



SHARKS

JOHN PERRITANO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

Day at the Beach2

CHAPTER 2

What Are Sharks?10

CHAPTER 3

Where Did Sharks Come From?14

CHAPTER 4

Whale of a Shark18

CHAPTER 5

A Shark's Body22

CHAPTER 6

Shark Food 30

CHAPTER 7

Types of Sharks34

CHAPTER 8

Blame Game38

CHAPTER 9

Good for Earth42

CHAPTER 10

Sharks in Trouble46

GLOSSARY

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CHAPTER 1

DAY AT THE BEACH

Thirteen-year-old Ella Reed was happy.
School was out.
The sun was hot.
A warm breeze blew.
It was a perfect beach day.

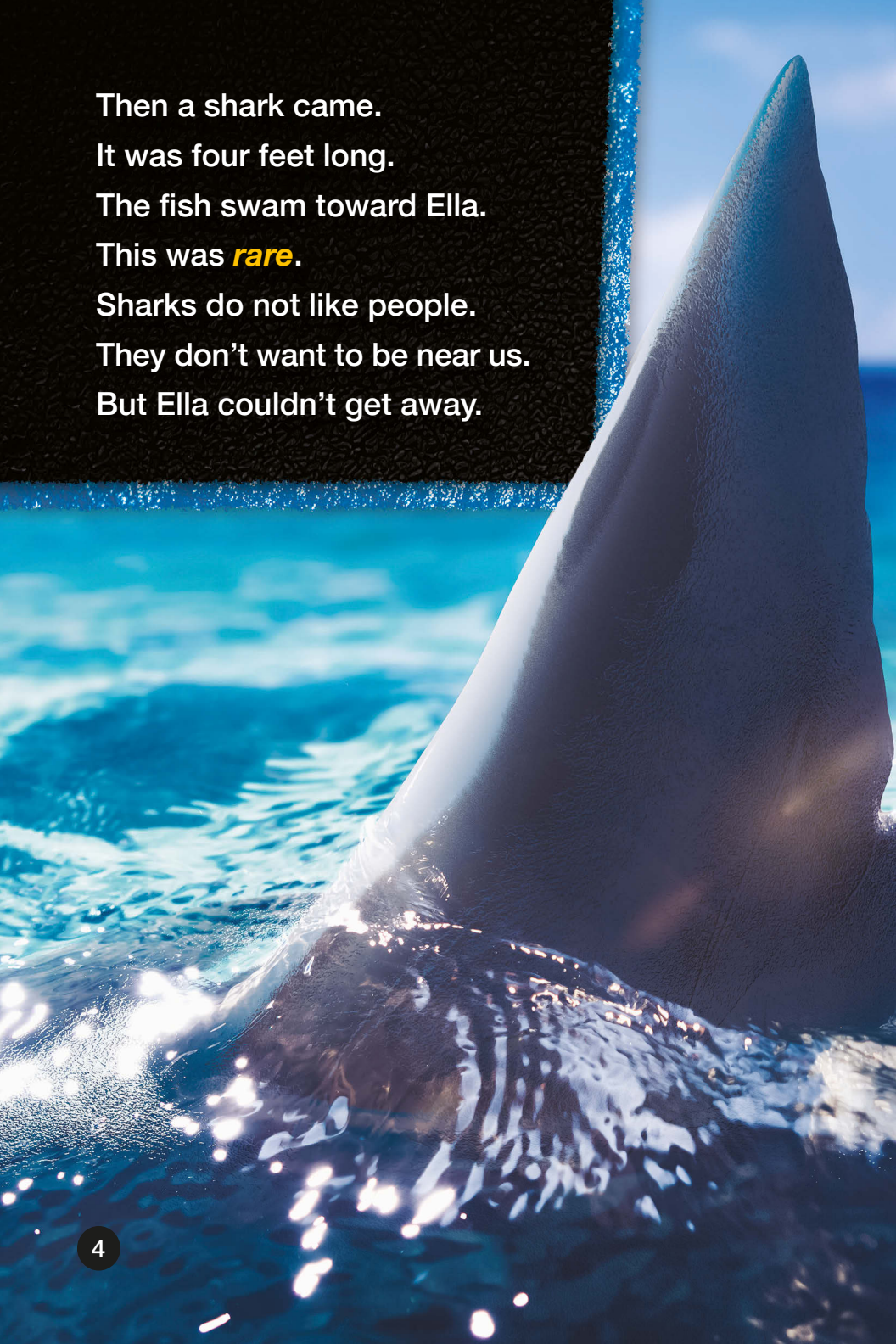
Florida has many beaches.
One is by Ella's house.
She and a friend went swimming.
The water wasn't deep.
It was up to their waists.
The two friends talked.
They laughed.



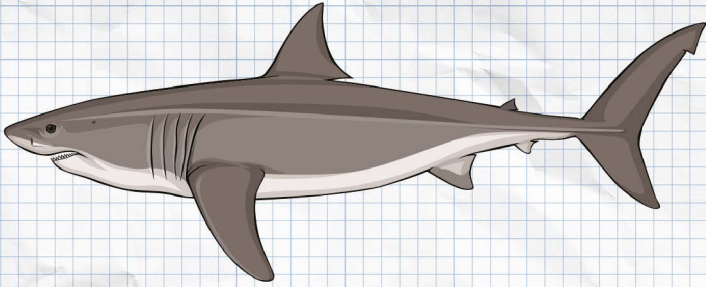
FLORIDA

FORT PIERCE AREA WHERE ELLA SWAM

Then a shark came.
It was four feet long.
The fish swam toward Ella.
This was *rare*.
Sharks do not like people.
They don't want to be near us.
But Ella couldn't get away.



FOUR FEET LONG



The shark got closer.
It bit Ella.
She screamed.
Ella yelled to her friend.
*"Run!
Get out!
Go to the shore!"*

Ella hit the shark.
It kept biting.
But Ella hit it again.
*Smack!
Smack!*
The teen fought hard.
She tried to escape.

The shark tore Ella's side.
Then it came back.
It bit her leg and finger.
Ella finally got away.
She ran to shore.
Soon the shark turned.
It swam out to sea.



Ella's mom wrapped her in a towel.
Her daughter dripped blood.
They went to a hospital.
Doctors took care of Ella's cuts.
The teen got 19 stitches.
But she was okay.



Days passed.

Scientists wanted Ella's help.

They asked her to go back into the water.

Sharks again swam up to the girl.

They didn't bite this time.

Ella put tags on their *fins*.

She fed and petted them.

"Tagging the sharks was super fun,"

Ella said.





SHARKS

Why do some people think sharks are scary?

How big are sharks?

What do sharks eat?

Which bodies of water do sharks live in?

Why are shark populations declining?

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