

Hoover Elementary
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Seymour Simon,

You changed my life and the way I see swimming. I used to be afraid to swim. From your book I learned that “human eating, sharks are a myth and are really interesting creatures. After reading your book, I was not afraid to swim.

I was afraid to swim before I read your book. I used to think sharks, a cold-blooded creature, were very vicious so I did not like to swim. I thought when I was swimming in a pool, river, or lake, a shark would swim toward me, grab me, and pull me under water and then eat me alive! I was also afraid to go off the diving board and did not enjoy treading water.

When I read your book, I was overjoyed knowing that sharks can only swim in salt water! (But only one type of shark has been seen in fresh water.) Knowing that helped me swim better. I learned that sharks don't like the taste of humans; they just mistake them for seals or sea lions. Once a shark bites a person and finds out that it's not a seal they're biting, they let go and swim off.

After I read your book, I swam all the time. (And still do!) I was as free as a bird, knowing that sharks do not live in fresh and pool water. Swimming became my favorite summer sport. Now I go swimming all the time with my friends and family.

I used to be afraid to go off the diving board and swim in deep, cloudy water. You taught me a lot of different things from your book Sharks so I was not afraid to swim. You did not know it before, but your book changed my life!

Yours Truly,

Elena Dietz