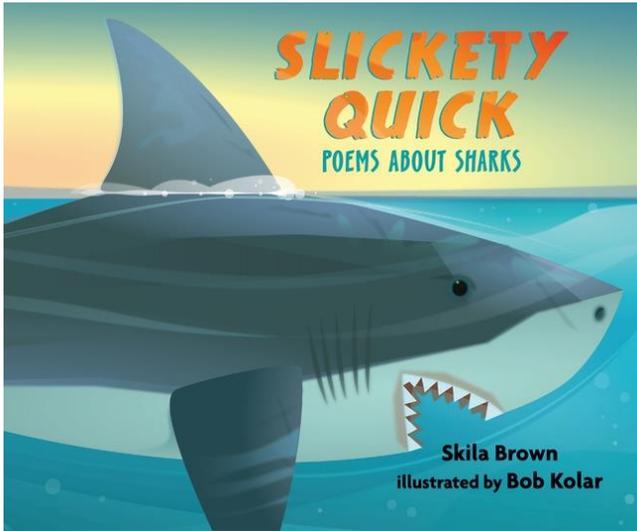


## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

# Slickety Quick: Poems About Sharks

by Skila Brown

Illustrated by Bob Kolar



ISBN 978-0763-66543-2 Candlewick, 2016 Grades 1-4

### About the Book

From the enormous whale shark to the legendary great white to the enigmatic goblin shark to the small cookie-cutter shark, *Slickety Quick* is a delightful frenzy of shark mayhem. Mysterious species such as the camouflaged wobbegong and the elusive frilled shark share the waters with better-known blue and nurse sharks, each commemorated in a poem by Skila Brown and illustrated by Bob Kolar. Sneaky shark facts ripple through each spread to further inform the brave and curious young reader intrigued by the power — and danger — of these amazing creatures.

### About the Author and Illustrator

[Skila Brown](#) lives in Indiana and is the author of the young adult novels *Caminar*, a School Library Journal Top 10 Latino Book of 2014, and *To Stay Alive*. *Slickety Quick* is her picture-book debut.

[Bob Kolar](#) lives in Missouri and has illustrated numerous books for young readers, including *AlphaOops! The Day Z Went First* and *AlphaOops! H Is for Halloween*, both by Alethea Kontis, and *Nothing Like a Puffin* by Sue Soltis.

### Predictions

Before showing students the cover or reading the book, ask them to draw a sketch of a shark. What breed of shark did you sketch? Do all sharks look alike? Are all sharks big?

### Reading Aloud

“Great White Shark”

This poem is a concrete poem, a poem that takes the physical shape of its subject. What shape is pictured in this poem? What do you think the poet means by ‘scary music?’ Why do you think great white sharks get all the attention?

“Wobbegong”

*Wibbly* means strange or unusual. What do you think is unusual about the wobbegong? What do you think the poet means by ‘carpet song?’

“Tiger Shark”

Why is there a feather in the water? After reading the poem, what did you learn that tiger sharks eat? The poet used spacing as a tool in this poem. Why do you think there is extra space before the words ‘wait’ and ‘snatch?’

### “Blue Shark”

This poem has unusual punctuation in the third to last line. Why do you think the poet made that choice? What does ‘bullet nose’ tell you about this shark?

### “Frisled Shark”

Watch a [video online](#) of a frilled shark swimming in the water. After watching, read the poem aloud again. What do you notice about the rhythm of the poem? What does the poet mean by ‘fossil prize?’

### “Cookie-cutter Shark”

What is significant about the shape of this poem? Alliteration is when the same letter or sound is heard over and over. Do you see an example of that in this poem?

### “Bull Shark”

What does *tenacious* mean? Why do you think these sharks are called bull sharks?

### “Nurse Shark”

Nurse sharks get their name from the sound they make. Think about your favorite animal. If you renamed it based on the sound it makes, what would it be?

### “Mako Shark”

Mako sharks are fast. Did you know that from reading the poem? The poet never uses the word ‘fast.’ How did you know?

### “Megamouth Shark”

The first two lines are almost repeated in the last two lines of the poem. Why do you think the poet did this? And why do you think the lines were slightly changed?

### “Goblin Shark”

After reading the poem, how do you think this shark got its name? What do you think it means by ‘jaws...unhinge?’ (Check out [this video](#) that shows it in action!)

### “Whale Shark”

What do the words *dangles*, *bubbles*, and *jangles* tell you about the way this shark moves? What does ‘blinks her mouth’ tell you about the way this shark eats?

### “Angel Shark”

There’s a contrast between devils and angels. Why do you think the poet used that? Have you ever eaten a crêpe? Why do you think the poet compared this shark to a crêpe?

### “Hammerhead Shark”

Find a partner and try reading this one aloud together. ‘Angle’ and ‘angel’ are words that almost sound alike. Do you know the difference between them?

## Wrap Up

Which shark was your favorite? Why? What’s one new thing you learned about sharks? If you could swim with one kind of shark, what would it be?

## Extensions

Choose a breed of shark that wasn’t in the book (such as zebra sharks or thresher sharks) to research. Draw a picture of the shark and write a poem about it.

Sharks hunt for food in different ways. Make a list of shark breeds and categorize them by what they eat and how they acquire their prey.

(Mako) Write a poem about something that’s slow without using the word ‘slow.’

(Hammerhead) Think about what living things we depend on and which ones depend on us. Write a poem in two voices about one of these relationships. Create a piece of art to go along with it.

## Further Reading

*Surprising Sharks* by Nicola Davies. Illustrated by James Croft. Candlewick, 2003.

*Amazing Animal Hunters: Sharks* by Jen Green. Amicus, 2011.

*DK Eyewonder: Shark* by Fleur Star. 2009.