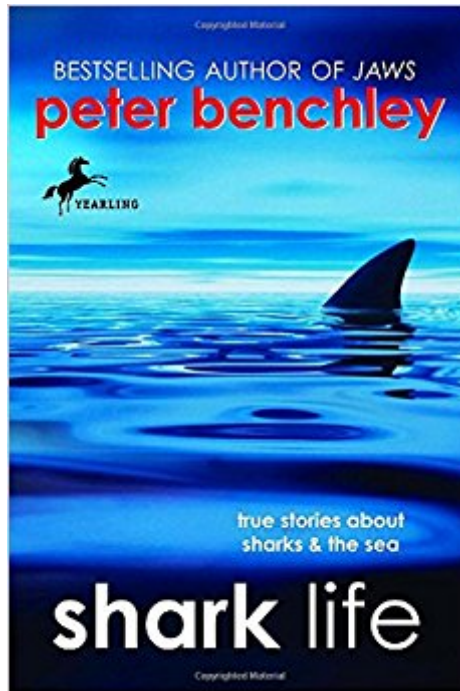




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Shark Life: True Stories About Sharks & The Sea



Synopsis

In this riveting true adventure tale and informative guide to the sea, master storyteller Peter Benchley drew on more than four decades of diving experience to bring us face-to-face with the array of sharks and other marine animals he and his family encountered, almost always on purpose—but sometimes by accident.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8—but Benchley writes about his personal experiences with sharks as well as a variety of other sea creatures considered dangerous to humans. Filming for the movie *Jaws* and television programs such as "The American Sportsman," the author traveled to the Great Barrier Reef in search of great white sharks, Vancouver Island for killer whales, and Polynesia for hammerheads. He describes being four inches from the jaws of a great white that bit into the cage's rope and thrashed it violently, nearly severing him from his lifeline. Menacing encounters with morays, barracudas, and manta rays are just as engaging and relay all that is awesome and beautiful about these creatures. Philosophical asides about humans' attempt to manipulate nature are not too heavy-handed and will help foster a healthy respect for the sea. A conversational section about swimming safety warns readers about undertows, rips, and death-gripping currents. A centerfold of

black-and-white photos is included. Benchley's anecdotal style and gory details result in a page-turner for middle readers. --Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 5-8. Benchley draws upon four decades of diving and studying ocean creatures in these insights and lessons about sharks. He goes to great lengths to counter the common misperception of sharks as aggressive predators of human beings, which is ironic given that Benchley's best-selling adult novel, *Jaws*, has probably done more than anything to perpetuate that very myth. Benchley shares many anecdotes of his personal encounters with sharks, including the Great White, in stories that are always exciting and sometimes terrifying. In addition to the anecdotes, he offers practical advice to readers on how to swim safely in the ocean and how to avoid shark attacks and potentially dangerous encounters with other sea creatures. Since Benchley writes from personal experience and observation, this probably won't supply students with report material, but it is an engaging, frequently exciting recounting of one man's fascinating adventures in the ocean. A glossary is included. Ed Sullivan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Peter Benchley. You may have heard of him because he authored the extremely famous book *Jaws*, which was made so famous with help from the classic movie of the same name directed by Steven Spielberg, and produced by Richard Zanuck and David Brown. But I do not want to write about Steven Spielberg and the *Jaws* crew, or Peter Benchley in regards to his book *Jaws*. What I want to let you all know is how excellent his last book; *Shark Life: True Stories about Sharks and the Sea* really is. This non-fiction book is written so well, and moves at an appetite inducing pace you may feel like you are the shark. If you are even mildly interested in sharks, the ocean, diving, surfing or are just intrigued by things voracious this is the book for you. This is true to life tales of Mr. Benchley's happenings in the ocean of sharks. In cages and out of cages, in deep water and shallow, in rivers and within his memories. One of my favorite chapters is #7 titled *Six Dangerous Sharks*. In this chapter Peter goes on to name and describe the certain sharks and their characteristics, and then also with a real world examples. This is thrilling reading and I ate it up. A very important part of this book is that the overall tenure is not *Jaws*. That is, it is not about the monster from the deep sinking fishing boats, closing beaches, and disrupting economy. Some of the stories are very scary and heart pounding indeed, but this book is about real sharks, what they are,

where they are; and how we as human beings relate to them in their environment, and more importantly how we can ensure they remain the alpha predators they need to be. And to the salient motions that we humans aspire, one of which is that we are the caretakers of all things because we are conscious. I found reading this book showed me that we are not. It made me (said) conscious of the fact that humans have their place. We have an impact yes, but we are merely a piece of the fleece. The perfection of humanity is willful change, we can make a difference because we want to. A shark does not want, a shark is, and its being is extremely different and perpetually thrilling. This is a great book and I highly recommend it.

Peter Benchley was remarkably astute about animals, and generous in his viewpoints. Following the popularity of *Jaws* (book and film) he recognized his own need to learn more about sharks. This book not only details that animal (without sensationalism), it also contains marvelous stories about other sea creatures--the story of a thankful and enormous manta ray is unforgettable. Benchley also gives precise advice about how to stay alive in any water, and his belief that most drownings could be avoided comes across in a way that makes him seem like one of your best friends. This is a fine book, and as with the best writing about animal nature, it contains good info for human nature too.

Humans have this fear of sharks. We can't begin to imagine a world where we are part of the food chain. Sharks are amazing creatures and this book goes a long way into helping explain and understand them. I found it difficult to put down. The book arrived quickly after I ordered it and in excellent condition.

If you love sea life and great stories about dives and shark encounters you will also love this book. Peter Benchley had some great dives and some very close calls that its almost unbelievable!! really enjoyed this book would give it more then 5 stars if I could!

This is a good book to learn some very generalized information about the ocean. It covers many things beyond sharks and is very interesting. I would recommend it to anyone wanting to know more about the ocean.

This book is actually fantastically written and a great insight to what Peter experienced

My grandson needed to do a report on sharks. This book was very helpful. The book was in great

condition.

I thought this was a big on shark "encounters." It is actually a small paperback on Peter Benchley's (Jaws...) diving with sharks encounters. Grant it, if you are interested, it will be right up your alley!

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