

I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916

In I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916 by Lauren Tarshis, Chet struggles to make friends after moving to a new town. The group of boys he meets Sid, Monty, and Dewey pulls pranks that make him feel unwelcome and embarrassed. Chet tries to fit in with them, but the pranks create problems and make it hard for him to build trust. His efforts to prank them back only make things worse.

One of Chet's main problems with making friends is being target of malicious by Sid and his friend. For example, the boys pretend to see a shark in the creek where they swim. Chet was terrified and started to panic while screaming. When Chet realizes it was a trick, he feels humiliated and hurt. Instead of laughing along, he feels like an outsider, which makes it harder for him to feel accepted in the group.

In response, Chet decides to prank the boys by dressing as a sea monster and scaring them while they swim. Although he hopes the prank will make them laugh or think he's clever, it backfires. The boys are terrified and angry when they find out it was Chet's trick. This only damages their friendship further and leaves Chet feeling more alone.

If I were Chet, I would try to handle things differently. Instead of pranking the boys, I would talk to them about how their jokes made me feel. I would also try to connect with them through shared activities instead of revenge. If they still didn't treat me kindly, I would focus on finding other friends who respect me. Instead of wasting time I would find different friends.

Chet's experience shows that pranks and revenge don't solve problems. While it's normal to feel angry when someone is unkind, responding with kindness and honesty is often the better choice. If I were Chet, I would focus on building friendships in a positive way and finding people who value me for who I am.