

*Shark Lady:  
The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist*

**Discussion Guide**

Grades Pre-K-3

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Discuss the importance of the life's work of the Shark Lady, Eugenie Clark.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about Eugenie Clark. What is she best known for? Did you know she is considered a pioneer in the field of shark research? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: aquarium, sharks, researcher, zoology, dive

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- Why do you think Eugenie Clark, the Shark Lady, became so interested in studying & understanding sharks?
- Before the Shark Lady, many zoologists believed sharks were "mindless killers." What did the Shark Lady learn through her observations & research into sharks that changed that theory?
- Eugenie Clark was a determined student who became very interested in science growing up and in college. However, she lived at a time when not many women were accepted into scientific fields. Why do you think the Shark Lady succeeded in her scientific work throughout her life, despite the challenges.

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Create a chart of sharks, including the name, an illustration, and a brief description of each of the ones you include. Be sure to include the ones mentioned in the book. Try including 10 sharks.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.