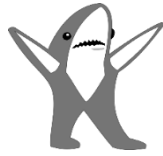


# *SHARKBOY AND HIS GREAT ADVENTURE*



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Once upon a time, there was a boy named Sharky who wanted to go to space. The problem was that Sharky was a Sharkboy. Because of this no one took him seriously, but he was very smart. Mostly people were afraid of him. They thought that he wanted them to be his dinner. He had the body of a shark, but he could walk and talk.

His human parents found him abandoned on the beach when they were on vacation in Florida. They felt sorry for him, so they took him home and raised him like a son. They built a big swimming pool in the back yard, and a large aquarium in the house. He didn't have to be in the water all the time. He only needed to swim when his skin got too dry.

They named him Sharky, but he didn't like the name. He wanted to be called Steve. He wanted a normal name, but his parents called him Sharky.

No one knows how a shark could have legs and arms and be able to talk. He had large sharp teeth that made it easy for him to eat large fish and big steaks, his favorite food.

He had a computer in his room that his parents bought for him so he could take online classes and learn the lessons of a normal kid. He found out it was not a good idea to open his camera. People got too scared when they saw him.

His favorite subject was science. He dreamed of one day going into space and being the first Sharkstronaut ever to do so. He made up the name.

His parents bought him every book he asked for and paid for instructions on how to make a rocket. They didn't think he was really serious. It was a way to keep him happy and busy because when he was bored, he would splash water all over the house.

Every day Sharky did his exercises to keep in shape. He knew a Sharkstronaut needed to be in top condition to go into space.

He didn't go to school or other events except swimming. He was the champion swimmer of his club. He knew he was better than anyone else. Soon the club would not let him swim in races because he was not a real child.

In college he took many classes about astronomy, which made him even more eager to go into space. He read about all the astronauts and what they learned about being in space for long periods of time.

After he graduated, he went to NASA and applied for the space program. He passed all of the tests and everything went fine until he had his personal interview.

"Hey, you're a fish. You can't be an astronaut," the commander told him.

"But, but, but I've been waiting for this all my life. By the way, I don't want to be an astronaut. I'm a sharkstronaut!" he complained.

"We don't care what you are, you cannot join our program!" the commander yelled at him. "Get out!"

Sharky left with his head down. His parents tried to make him feel better, but it was a very bad day for him.

As they were driving out of the base, Sharky heard something.

"Help! Help me! I can't swim and I have fallen in the pool! Gurgle! Gurgle!" a voice came from across the road.

Sharky jumped out of the car and ran to the pool. Without even thinking he dove into the water to save the man who was drowning.

"What are you doing!" yelled the man. "There's a shark in the pool! Help!"

Sharky replied, "I'm here to save you! I don't want to eat you."

"I don't need saving. We are doing a practice. Get out of here. We don't need a fish like you here. Go home," the man said pointing to the exit.

Sharky was sad again. He thought he was doing something nice.

A few days later, Sharky returned to try to convince the commander to let him join

the program. He had passed all the entrance exams. He felt he deserved a chance to prove himself.

He was walking to the office when once again he heard a cry for help from the pool. He tried to ignore it, knowing he would just get yelled at again. But there was so much noise coming from the pool, he decided to take a look.

A real accident was happening. The instructor had been swimming in the pool when he had a heart attack. No one knew what to do.

Sharky ran to the pool, dove in, and lifted him out of the water and then began to give him CPR.

Soon a doctor came and pushed Sharky away and continued the CPR.

An ambulance came and took the commander to the hospital.

Sharky expected to be praised for his quick action, but the officer just told him to go away.

Quite depressed, Sharky left for the motel where his parents were waiting for him. He told them story and of how he was pushed away and then sent home. He was angry.

All night he could not sleep. He looked at the ceiling making a plan.

The next morning, he snuck out of the motel and went to the NASA base. He put on a uniform to try to blend in with everyone else. Actually, he looked pretty funny. His blue head was too big for the collar. He filled it with water so he would not get too dry.

He hid behind trucks, and barrels, and walls, and rockets moving slowly from place to place waiting for his chance to make his plan work.

Then the opportunity came. He ran to the rocket. Got onto the elevator and rode it to the top of the capsule. He opened the door, jumped in, and locked the door. He put on the helmet, strapped his seatbelt, and started to push the buttons and switches. It was just like the video game he practiced on all the time.

A voice came over the headset, “What are you doing? What are you trying to do? Get out of there NOW!”

Sharky ignored him and soon the engines fired, and the rocket lifted off the base and

was soon headed for space.

“Woo Hoo!” Sharky yelled. “My plan is working. I will be the first Sharkboy on the moon!”

All was going well, until all of a sudden, there was a spurt and a sputter and then the ship slowed down. He looked down at the fuel gauge and it said empty.

“Uh oh, now what am I supposed to do?” he thought to himself. “I guess I should have checked that before.”

“Hello mission control. I ran out of fuel. What should I do?” Sharky finally talked to the people at the NASA headquarters.

“Hold on. We will let you know in a minute. We have never had this problem before. You should have thought about that before you stole our spaceship,” the voice responded.

Sharky looked out the window and saw the big blue planet below. He was now sorry he had stolen the ship.

A voice came over the radio, “We are sending a rescue ship to you, but it will be a few hours before it will be ready. We aren’t sure if you can stay in orbit until then. There is a reserve fuel system, but if you use it, you might be pushed farther into space where we won’t be able to rescue you, so DON’ T touch the button.”

Sharky looked for the button just to see where it was, and then he accidentally pushed it.

VROOOM! The engine ignited and Sharky was pressed against the seat as the ship blasted away.

“We told you not to push that button! What have you done!?” the voice on the radio yelled at Sharky.

Earth began to disappear as the rocket shot out farther into outer space. The stars were a blur as they flashed by his window. He watched as he passed Mars and Jupiter and then Saturn. He was headed out of the solar system. He was going where no one had ever gone before.

“Oops, I think I shouldn’t have pushed that button,” Sharky said to himself.

He looked around the cabin to see if he could find some food and water. There was a door on the side that said, 'Supplies'.

His helmet was hard to get off. He opened the door and inside he found packets of food and water. He opened one of them and ate it. It tasted nasty, but he ate it anyway.

After eating he fell asleep.

He was awakened by a loud sound. He looked out the window and saw a large rock flying away. It had hit the ship and changed its direction. How was he ever going to get home?

When he turned on the radio, it did not work. He realized it was broken from the rock. He found a backup radio and turned it on.

"Shi aod lam doee ao tog foll a wy," he heard something he did not understand.

"Hello?" he said.

"Grog un dom sta fee got a boo," he heard the voice again.

"What? I don't understand," Sharky replied.

He was very confused.

"Who you are?" the strange voice said.

"I'm Sharky. I'm from Earth. Who are you?" he inquired.

"We be from Zongdor. We be not knowing what are you," came a reply. "Coming to our planet are you?"

"I guess so. How do I do that?" Sharky asked. "And why do you talk so funny?"

"Talk funny we do not. Language of you is strange. Learn we do slowly. Years many ago a ship from planet yours here crashed. Listen we did to voice. Told many stories it did about Earth and there life. You be from this planet?" the voice asked.

"Yes, I'm from Earth. I don't know how I got here," he responded.

Sharky looked out the window and saw a large yellow planet below and it appeared that he was going to crash into it. He looked around and he saw another button. It said, 'Emergency Escape Hatch'. Under it is said, 'Emergency landing module.'

"Hmmm, I wonder what this does?" he thought to himself.

He pulled the handle and suddenly the front of the craft opened throwing him out into space.

He screamed, "HELP!" but of course no one heard him.

He began to get dizzy and then he blacked out.

When he woke up, he was on a hard bed. There was a bright light in his face.

"Am I in heaven?" he thought.

Then he saw many figures walking around him. They had on strange clothes. He could not see their faces.

"OH, awake you are," one of people said to him.

"Where am I?" Sharky asked.

"On Zongdor you are. Know not where you are?" the strange person asked.

"No, I have no idea how I got here," Sharky answered.

"Found you we did in space. Lost you seemed wandering around to be. Here we brought you. Weak you were. Awake you now are."

Sharky was surprised because he did not understand how he got there.

"How did I get here? I was floating in space and I thought I was going to die," Sharky told the person in the strange clothes.

"A ship we sent to get you we did. Heard we did your cry for help. Help we wanted you to give. Here you are now," the person said to him.

Then the person took off the mask on their face and Sharky was shocked. He looked just like him. He was a Sharkman !

"What is going on here? Am I dreaming?" Sharky rubbed his eyes.

He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

He spent a week in the hospital while the doctors did many tests on him. When they were done, they let him go, but he didn't know where to go.

As he walked out of the building, he noticed that everyone looked just like him. He had always been different, now he was the same.

Two older sharkpeople walked up to him.

“Steve, are you?” one of them asked.

“Yes,” he replied.

“Your grandparents are we. Parents of you to Earth went, but died they did on the way. Watch you we did many years. Here you are now. Happy we are that you are here.”

“How did you watch me? How did you know where I was?” Sharky asked.

“Technology have we that see Earth we can. After find craft of Earth, we did, learned the language not easy it was. You we did see grow up, good boy you were. Parents of you liked we did. Thankful we are you returned you did to home,” his grandfather shared with him.

Sharky was happy to be on his home planet, but he missed his parents back on Earth. He studied hard at the Sharkstronaut school to go back into space and then one day, see his parents again.

He learned the language of the Shark people and made his grandparents proud.

He watched Earth programs and told the others what they were about and helped to translate them into Sharkese.

When he graduated from Sharkstronaut Academy he was put in charge of the next Earth mission. He studied the mission his parents went on so that he would not make the same mistakes they had, which cost them their lives.

The day came for the launch to Earth. Sharky was ready to go. He had everything he needed to make the journey, but then he was told he could not go. He was too old.

He never had the chance to return to Earth. It remained his dream until he died.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. vacation _____     | a. how much fuel is left              |
| 2. aquarium _____     | b. very serious illness               |
| 3. astronaut _____    | c. box that moves from floor to floor |
| 4. heart attack _____ | d. pushing on the chest               |
| 5. CPR _____          | e. trip to another place              |
| 6. ceiling _____      | f. space traveler                     |
| 7. blend in _____     | g. the top of a room                  |
| 8. elevator _____     | h. glass cage for fish                |
| 9. ignore _____       | i. look the same as everyone else     |
| 10. fuel gauge _____  | j. not respond, turn away             |

**TRUE / FALSE**

- |                                            |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Sharkboy wanted to be called Sharky.    | T / F |
| 2. Sharky had a computer in his room.      | T / F |
| 3. He loved to swim.                       | T / F |
| 4. Sharky became a Sharkstronaut.          | T / F |
| 5. His parents on Earth were Shark people. | T / F |
| 6. He went to a regular school.            | T / F |
| 7. His parents found him on the beach.     | T / F |
| 8. He saved a man in the swimming pool.    | T / F |
| 9. He went to a Shark planet.              | T / F |
| 10. He stole a car.                        | T / F |



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who told him he could not be an astronaut? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) the captain
  - b) his parents
  - c) his teacher
  - d) the doctor
  
2. What did Sharky dream of being? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Astronaut
  - b) Sharkstronaut
  - c) captain
  - d) famous actor
  
3. Where did his parents find him? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) at the park
  - b) in the zoo
  - c) on shark planet
  - d) at the beach
  
4. Where did Sharky see the doctor that looked just like him? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) at school
  - b) on the street
  - c) in the hospital
  - d) in space

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What name did Sharky want to be called?

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2. What did his parents build for him?

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3. Who did he try to save in the swimming pool?

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4. What did he steal?

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5. What happened that he was not able to go back to Earth?

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6. What did he pull that sent him out into deep space?

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7. What did he see when the doctor took off his mask?

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8. Who did he meet on the new planet?

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9. How long did he stay on the planet?

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10. What was Sharky's dream at the end of the story?

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