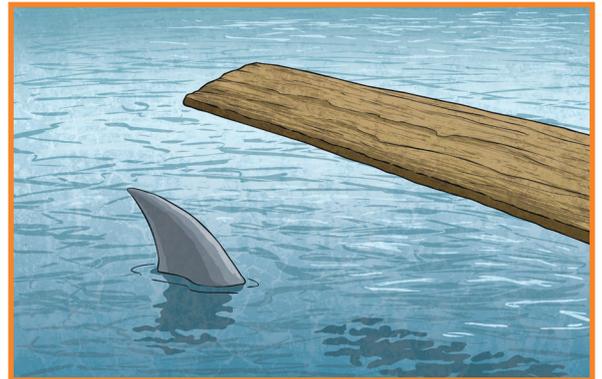


# Improving Your Reading with Cassie the Commentator : A Sailor's Peril



The white sharks are the dread of sailors in all hot climates for they constantly attend vessels in expectation of anything which may be thrown overboard. Some sharks have been known to travel alongside one particular ship for hundreds of kilometres. One can only think about the poor sailors who have happened to fall overboard with these sea-monsters present.

Some species of sharks grow to an enormous size, often weighing from hundreds of kilograms each. White sharks are the sailor's worst enemy: they have five rows of wedge-shaped teeth which are notched like a saw. When the animal is at rest they are flat in its mouth but, when about to seize their prey, the teeth are pushed upwards by a set of muscles which join them to the jaw. The white shark's mouth is located under the head. This means that they must turn themselves onto one side before they can grab anything with their enormous jaws.



1. This description of sharks was written in 1852. Comment on how people in 1852 understood this topic compared to how we understand it today.

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2. How does the white shark compare to another deadly creature you know?

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3. Who do you think the author has written this text for? Give a reason for your answer.

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4a. Find and copy a phrase where the shark is portrayed as dangerous.

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b. Why does this phrase make the shark seem dangerous?

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# Answers

1. This description of sharks was written in 1852. Comment on how people in 1852 understood this topic compared to how we understand it today.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: We understand more about sharks today because we have better scientific equipment to observe them with, compared to what they had in 1852.**
  
2. How does the white shark compare to another deadly creature you know?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The shark has deadly teeth, much like the crocodile.**
  
3. Who do you think the author has written this text for? Give a reason for your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has written this text for people who wanted to know what it was like to be a sailor in the 1800s because the story was written in the 1800s and focuses on life at sea.**
  
- 4a. Find and copy a phrase where the shark is portrayed as dangerous.  
**Accept any reasonable phrase from the text which portrays sharks as dangerous, such as: 'notched like a saw'.**
  
- b. Why does this phrase make the shark seem dangerous?  
**Accept pupils' own responses which link to the phrase they have chosen, such as: Notched like a saw compares the shark's teeth to something we already know to be sharp and dangerous so it makes the shark's mouth sound even scarier.**