

Jawsome: Jawsome 1

By R.J. Timmis

**RECOMMENDED FOR**

6 – 10 (lower primary)

THEMES

Friendship, mystery, sharks, marine life, music,
rock and roll, stage fright

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SYNOPSIS

Something FISHY is going on in Chumville...

By day, Finley and his mates are ordinary shark kids. But by night, they are secretly the super-famous rock band JAWSOME!

But not everything is cruisy. Can JAWSOME get to the bottom of an ocean of shady shark-nanigans while keeping their secret identities watertight?

With fabulous illustrations on every page, non-stop adventure and lots of laughs, *Jawsome* is perfect for emerging readers (and shark enthusiast of all ages)!

AUTHOR MOTIVATION

'I have little understanding of sharks (other than being terrified of them in real life), so I wanted to give them a fun, playful spin that was non-threatening. I started researching sharks and learned that different species have their own quirks and personalities, like tiger sharks basically eat everything, and reef sharks are very social and often move around in family groups. That research personalised sharks a little and made them (slightly) less terrifying. I toyed with a few different approaches – detective sharks, superhero sharks and even historical figure sharks (e.g., Joan of Shark, Alexander the Great White) – but nothing felt quite right. Listening to the radio in the car one day, a song by a popular boy band came on and I realised that would be a really fun idea – boy band sharks! As I started jotting down notes later, thinking of band names and a possible storyline, it became clear that a rock band was a little more shark-oriented than a pop band, and that idea eventually led to the super-famous rock band Jawsome.

'Outside of the concept, the tone of this series was really important to get right. I wanted it to be off-the-wall ridiculous, almost more like a cartoon than a book, where no tangent is too crazy. That made it very, very fun to write.'

R.J. Timmis

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R.J. Timmis is an author-illustrator from the sunny Gold Coast. Before she started writing magical and adventurous stories, Rebecca wrote code for websites (which is not nearly as exciting). She's had lots of real-life adventures, like almost falling off the Great Wall of China, hiding from grizzly bears in Canada and being chased by giant pigs in outback Queensland. When Rebecca isn't writing or drawing, she's working hard to turn her rambunctious three boys into polite members of society and watching superhero movies with her husband.



SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION:

Before Reading Exercise: Cover Detectives

You can tell a lot about a book by its cover. Answer these questions to find out about *Jawsome* before you even start to read the story.

1. What sort of creature do you think this story will be about?
2. Can you recognise any other creatures on the cover?
3. Having answered the first two questions, can you guess where the story will be set?
4. Why might the book be called *Jawsome*?
5. Do the cover's colours, image and title make you think this is going to be a very scary story about sharks?

Comprehension Questions: Stage Bite

1. Who or what is Jawsome in the story?
2. Why does it need a new lead singer?
3. Why doesn't Finley want to become the lead singer?
4. What 'trials' do Finley's friends put him through to help him overcome his stage fright?
5. Who and what actually helps him overcome it?

Comprehension Questions: Finvestigated

1. Squidley Whistleblower is working on a story to expose...
2. How do Finley and his friends try and trick Squidley into thinking they are unmusical?
3. Skeezy disguises himself as to take over Chumville.
4. What does Hunter do to the photos to make sure they can be used as evidence?
5. Why does Squidley get all the credit for solving the case?

Vocabulary

Lots of the fun of *Jawsome* is the way the author changes well-known words and phrases for familiar sounding ones that have something to do with sharks and the sea. For instance, the sharks in the story play Fortbite and Craystation. What is the human word for following shark words that appear in *Jawsome*: sea-spicious, Finstagram, flipper-gasted and fin-credibly? Can you come up with some special shark words of your own?

Puns

If a **pun** is a joke that plays with words that sound alike or have more than one meaning, do you think the book's title, *Jawsome*, is a pun? Can you find other puns in the story? Which is your favourite?



Visual Literacy

Words tell readers a lot in a story, but the way words are **shown** on a page can tell us a lot, too. Turn to page 9 where Hunter is eating the word EVERYTHING and explain how the way the word is shown emphasises the sentence before it: 'They also eat everything.' Can you find other examples in the story similar to this?

Sharks

There are many different types of sharks in the story. Finley is a reef shark, Hunter a tiger shark, Gnash a pointer shark (aka Great White) and Gilleon a lemon shark.

- Find at least one characteristic for each type of shark in the first story, Stage Bite.
- Research each type of shark on the internet to find three other interesting facts about them.
- Name three other types of sharks that don't appear in the story.