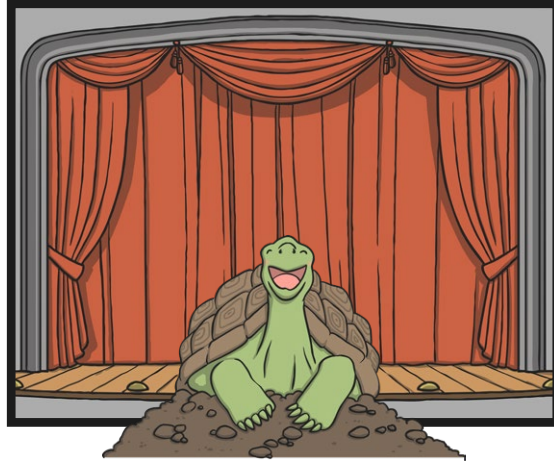
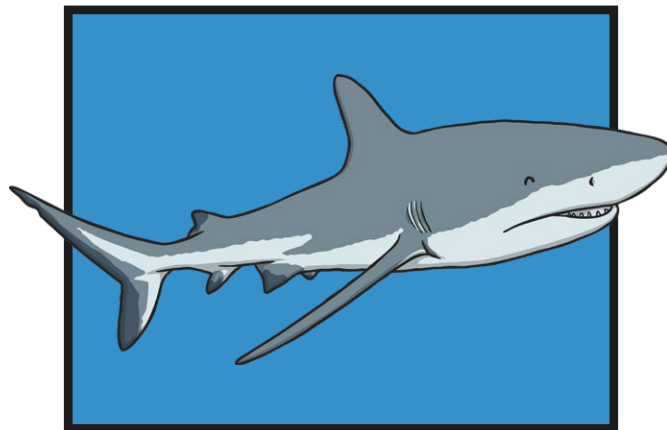


Reading Booklet

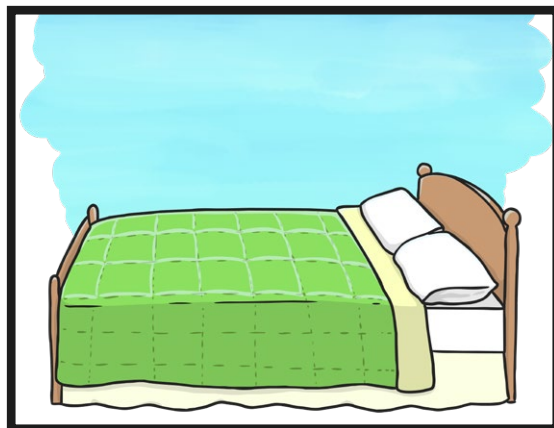
Sample 2016 Key Stage 2 English Reading Booklet



George the Giant Tortoise



Shark Infested Facts



Bed In Summer

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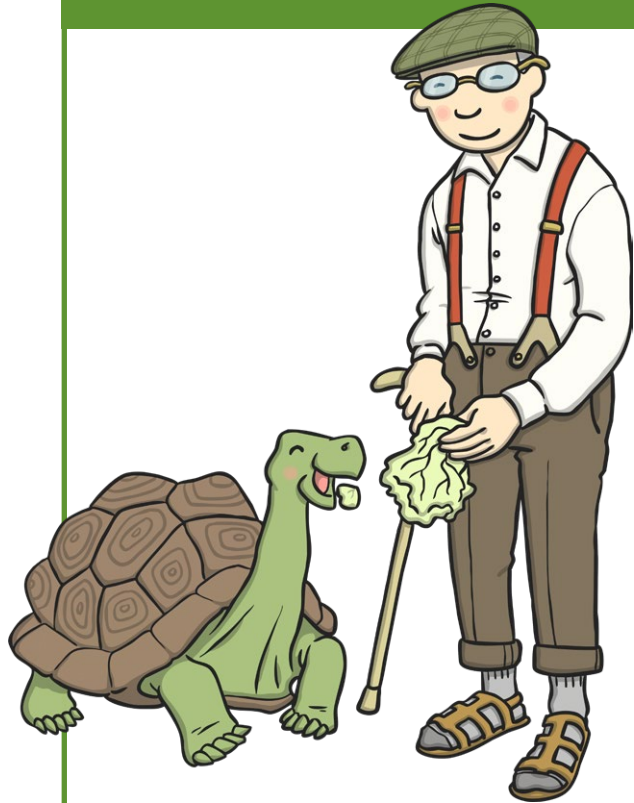
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George the Giant Tortoise



George was a giant tortoise. He belonged to a lovely owner called Oliver, who looked after him very well, although before that he had belonged to Oliver's Grandpa Jack for many years. He was quite a rare type of tortoise and that made him very special.

Some people said George was spoilt but he didn't ask for much really. All he liked to eat was grass and hay, with a few dandelions now and then, or the occasional lettuce. He did have his own shed, that Grandpa Jack had made when he was alive, which even had its own heating! Most of the time, George lived in his shed but he loved to wander lazily around the garden sometimes when Oliver was playing on the lawn.

George thought that Oliver was the best owner any tortoise could wish for. Well, maybe joint-first in a best-tortoise-owner competition, as Grandpa Jack had been an extremely kind, caring owner too. In fact, George was very keen to show how grateful he was to his owner, and to prove that he was the best pet that Oliver could wish for.

As summer approached, the perfect opportunity came for George: the annual village fair would be holding the 'Perfect Pet Competition'. He was delighted. He would show everyone what a great pet he was and Oliver would be so proud. However, when Oliver read the leaflet aloud, George was devastated. 'Open to dogs, cats, rabbits and hamsters. No tortoises allowed'.

'Just furry creatures?' thought George. 'How unfair!' So he decided he wasn't going to let those rules stop him. With the village fair only a week away, the giant tortoise began to dig a hole behind his shed. Slowly, the hole became bigger and closer to the fence at the back of the garden. Eventually, the hole became a tunnel but each night, George would return to his shed before anyone noticed he was gone.

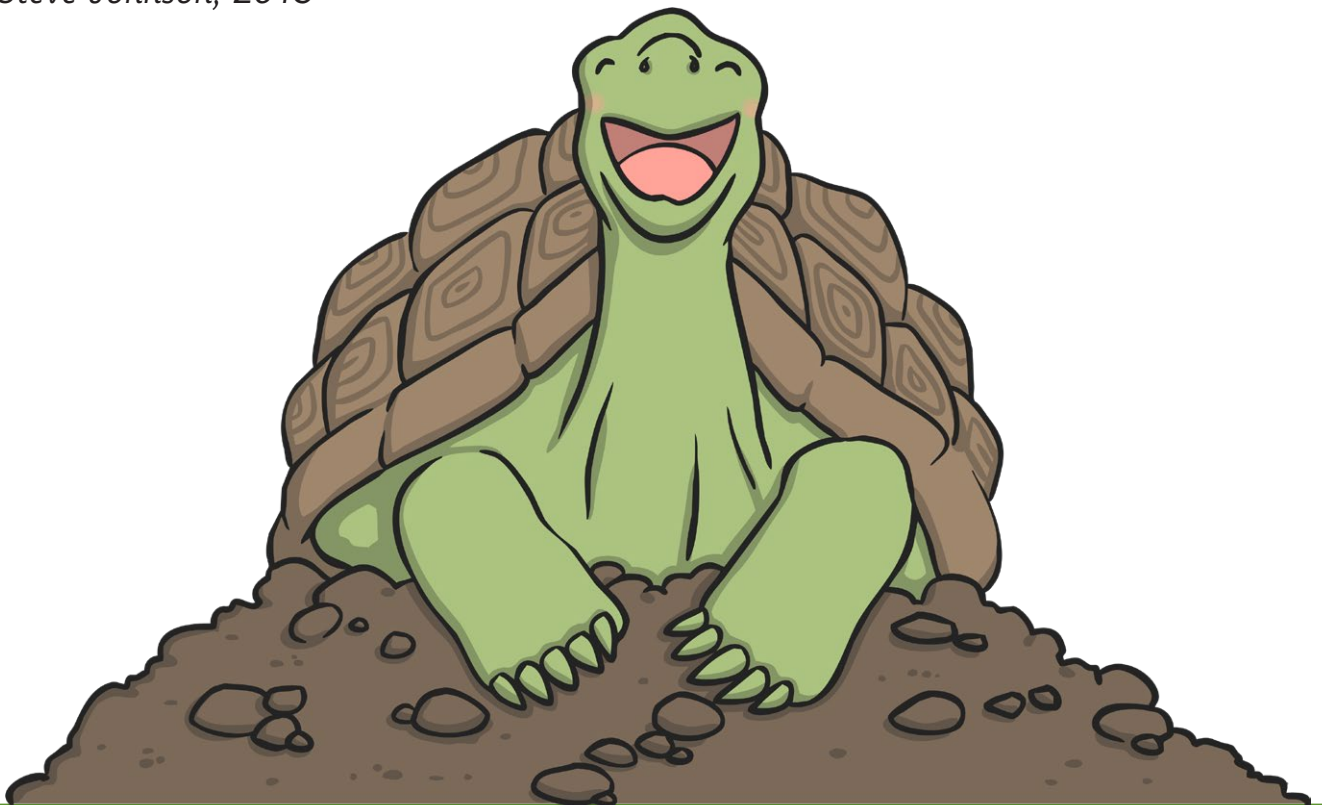
When the day of the fair arrived, the first competition entrant Harry the hamster had gone missing. Escaping from his ball, he was last seen behind the sofa and now couldn't be found. Only three more animals were left in the competition. Unfortunately, Rachel the rabbit had spotted the fruit and vegetable show and was taken home after eating her way through two record-breaking carrots, a large lettuce and Mrs Earnshaw's prize cucumber.

Oliver sat in the front row watching as the last two animals were brought onto the stage. Daisy the dog walked on with her owner from the right hand side. Colin the cat strolled in from the left. As soon as they saw each other, Colin clawed his way straight up the stage curtains. Daisy dashed below, barking madly at Colin. As each of their owners chased after their pets, Oliver laughed and thought how much better his own pet was.

At that precise moment, a small mound of muddy soil began to rise up from the ground in front of the stage. Everyone stopped in amazement to look, wondering what was beneath it. Slowly – of course, it had to be slowly – two small feet pushed their way out of the soil. Close behind came George's little round face, as he pulled himself up through the surface of the ground into full view.

Oliver leapt over to his pet with a smile as everyone burst into a round of applause. One of the judges stepped forward and placed a big blue rosette onto George's shell, with a gold Number 1 in the middle. Underneath it read: Perfect Pet Competition Winner!

Steve Johnson, 2015



Shark Infested Facts



Photo courtesy of elevely@flickr.com - granted under creative commons licence

What Are Sharks?

Sharks are fish. They live in the water but, unlike other fish, their skeletons are made of cartilage. This means that they can swim quicker and easier because it allows them to be more flexible. Cartilage is a tough, rubbery material found also in rays and skates.

Going Back in Time...

There are more than 350 varieties of shark: from the enormous whale shark, which can grow as large as a bus, to the terrifying great white shark, known for eating large mammals with its huge, jagged teeth. Fossils indicate that sharks have been around for more than 420 million years.

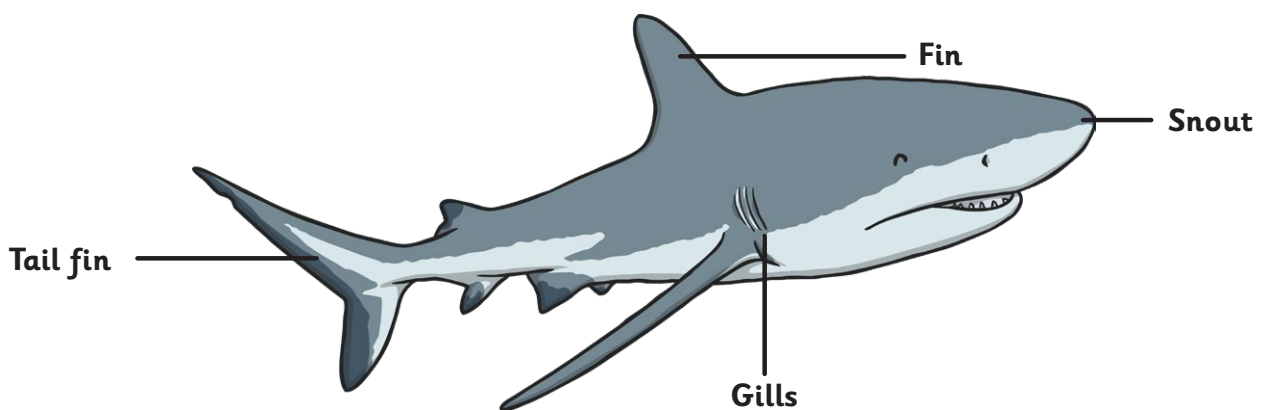


Terrifying Teeth

Sharks' teeth are their weapons. They are constantly replaced throughout their lives. This is good news because they often eat violently and can break teeth whilst doing so. New teeth reside in a groove just inside their mouths and move forward – like conveyor belts – in the shark's skin. A shark's teeth vary depending on the shark species: different sharks need teeth suited to the prey that they catch. For example, a hornshark has small, cone-shaped teeth for cracking and grinding shells. In its lifetime a shark can need up to 30,000 teeth. As a result, many people enjoy collecting different types of shark teeth.

A Shark's Body

Part of the body	Function	How Many	Fun Fact
Tail fin	This helps the shark to swim quickly.	1	The correct name for the tail fin is the caudal fin.
Fins	These help the shark to turn, swim up or down and stop it rolling from side to side.	Usually 6	A dogfish shark has sharp spines in its fins.
Snout	A shark's nose; it has tiny holes in it that help the shark to find fish swimming nearby.	1	Sawsharks have very long snouts, that they use to kill and shred their prey before eating it.
Gills	Slits on a shark's body that allow it to breathe.	Usually 5-7	A nurse shark can not only suck water via gills but also into holes behind its eyes.



Fun Facts

Fun fact: A set of bongo drums was once found in a tiger shark's stomach.

Fun fact: Sharks' teeth can grow up to 20 times as big as a human tooth.

Fun fact: Sharks existed for 2 million years before the dinosaurs.

Fun fact: Baby sharks are called pups and are born with a full set of teeth.

Bed In Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

By Robert Louis Stevenson

