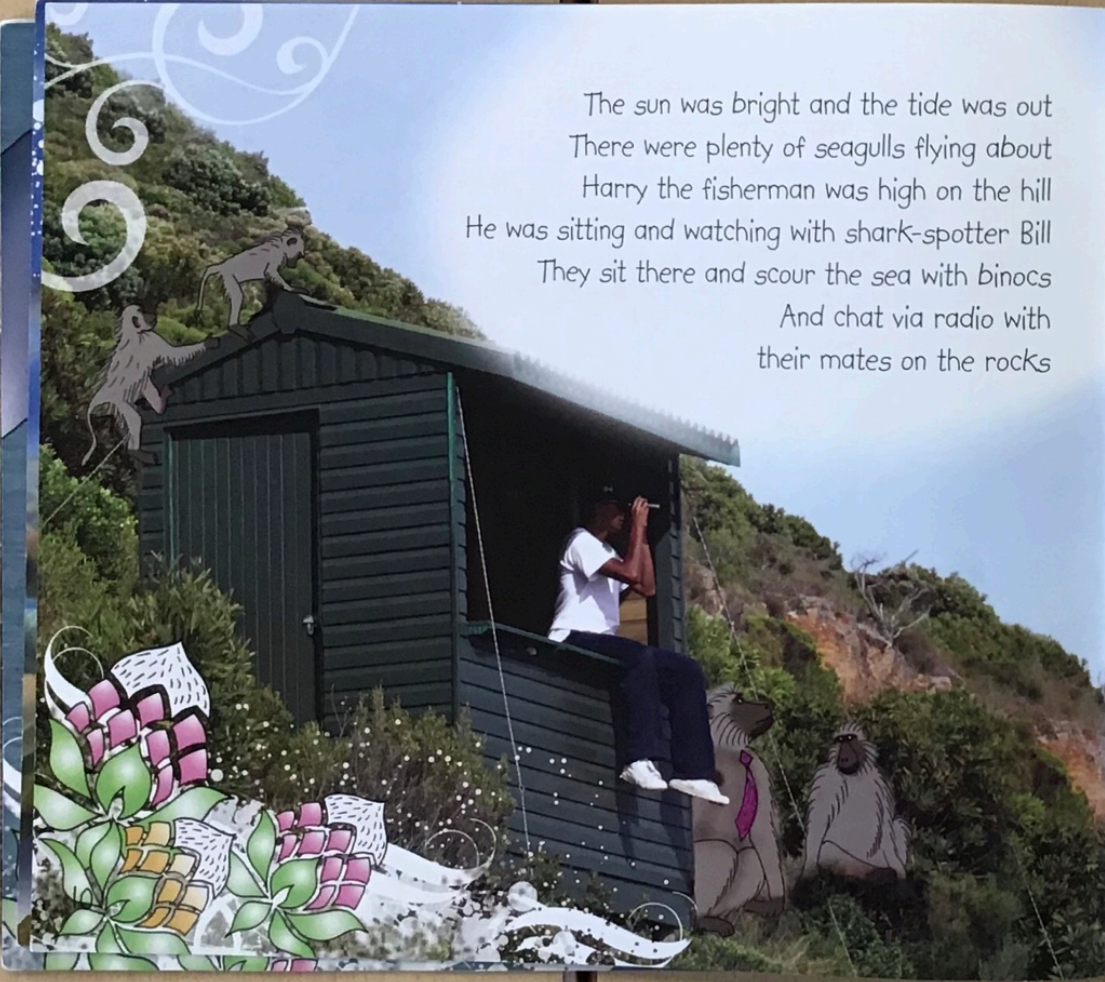
Great Whites are quite lonely and misunderstood
We're crazy to think that we're their favourite food
They live in the sea, we live on the land
It's not all that hard to understand
They much prefer seal, or stingray, or fish
Let's face it, we're just not their favourite dish!



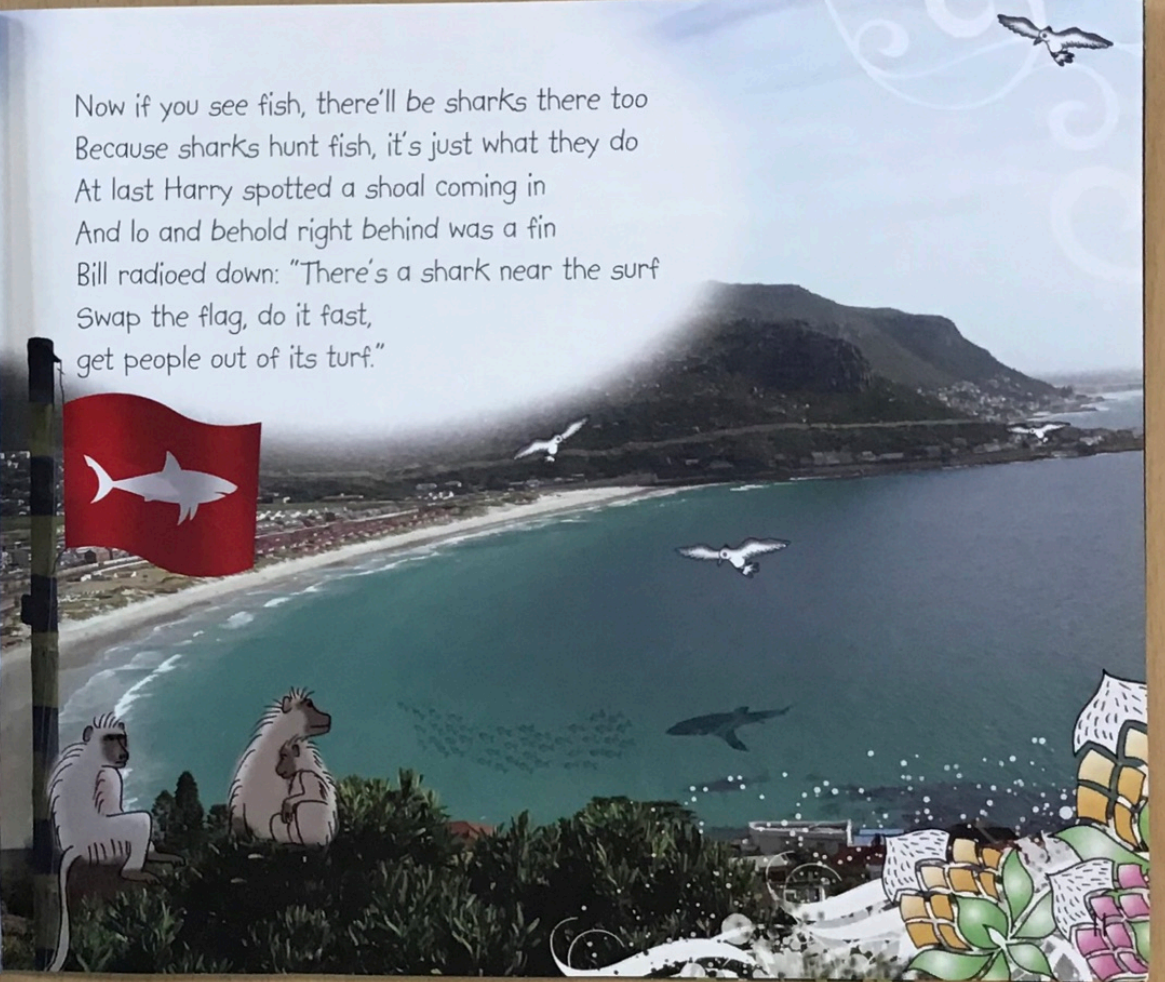
Sometimes when hunting, you'll see them breach
But they usually do this far away from the beach
They'll shoot out of the water from deep down below
And I have to say it's an incredible show!



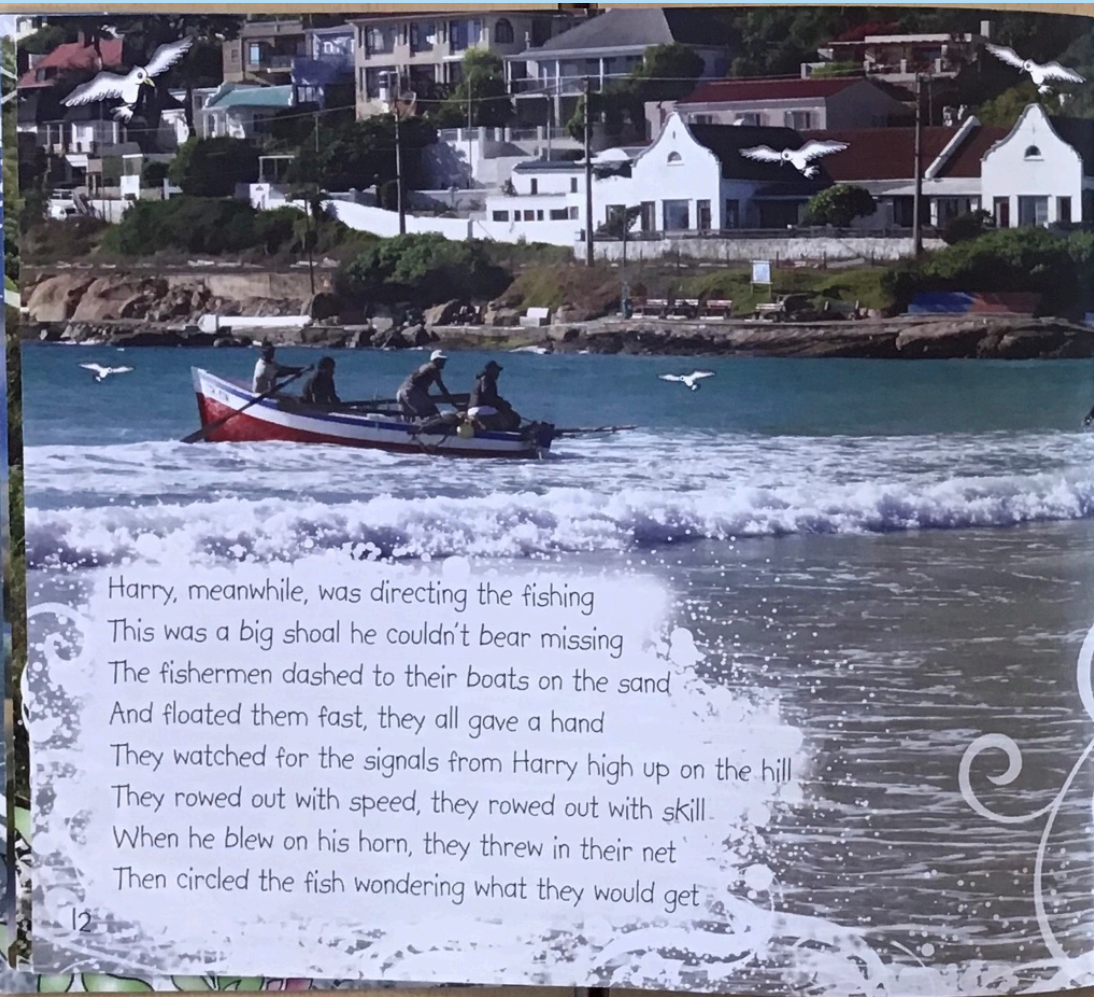
then one day...



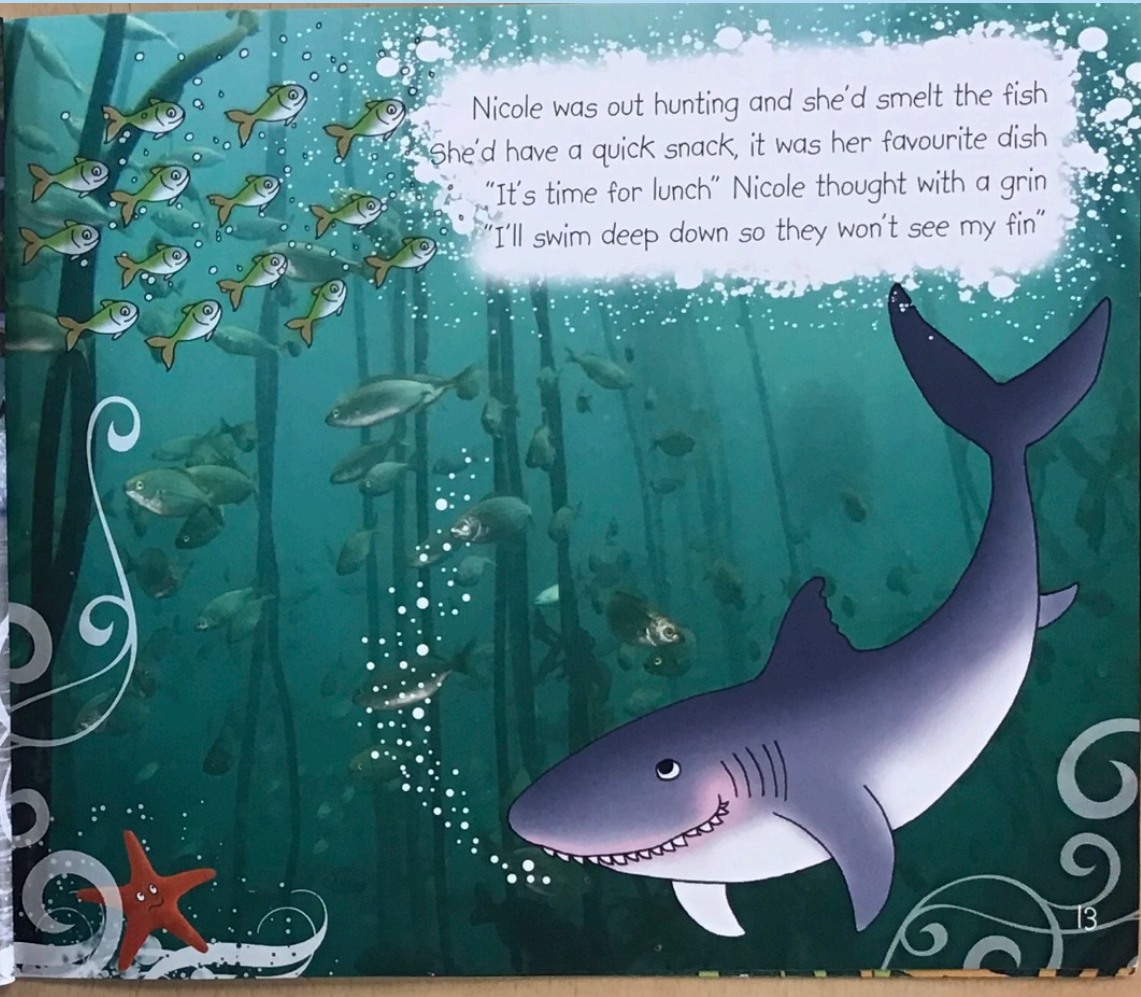
The sun was bright and the tide was out
There were plenty of seagulls flying about
Harry the fisherman was high on the hill
He was sitting and watching with shark-spotter Bill
They sit there and scour the sea with binocs
And chat via radio with
their mates on the rocks



Now if you see fish, there'll be sharks there too
Because sharks hunt fish, it's just what they do
At last Harry spotted a shoal coming in
And lo and behold right behind was a fin
Bill radioed down: "There's a shark near the surf
Swap the flag, do it fast,
get people out of its turf."



Harry, meanwhile, was directing the fishing
This was a big shoal he couldn't bear missing
The fishermen dashed to their boats on the sand
And floated them fast, they all gave a hand
They watched for the signals from Harry high up on the hill
They rowed out with speed, they rowed out with skill
When he blew on his horn, they threw in their net
Then circled the fish wondering what they would get

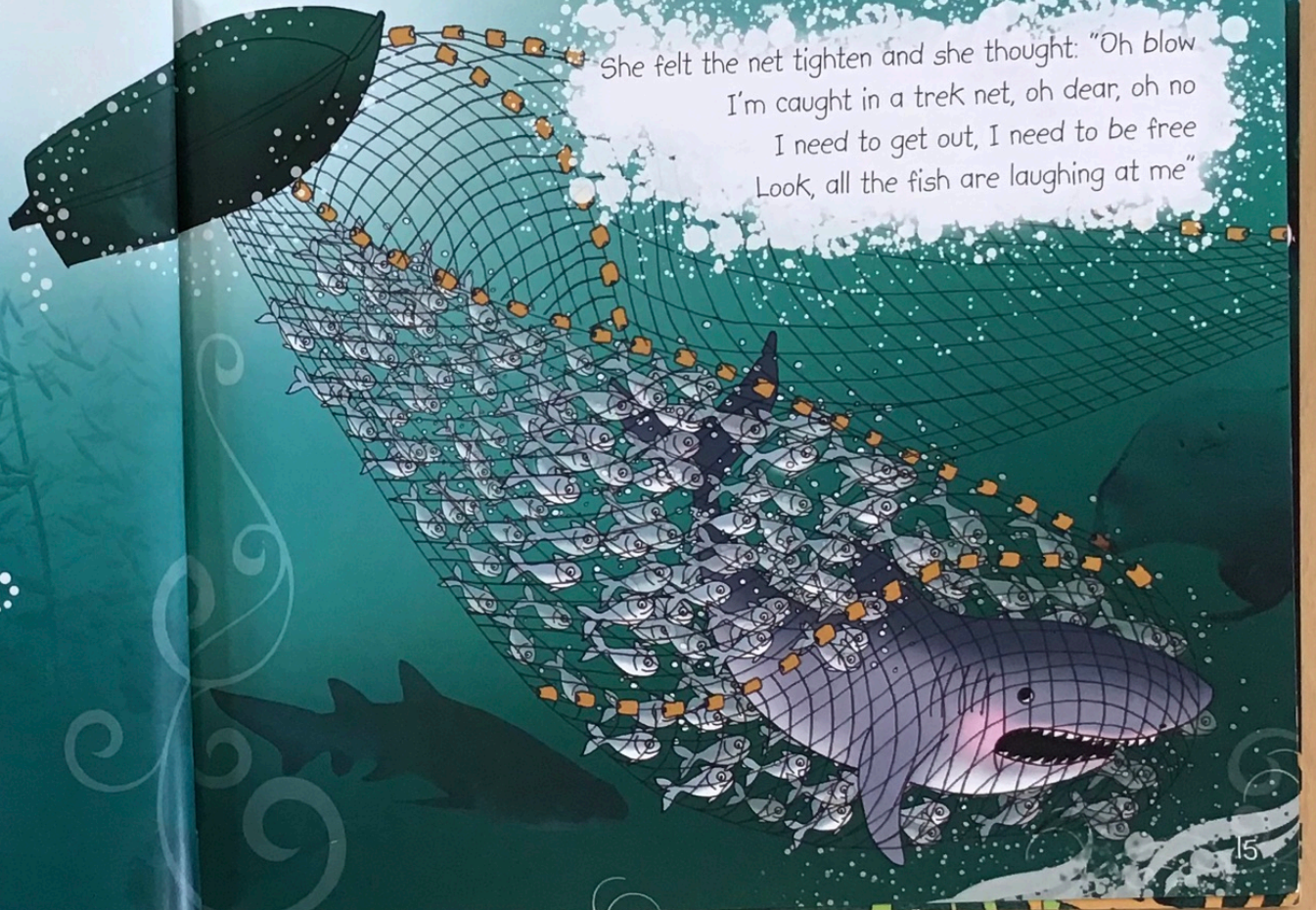


Nicole was out hunting and she'd smelt the fish
She'd have a quick snack, it was her favourite dish
"It's time for lunch" Nicole thought with a grin
"I'll swim deep down so they won't see my fin"

"I'd like to surprise them, to give them a fright
I have a name to live up to, why, I'm a Great White"
She'd always been told to watch out in the surf
For nets and for boats while cruising her turf
Especially on days when the wind was still
But she was distracted that day, until...



She felt the net tighten and she thought: "Oh blow
I'm caught in a trek net, oh dear, oh no
I need to get out, I need to be free
Look, all the fish are laughing at me"



"I surprised the school and now I am stuck
This is dreadful, it's shocking, what rotten luck
Look where greed's got me!" Nicole was distraught
"I should have listened to what I'd been taught
How did this happen? How could this be?
Surely this can't be the end of me?"

FALSE BAY
SHARK SCHOOL.

Beware of:

- trek nets
- shark nets
- fishing lines & hooks
- humans that are after your fins!



The fishermen pulled as they dragged the net in
It was then, at last, that they spotted her fin
Great Whites are protected and you're breaking the law
If you kill them for food, for their fins or their jaw
"Good grief," they exclaimed. "We've caught a Great White
We must let her go, we must do what is right"

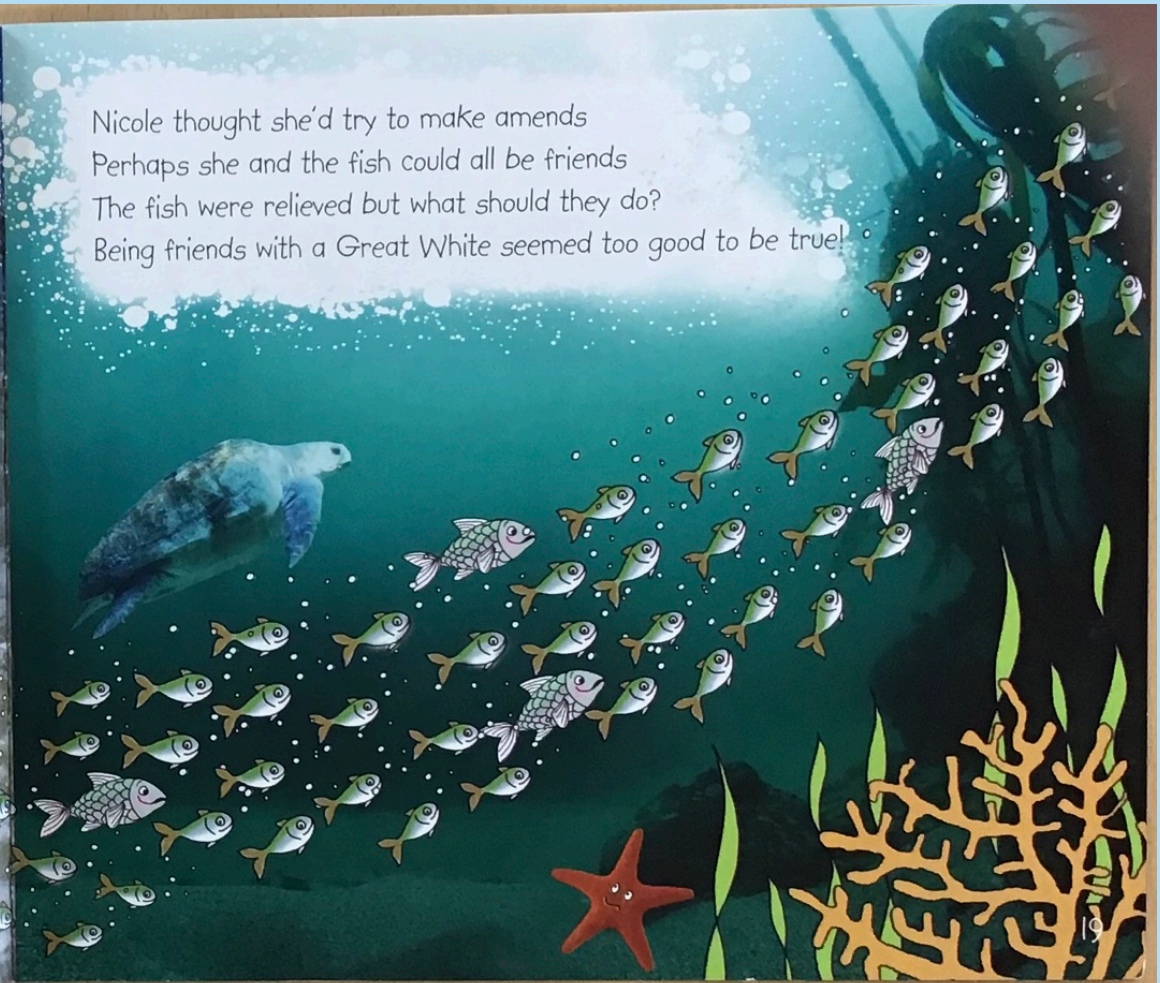


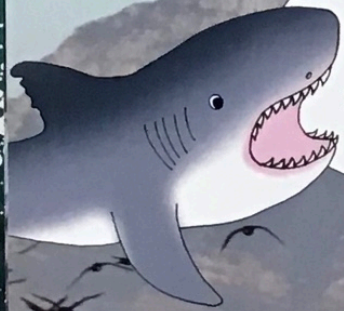


As they opened their net, their whole catch swam free
Nicole said "You fish were lucky to get caught with me
Lucky for us, Harry's a good guy
That was a close shave, we were nearly fish pie!"



Nicole thought she'd try to make amends
Perhaps she and the fish could all be friends
The fish were relieved but what should they do?
Being friends with a Great White seemed too good to be true!





The fish thanked Nicole and darted away
She felt quite tired, it had been a long day
She yawned as she thought "I've had quite a scare!
I'll head for Seal Island and have supper there"



With a flick of her tail she cruised into the deep
Where jellyfish drift and starfish sleep!

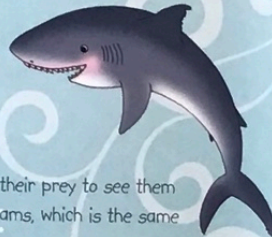




Did you know?

Great White Sharks:

- Are scientifically known as *Carcharodon carcharias*
- Have bodies which are dark on top and completely white underneath, which makes it difficult for their prey to see them
- Are the world's largest predatory fish, growing to over six metres and weighing over 2 000 kilograms, which is the same weight as two bakkies or pickup trucks
- Can live for more than 60 years and females are the biggest!
- Gestation is thought to be over 12 months. Young are born live (viviparous) in litters of two to 10 baby sharks, called pups
- Like to eat fish, other sharks, seals, dolphins and even dead whales, but they are fussy eaters
- Deepest recorded dive was over 1 200 metres. That is deeper than Table Mountain is high
- Have six senses: sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing and electroreception
- Don't have eyelids, but instead roll their eyes back to protect them
- Will sometimes stick their heads out of the water, which is called *spyhopping*
- Have a line of special hair-like cells which run from their head to their tail to detect small water vibrations and currents
- Use their electro-senses to find all living animals - they can even find prey hidden under the sand
- Have uniquely shaped dorsal fins, so scientists can recognize them by these. It's called fin-printing, rather like finger-printing with people
- Are known collectively as a shiver of sharks, like you get a school of fish, a bed of clams, a pod of whales, a smack of jellyfish or a parcel of penguins
- Cause less than five deaths worldwide per year. Chairs and toasters kill more people than sharks



Conservation Status:

In 1991 South Africa became the first country to protect the Great White Shark, which is listed as *Vulnerable to extinction* by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, and on CITES Appendix II.

Great Whites are threatened by fishing, shark hunting, poaching, anti-shark measures like shark nets, loss of prey and pollution.

The Save Our Seas Shark Centre

The Save Our Seas Shark Centre is the South African branch of the Save Our Seas Foundation.

Their mission is to encourage awareness, protection and conservation of sharks worldwide through research, education and awareness. The centre is based in Kalk Bay, South Africa, and is open to the public.

You can book an outreach programme, which includes a shark and tidal pool lesson, bring a tourist group to visit or just pop in and meet the team.

For general information about Save Our Seas Foundation, please visit www.saveourseas.com

For information on Great White Shark research go to www.saveourseas.com/white-sharks

For information on educational programmes go to www.saveourseas.com/sossc-za

Shark Spotters

Shark Spotters is a pioneering shark safety programme in Cape Town. The Shark Spotters keep an eye on the sea, give warnings if there are sharks in the area and help in an emergency. The Shark Spotters assist with research on shark ecology and behaviour, and raise public awareness about shark issues.





Shark Spotter's Flag System



GREEN FLAG

- Spotting conditions good. No shark visible
- Haaiyktoestande goed geen haai gesien nie
- Iimeko ezilungele ukujonga ookrebe. Akukho krebe babonakalayo



RED FLAG

- High shark alert
- Ernstige haaiwaarskuwing
- ISilumkiso sookrebe abaNinzi



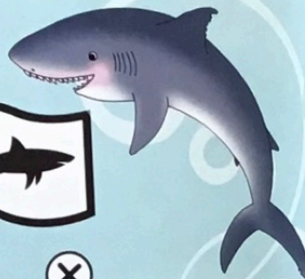
BLACK FLAG

- Spotting conditions poor. Difficult to determine if there are sharks in the area.
- Haaiyktoestande swak - moeilik om te sien of daar haai in die gebied is
- Iimeko ezingakulungelanga ukujonga ookrebe. Kunzima ukubona ukuba bakho kusini na ookrebe kulo ndawo



WHITE FLAG

- A shark has been spotted - siren will sound. Leave the water immediately.
- 'n Haai is gesien - sirene sal loei. Verlaat die water onmiddellik
- Kubonwe ukrebe - kuza kukhaliswa ixilongo lokulumkisa. Phumani ngokukhawuleza emanzini



For further information call 021 783 3433
or visit www.sharkspotters.org.za

If you have enjoyed this book by Lulu and Tee, why not try "Peter, Pamela and Percy in the Big Spill"

"It's a delightful book suitable for three to seven year olds. It will appeal to adults, who will enjoy reading it to their children, as much as their children will enjoy listening to it"
Brian Joss, Editor, Cape Community Newspapers

"Remarkable story of penguins' epic swim. A must-read"
Vivien Horler, Jellybean Journal, Weekend Argus

and "Eric in It's a Piece of Cake"

"Be prepared to read it to your offspring again and again. It gets 10/10."
Brian Joss, Editor, Cape Community Newspapers

"A wonderful little book about a baboon with a big heart. Let your children journey with Eric through veld, fires and friendship."
Lisa Mc Namara, Publisher, Child Magazine



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Nicole's a Great White, she has quite a physique
 She's strong, she's fast, she's stylish, she's sleek
 Teeth she has lots of, an endless supply
 She'll never run out like you or I
 She's incredibly proud, as she rules the sea
 She's been top of the food chain for eternity...



"If you liked 'Peter, Pamela and Percy in the Big Spill' and had a good giggle over 'Eric in It's a Piece of Cake' you will enjoy 'Nicole in The Surf is my Turf' from the winning partnership of Lulu and Tee. Here is another charming, rhyming tale about a misunderstood creature, Nicole, a Great White."
 Brian Joss, Editor, Cape Community Newspapers.

"Lulu and Tee have teamed up again, this time to bring young readers the adventures of cross-Indian Ocean swimmer Nicole, a great white shark who narrowly escapes being caught by fishermen. The photographs, illustrations and text work together swimmingly!"
 Lisa Mc Namara, Publisher, Child Magazine



This is a true story about Nicole, the Great White Shark which caused quite a stir after being tagged in South African waters, and then, to everyone's amazement, she was tracked swimming to Western Australia. The trip of more than 11 000 kilometres took only 99 days for this 3.8-metre shark. Remarkably, six months later she was observed back in South Africa. Nicole, who was named after Australian actress Nicole Kidman following her Aussie adventure, made the fastest recorded return-trip across an ocean of any marine animal.



Like many sharks, Nicole is rather partial to fish, which is how she lands up in a bit of a pickle with some trek fishermen in this story. In South Africa, trek-net fishing has been practiced for centuries and is a skill passed down the generations. Great Whites are only occasionally caught in trek nets, and are usually set free. Read this book to find out about Nicole's big day out fishing...

For fun, games, more information about the sharks and sharkspotters, or to order online, go to www.africanpenguin.co.za

By buying this book you will make a contribution to Great White Shark conservation.

ISBN 978-0-620-46264-8



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