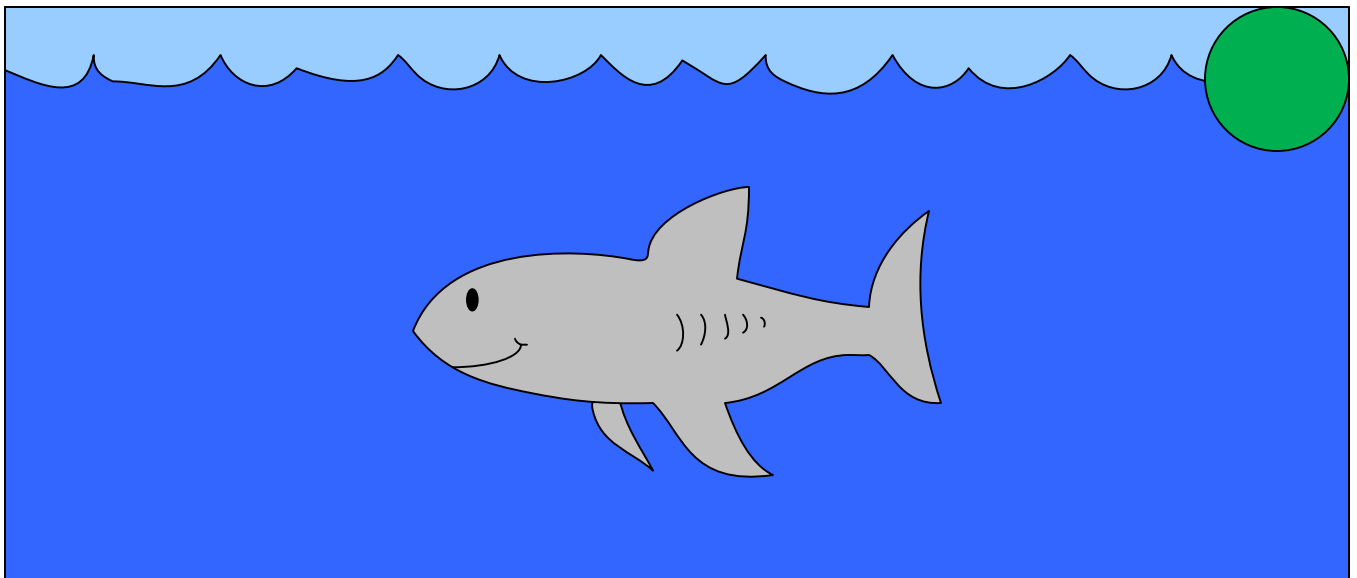


Mark the Shark

Written and Illustrated by Jennifer Cheatham

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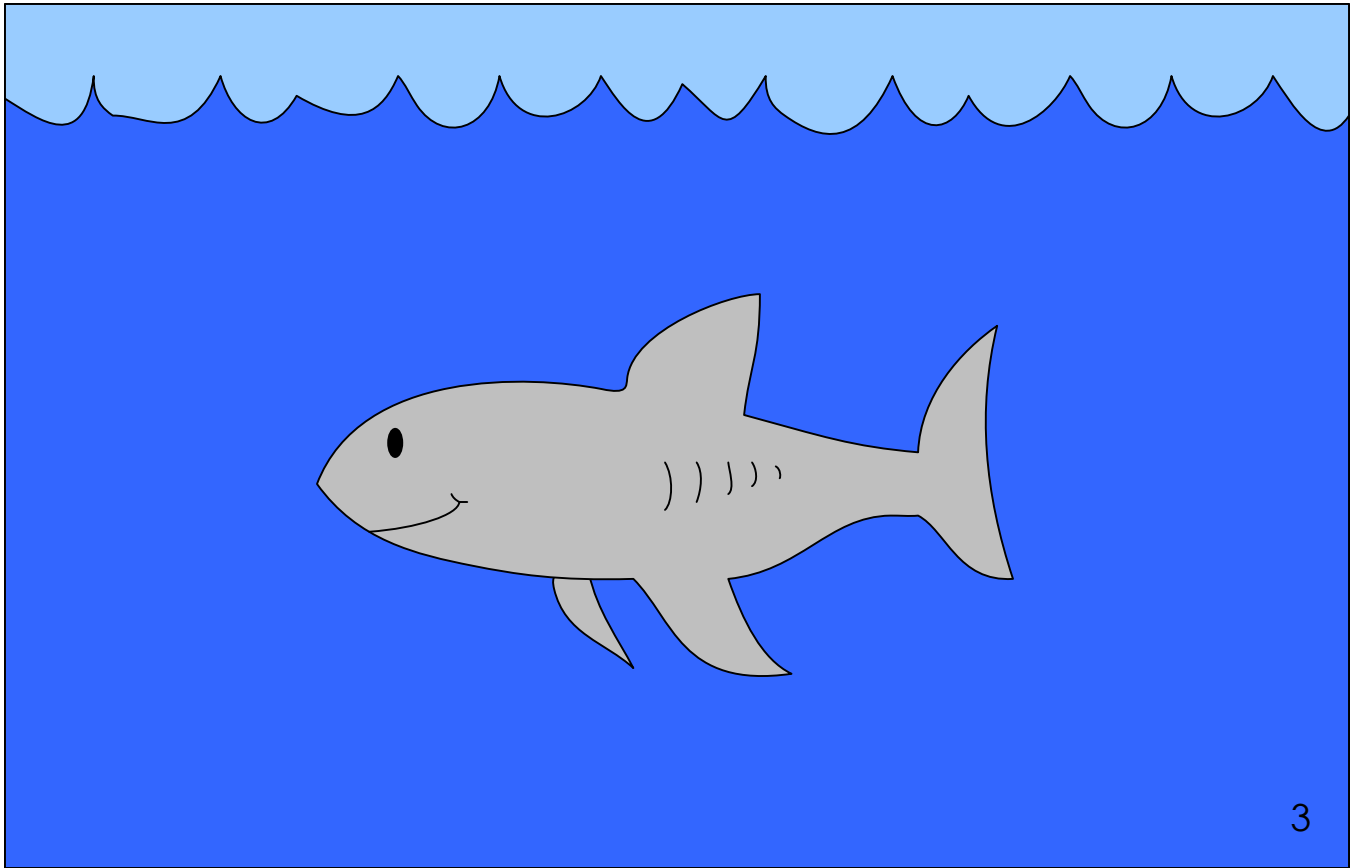
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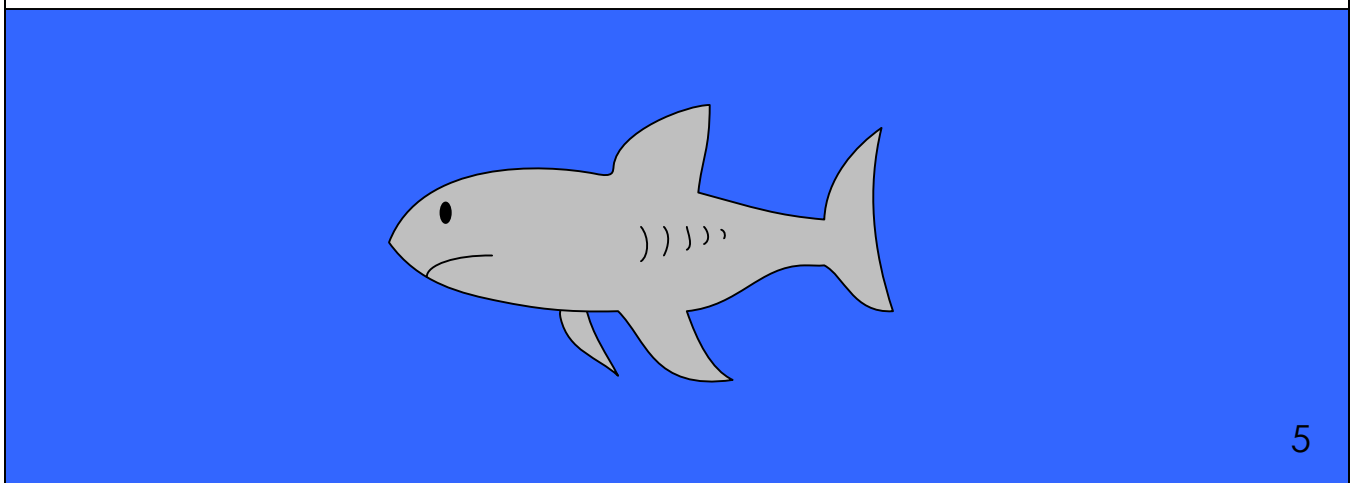
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My name is Mark. I am a shark. It is a lot of fun to be a shark. Let me tell you some of the things I like to do. One thing I like to do is swim. It is so much fun to swim! I am a very fast swimmer. I can swim faster than the other fish and sharks. It feels very nice to swim in the water fast.





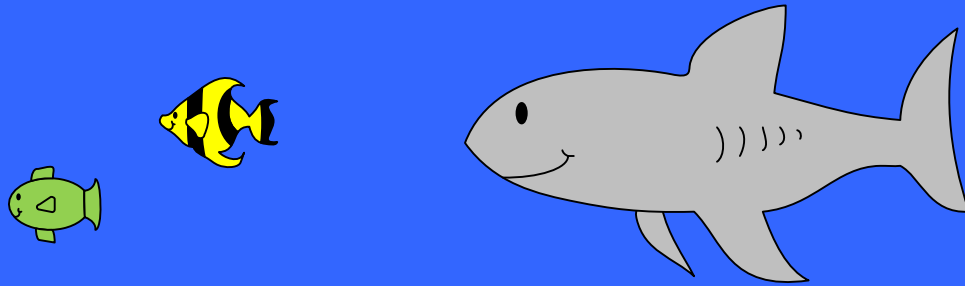
It is hard to find fish that will play with me. Why do the fish not want to play hide and seek with me? Why do they swim away? It is not fun to play hide and seek when the other fish will not play with me. Why do they not want to play with me?



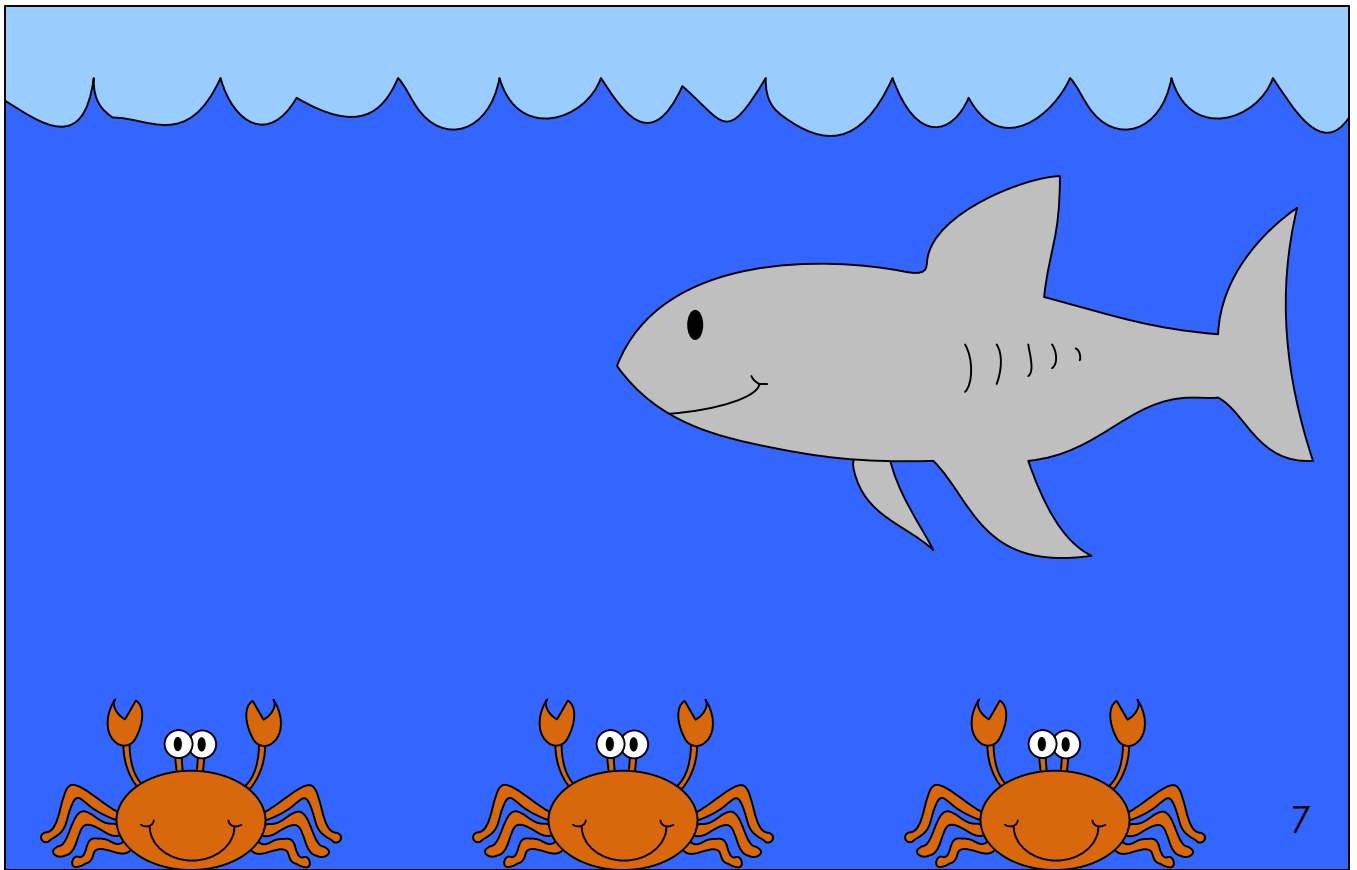
I like to play hide and seek with the fish.

“Jake and Kate, do you want to play hide and seek with me?” said Mark.

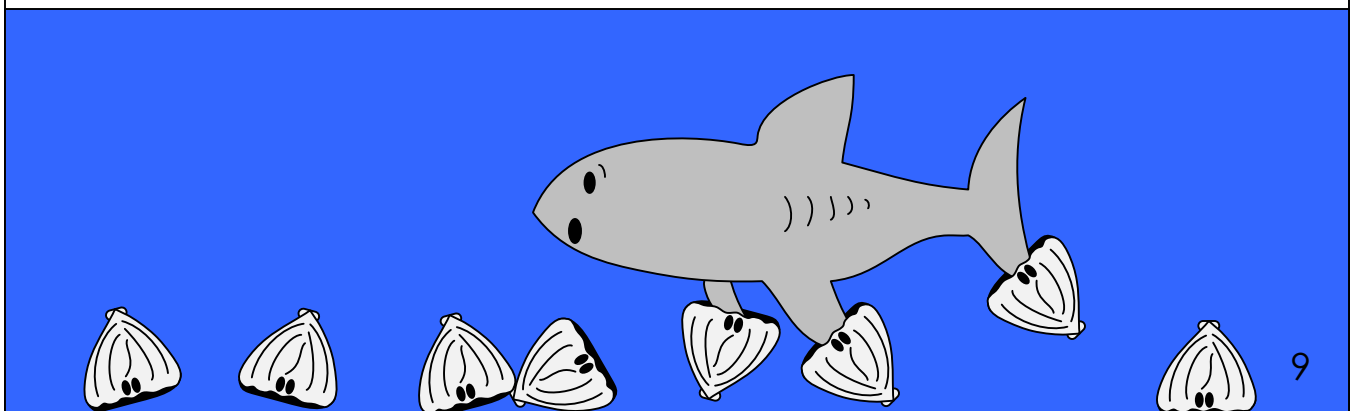
Jake and Kate said, “No thank you. We do not have time to play,” and they swam away.



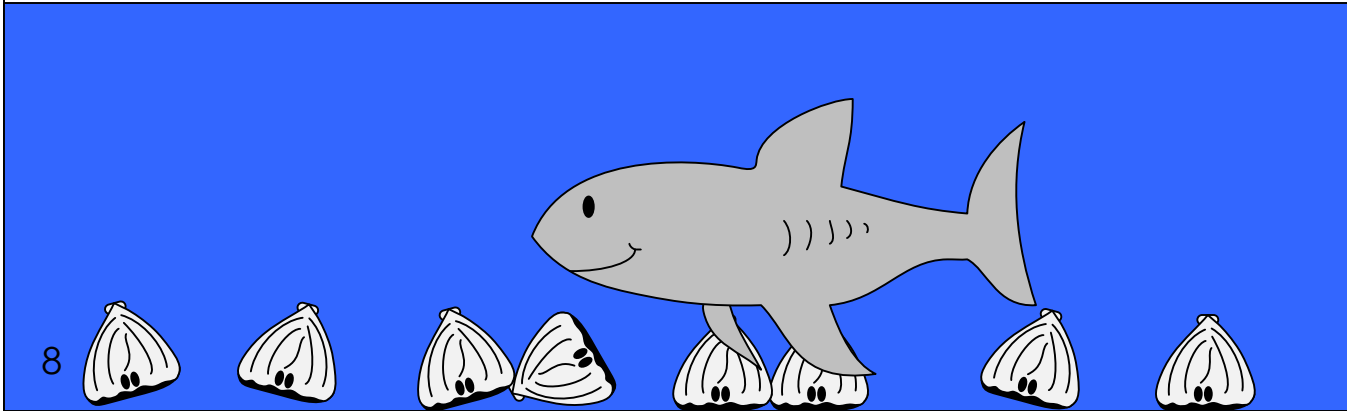
I like to look for crabs. Do you see some crabs? The way the crabs look makes me giggle. I like to swim near the crabs and see them run. Do not get close to the crabs because they will pinch you and that does not feel good!



One time, when I was hitting the clams like drums, a clam snapped shut on me! Oh my! It does not feel good when a clam snaps on me.



One thing I like to do is hit the clams. I hit them with my fins like they are drums. I make a fun beat when I hit the clams like drums. Dum, dum, dum! It is so much fun to play the drums!



One thing I like to do is dive. I can dive deep in the water. I can dive very deep.

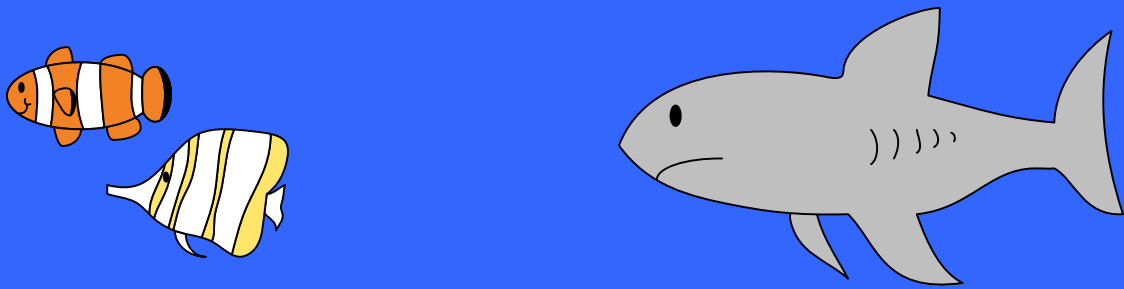
“Pete, do you want to race with me and see who can dive the best?” said Mark.

“No thank you. I do not want to dive with you,” said Pete.

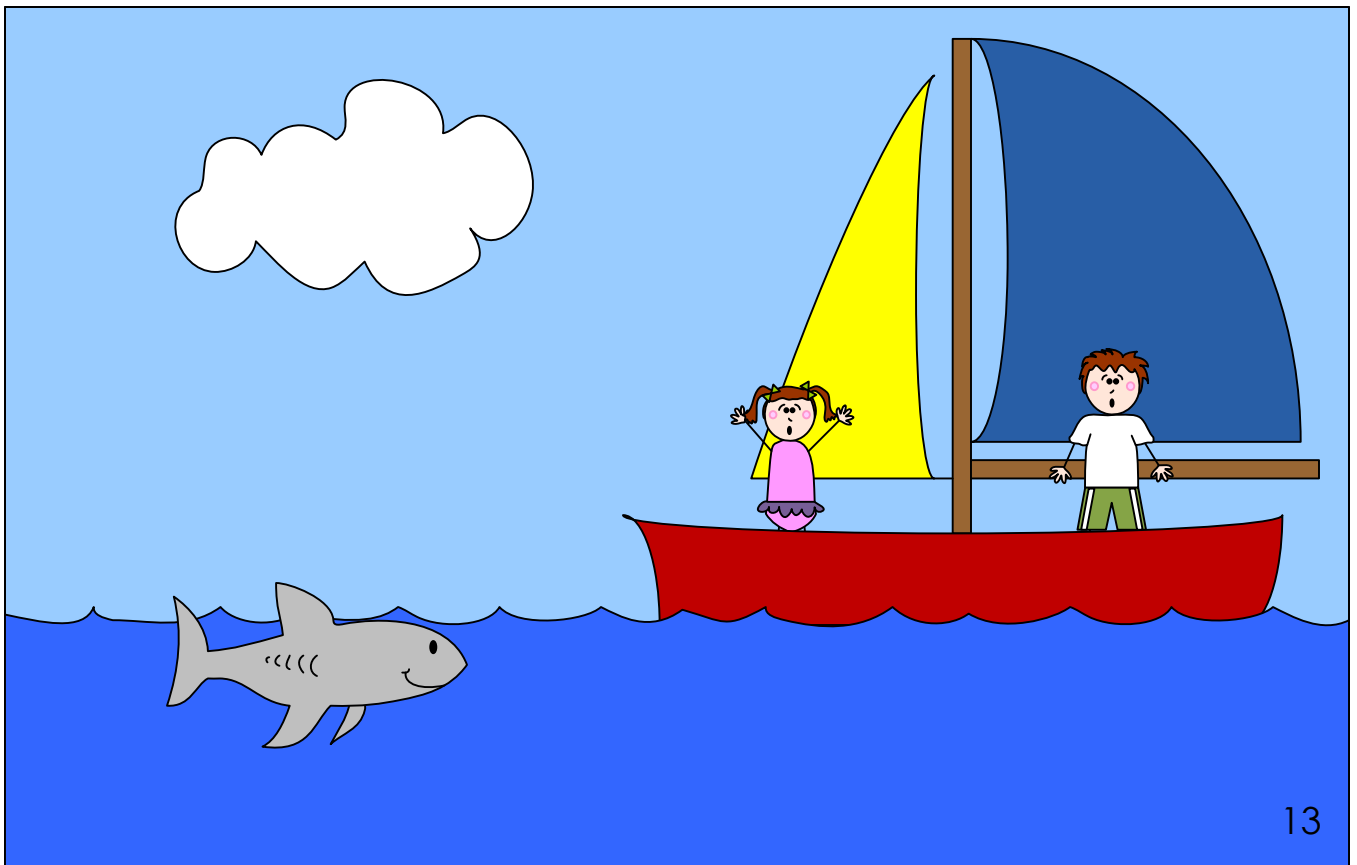
“Dean, do you want to dive with me?” said Mark.

“Thank you, but no. I do not want to dive,” said Dean.

Oh man! Why is it hard to find a friend who will play with me? No one will play hide and seek. No one will dive with me. What can I do?



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One thing I like to do is swim near the boats. I like to go near the boats and see what the people are doing on the boat. Some people fish. Some people swim. Some people just float in the water and sit in the sun. It looks like it is fun to be on a boat.

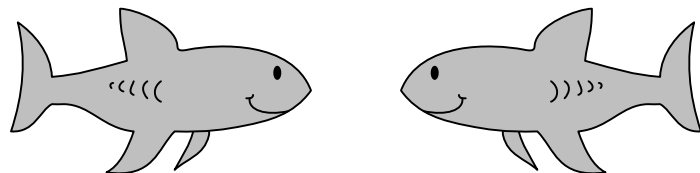
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“What are you doing?” someone said. Mark looked to see who was there. It was a shark like him.

“I am looking at the people on the boat,” said Mark.

“That is not safe,” said the shark. “People get scared and might try to get you. Do not go near boats.”

“Oh!” said Mark.



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“Thank you for letting me know,” said Mark. “Would you like to play with me? My friends do not want to play with me.”

“Yes, I would like to play with you,” said the shark. “You know, your friends might be scared of you. Do you have fish as snacks?”

“Yes, I like to have fish snacks,” said Mark.

“That is why they do not want to play with you. They do not want to be your snack!” said the shark. “That is OK. I will play with you.

What do you want to do?”

New Words

water



“I like to do so many things. I like to swim fast. I like play hide and seek. I like to find crabs. I like to play the drums. I like to dive deep.”

“I like to do that! Let’s do it,” said the shark.

Mark the shark made a new friend and they played together each day.

