A Teacher’s Guide

Suggested Grade Level: K - 2nd

Clark the Shark

Written by Bruce Hale
Illustrated by Guy Francis

Watch the video of actor Chris Pine reading this story at storylineonline.net
ABOUT THIS STORY

SYNOPSIS
Clark is a shark with zing, bang, and boom. Clark zooms into school, crashes through the classroom, and is rowdy at recess. Clark loves life – but when his enthusiasm is too much for his friends, Clark’s teacher, Mrs. Inkydink, helps him figure out a way to tone it down. Clark the Shark celebrates boisterous enthusiasm – and knowing when it’s time for indoor voices.

THEMES IN THE STORY
Self-Control, Behavior, Manners, Friendship
READING AND WRITING

ELA COMMON CORE STANDARD

Reading Literature: Students read and respond to works of literature with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas, and between texts, with focus on textural evidence.

Standards listed below are for first and second grade, but can be adapted to other grades.

BEFORE READING

Standards: CCSS.SL.K.1, CCSS.SL.1.1, CCSS.SL.2.1

Use the following prompts to build background and top knowledge:
1. Why are class rules important?
2. Have you ever gotten upset with a friend because of the way they were acting?
3. Think about a time when you have been too loud or too wild for your classmates or family. What happened?

DURING READING

Standards: CCSS.RL.K.10, CCSS.SL.1.2, CCSS.SL.2.2

Focus: Character, Story Elements, Illustrations

Objective: Students will listen to story and answer teacher posed questions appropriately.

Stop story at appropriate parts to ask questions or pose prompts. Some suggestions are:
- What is your feeling about Clark? Is he being a good friend?
- Why do Clark’s friends stop playing with him?
- How do the illustrations show that Clark is playing too rough?
- How is the new kid, Sid the Squid, like Clark?

AFTER READING

Kindergarten/1st Grade

Standards: CCSS.RF.K.2A, CCSS.RF.1.2A

Objective: Students will identify end rhyme and write a rhyming couplet.

Materials: Teacher created chart or worksheet with rhymes, paper, pencil, crayons

Procedures:

Step 1: Make a chart or worksheet with each of the rhymes Clark creates, leaving out the last word:

What’s the rule?
Stay (cool)
When the teacher’s talking,
Don’t go (walking)
Only munch
Your own (lunch)
Easy does it, that’s the way.
Then my friends will let me (play)

Step 2: Have students complete the rhyming word by either working independently or as a group, depending on the level of your class.

Step 3: Have students create their own rhyme about good school behavior and illustrate.
**Kindergarten/1st Grade/2nd Grade**

**Standards:** CCSS.RL.K.7, CCSS.RL.1.7, CCSS.RL.2.7  

**Objective:** Students will explain how an illustration tells what is happening in the story.  

**Materials:** Storyline Online site – Clark the Shark, paper, pencil, crayons  

**Procedures:**  

**Step 1:** Display the story and stop the read aloud to show illustrations.  

**Step 2:** Ask the student to look at the illustrations. How does each illustration help the reader to understand what is happening in the story?  

**Step 3:** Have students recreate an illustration to show good behavior in the classroom, lunchroom, or recess.

**WRITING - RESPONSE TO READING**

**Standards:** CCSS.W.1.1, CCSS.W.2.1  

**Objective:** Students will write an opinion piece using details from the story to support their response. Students will write in complete sentences using grade appropriate spelling and mechanics.  

**Materials:** Lined paper, pencil  

**Procedure:**  

**Step 1:** Have students use the sentence frame below to begin their writing:  

*I (would/would not) want Clark for a friend.*  

**Step 2:** Tell students to provide at least 2 details from the story to support their opinion.
SOCIAL STUDIES: LEARN THE RULES WITH CLARK THE SHARK

OBJECTIVE —
Students will explain why it is important to follow school rules and write rules to stay cool.

MATERIALS —
Chart paper

PROCEDURE —

Step 1: Discuss Clark the Shark’s behavior in school.

Step 2: Clark has trouble in three areas: Classroom, Lunch, and Recess. Have the students create rules for all three areas. Label chart paper -“RULES TO STAY COOL” with 3 columns: Classroom – Lunch – Recess.

Step 3: Ask students to brainstorm rules that are appropriate to keep their school safe and cool.

SCIENCE: HOW DOES A SHARK FLOAT?

OBJECTIVE —
Students will explore the concept of density and explain what keeps a shark buoyant.

MATERIALS —
A toilet paper tube
3 pennies
A roll of clear packing tape
A small drawing of a paper shark (to fit on the toilet paper roll)
1/3 cup vegetable oil
A funnel
A 12 inch inflatable balloon
A sink or bucket filled with water

PROCEDURE —

Step 1: Cut out the picture of the shark. Place it on the toilet paper roll, holding it in place with a small piece of tape. Wrap clear packing tape around the tube so that it covers the whole shark.

Step 2: Place 3 pennies across the bottom of the tube and tape them in place with the packing tape.

Step 3: Fill the sink or bucket with water. Gently place the shark in the water and observe what happens. Remove the shark from the water. ASK: Why do you think the shark sank? Record responses on chart paper.

Step 4: Use the funnel to fill a balloon with 1/3 cup vegetable oil. Tie the balloon.

Step 5: Carefully insert the balloon into the toilet paper tube. Center it as much as possible.

Step 6: Place the shark in the water and observe what happens. ASK: Why is the shark able to float?

Google It!: Search “floating shark science activity” to learn more about this experiment.
ART: PAPER ENVELOPE SHARK

Courtesy of ADayInYourShoes.com

MATERIALS —
White business size envelopes
Grey crayons or pastels
Black marker or crayons
Tape or glue
White paper

PROCEDURE —
Step 1: Color the envelope with grey crayon or pastel.
Step 2: Cut a triangle from one short edge of envelope to make mouth.
Step 3: Tape or glue the triangle to the top as a fin.
Step 4: Cut a row of triangles out of white paper to make teeth. Cut to fit the mouth.
Step 5: Glue the teeth inside the mouth.
Step 6: Draw a fin. Color, cut, and glue fin to the side of the shark.
Step 7: Use the black marker or crayon to draw an eye and details.
Step 8: Trim the edge of the envelope opposite the mouth, making an opening for your hand.
Step 9: Put your hand in the envelope to make the shark move.

art: paper envelope shark
Courtesy of ADayInYourShoes.com

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ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE
The SAG-AFTRA Foundation’s children’s literacy website Storyline Online® streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading. Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries. Visit Storyline Online® at storylineonline.net.

ABOUT THE SAG-AFTRA FOUNDATION
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