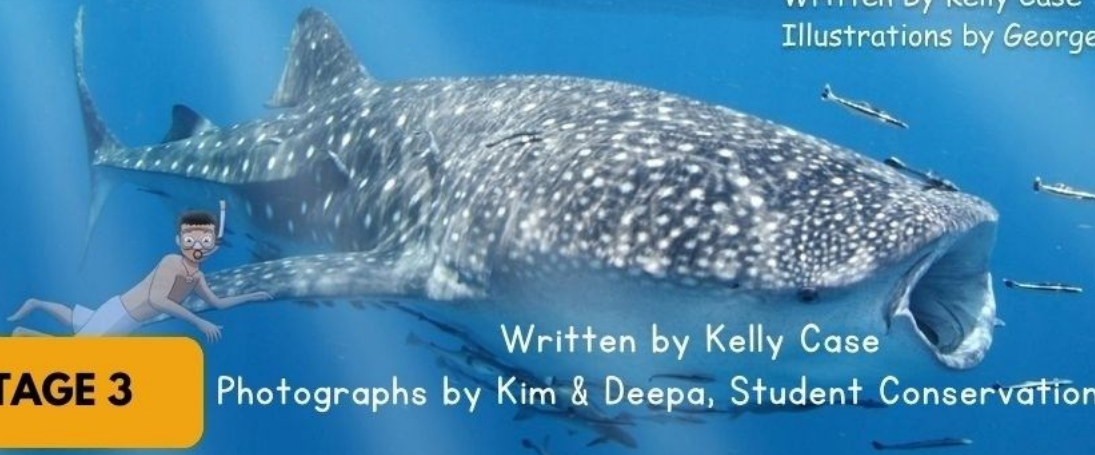


Datiz and the

Whale Shark

Written By Kelly Case
Illustrations by George Carrara



STAGE 3

Written by Kelly Case
Photographs by Kim & Deepa, Student Conservationists

Datiz and the Whale Shark



Datz



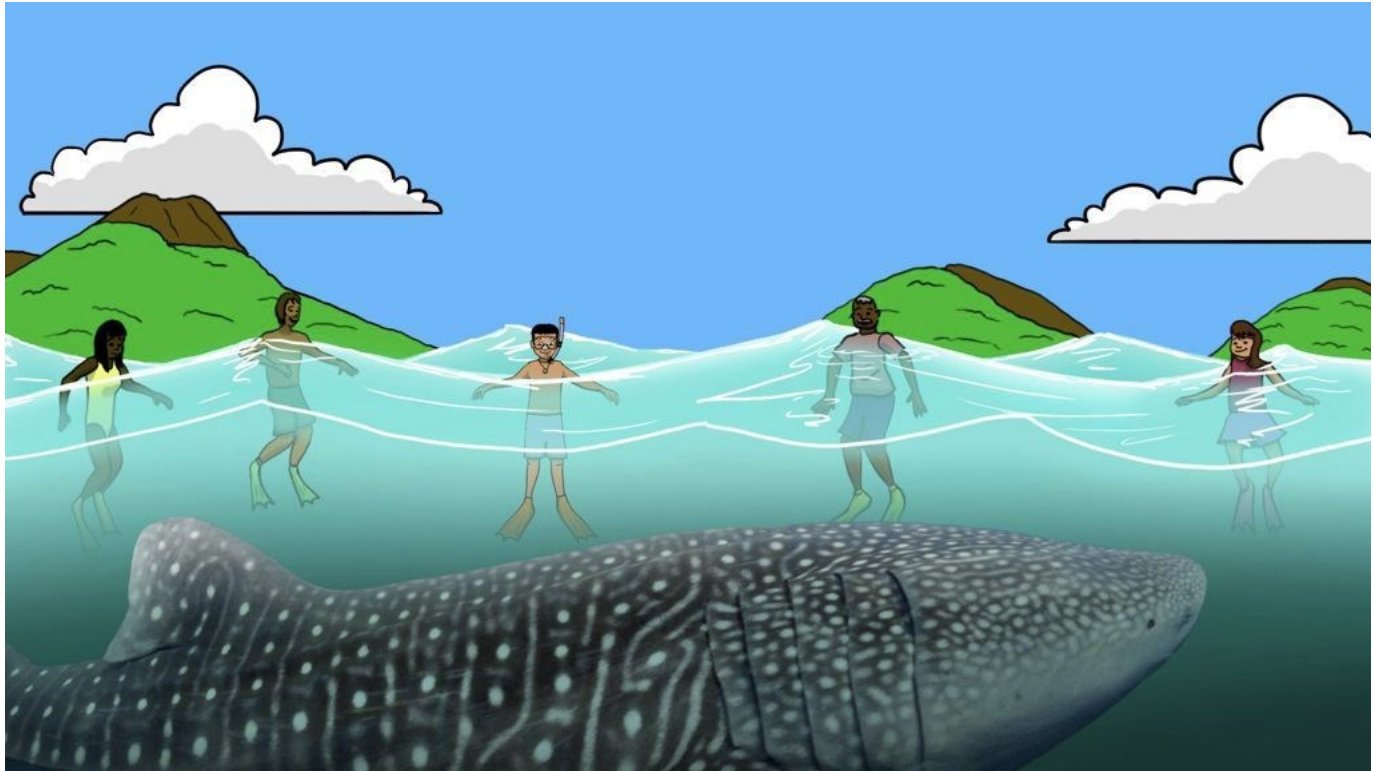
Splash
Whale Shark

Characters





Datiz and his dad catch fish from the sea. They sell their fresh fish to the fish stand.



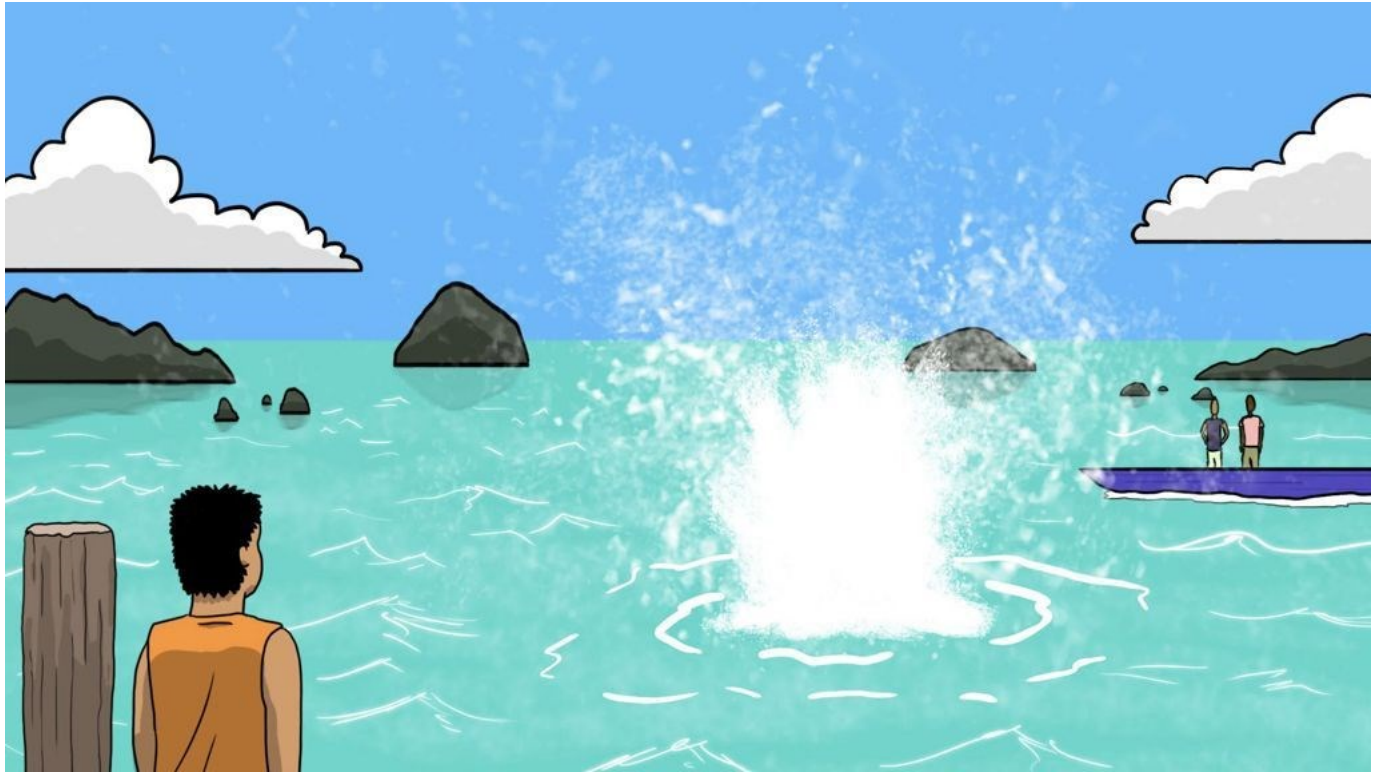
Every spring, the gentle whale sharks swim by Datz and his pals. Datz likes to swim with his friend, Splash, one of the whale sharks. The whale sharks are the biggest fish in the sea. But they will not harm people.



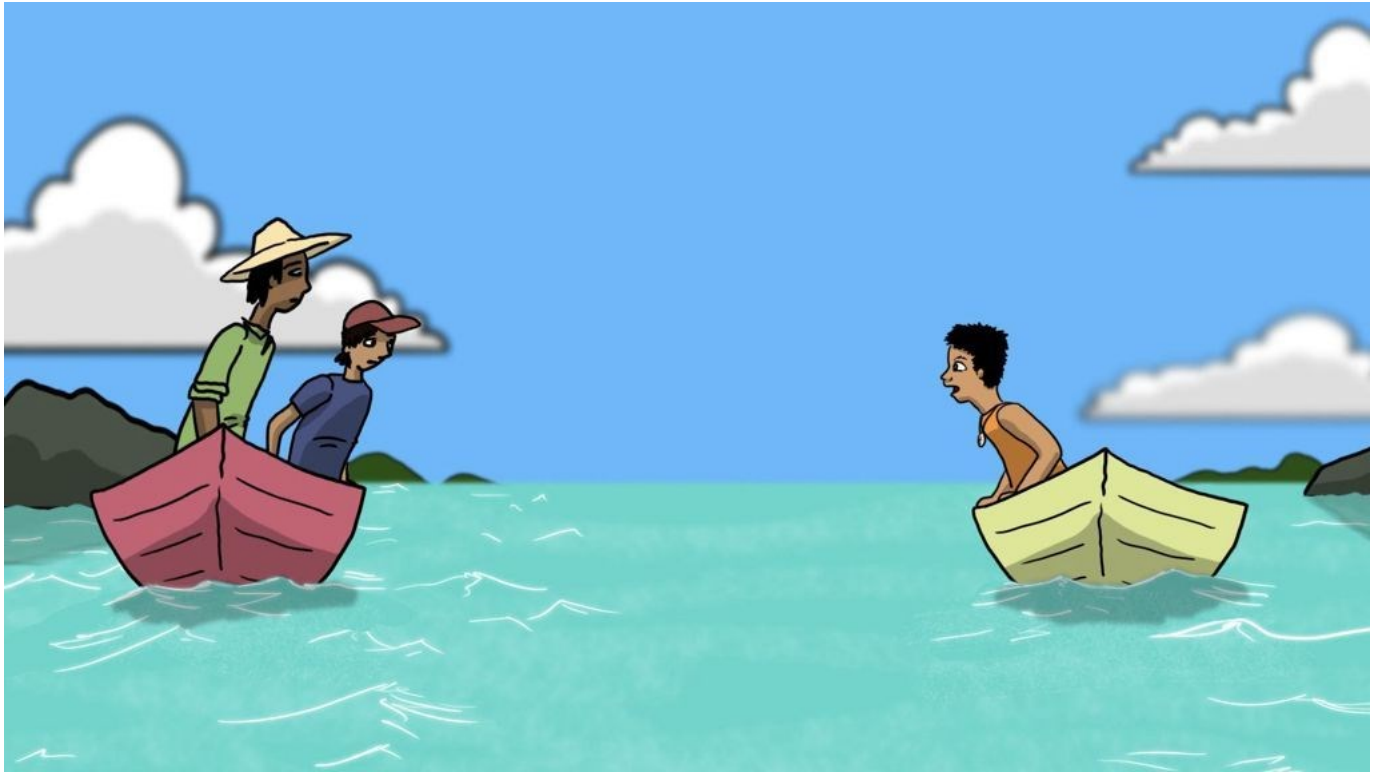
One day, Datziz and Splash swim by a coral reef, the home of many sea animals. Swish, swish, swish. Datziz can talk to his pal, Splash.



BOOM! BLAST! BOOM! “What’s that?” asks Datz.
“It will kill the coral reef!” says Splash.



Datiz sees a man drop a bomb into the sea. BOOM!
BLAST! BOOM!



“STOP!” yells Datz to the fisherman.

“The blast kills the fish so we can catch them,” says the fisherman.

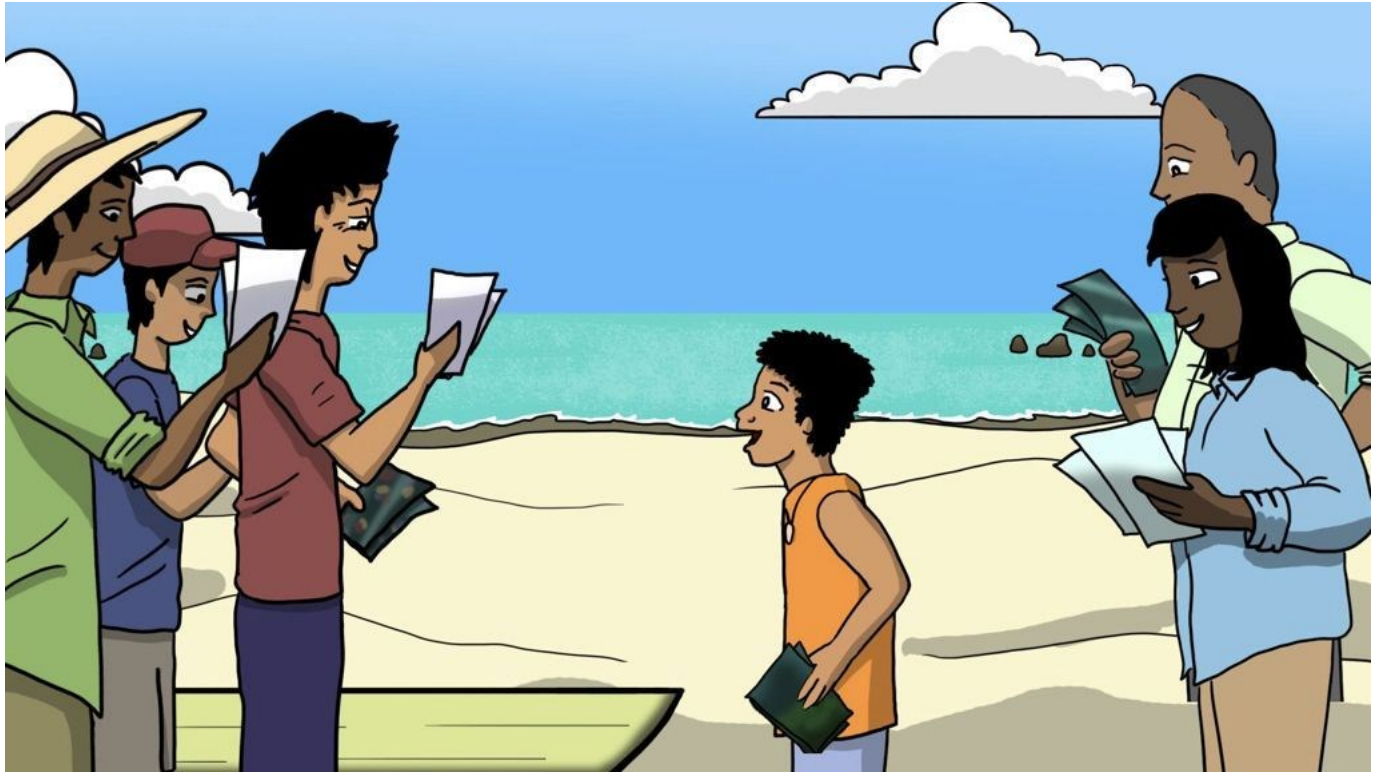
“The bombs also smash, mash, and trash the coral reefs,” says Datz.



Snap, click, flash! Datiz and Splash take a photo of the coral reef after the blast.

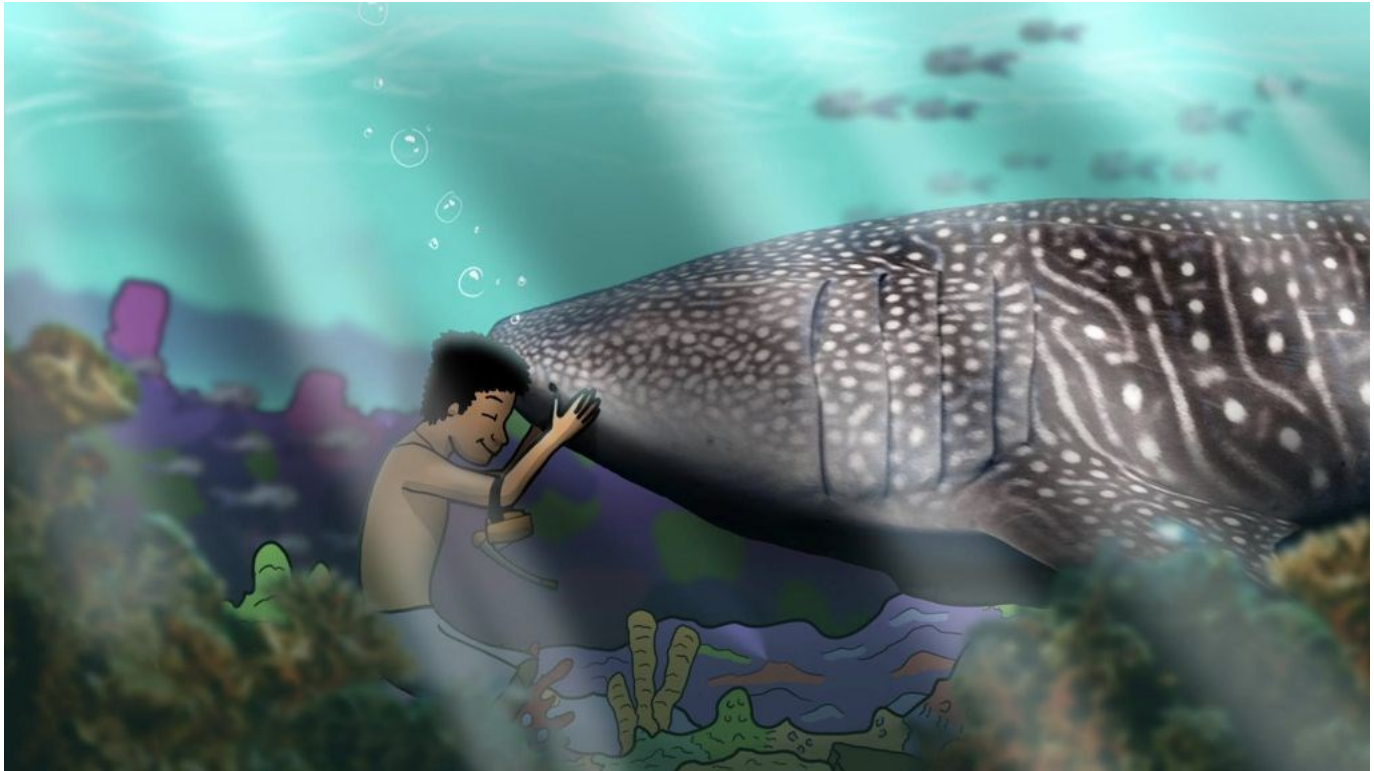


All the kids rush into the class to find out what is happening to the coral reef. The kids in the class tell Datiz, "Don't quit. Get the fisherman to stop blasting the coral reef!"



The fishermen are in shock when they see the photos. They did not think their bombs smashed the coral reefs.

“We will stop blast fishing to save the coral reefs,” say the fishermen.

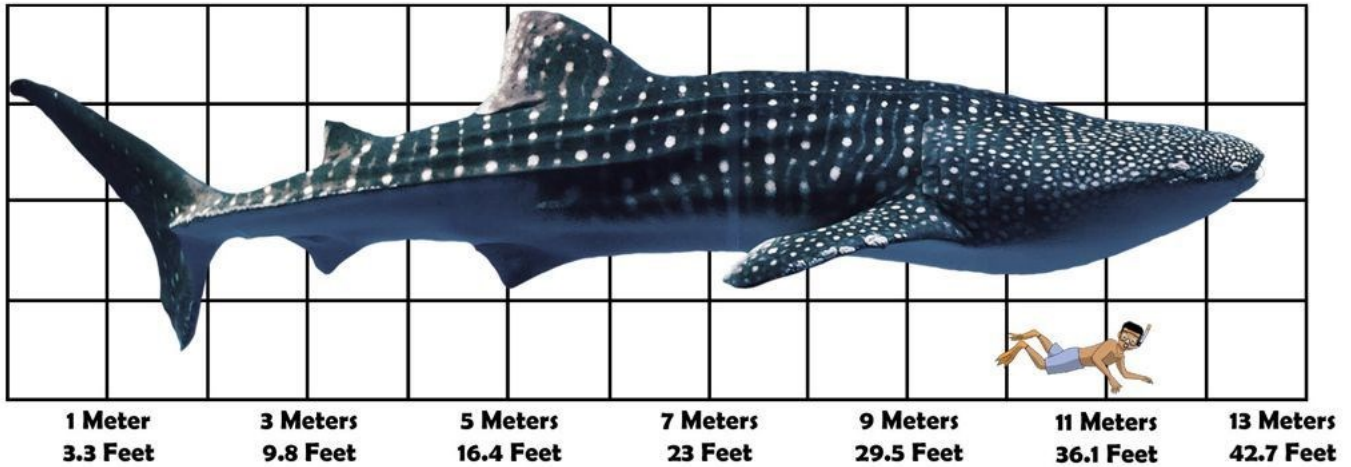


The coral reef begins to grow back. Splash is glad and thanks Datiz.

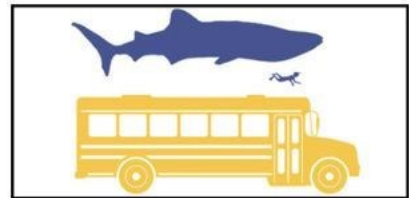
Whale Shark Facts

- Whale sharks are the largest fish in the sea, even bigger than great white sharks. They can reach lengths of 12 meters (40 feet).
- An average whale shark weighs 20.6 tons, which makes it about the size of a school bus.
- Whale sharks prefer warm water and tropical climates, which means they migrate every spring toward Australia.
- Whale sharks are docile, and they will sometimes allow people to grab their fins and swim with them.
- They are not predatory, but rather eat tiny sea creatures called plankton.
- Whale sharks reach adulthood at around age 25, and they can live to be 100 or 150 years old.












**How big is a full grown
whale shark?**



Decodable Word Chart

Long /e/ (ee)	Short /i/	Short /e/	Short /a/	Short /u/	Short /o/	Schwa /ə/
						
reef	fish	sell	and	bus	drop	the
see	his	fresh	stand	rush	bomb	what
	swim	them	past		stop	from
	big	when	pal		flocks	
	swish	yells	Splash		shock	
	will		blast		not	
	kill		that			
	click		asks			
	did		man			
	think		catch			
			smash			
			mash			
			trash			
			snap			
			flash			
			back			



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