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If Sharks Disappeared

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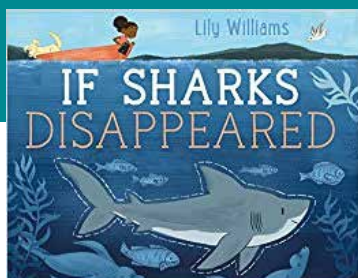
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Book Review

If Sharks Disappeared



Author

Lily Williams

Illustrator

Lily Williams

Reviewer

Mandy Mathews

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

30

Year

2017

Publisher

Roaring Brook Press

ISBN

9781554535958

Many people think sharks are scary, but they are a necessary part of a healthy ocean. Losing an apex predator (like sharks) could have a terrible effect on our planet, which is important to know because many shark species are endangered. It would cause a chain reaction eventually leading to an unbalanced, even unlivable ocean. This chain reaction would continue onto land, affecting all the creatures of the world. Luckily, today sharks still exist. If we remember how we are all connected, maybe we'll see that what once seemed scary, isn't so scary after all.

This non-fiction book attempts to make the ideas of ecosystems, extinction, trophic cascade, and environmental balance understandable and accessible to children. By asking the question, "What would happen if sharks disappeared?" the author is able to logically follow the chain of events down to the end, giving children a compelling reason to care about the environment. The book also includes several fun and/or useful features, such as a fold out page that dramatically shows the ocean with and without sharks, a glossary of terms, and some ideas for how you can help save sharks. The illustrations are interesting and just detailed enough to make different species of sharks and fish recognizable, without becoming complicated.

This is a very good book for simplifying and teaching complex environmental issues to children in a compelling and interesting way.