



## AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Michelle Harrison** lives in Essex and has a son, Jack, and three cats. Before becoming an author, she worked as a bookseller and in children's fiction at Oxford University Press. Her first novel, *The Thirteen Treasures* (Simon & Schuster, 2019) won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2009. Since then, she has written many other magical books and the 'in my pants' picture books with David Tazzyman.

**David Tazzyman** lives in Leicestershire with his partner and three children. He has illustrated many children's books but is probably best known for illustrating Andy Stanton's Mr Gum series which won the Children's Book Award in 2007 and the first Roald Dahl Funny Prize in 2008.

## WEBSITES

<https://www.michelleharrisonbooks.com/>  
<https://www.davidtazzyman.com/about>

## LINKS

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7QSnuciE\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7QSnuciE_c)

David Tazzyman demonstrates how to draw Mr Gum step by step.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moIrGJh56Sq>

Episode of National Geographic's 'Weird but True' series about sharks.



# THERE'S A SHARK IN MY PANTS

Younger Children Shortlist 2026

## INTRODUCTION

A **funny, rhyming** story about a **family holiday** involving a face-to-face encounter with a **shark**. Michelle Harrison's **absurd story** is perfectly matched with David Tazzyman's energetic, joke-filled, **cartoon-style illustrations**. Look out for the **dog** who follows them around or the **pirate** holiday-makers, for example. Watch the **single-parent family** as they pack for the holiday, board the plane, settle into the hotel, ride a pedalo and go scuba diving. It's only when they return and the older girl dives into the hotel pool that all the sand (and everything else) in her pants spills out, releasing a massive shark. Fortunately, the children's own inflatable shark makes the perfect distraction and saves the day!

## ACTIVITIES

**Read** some poems about the seaside. This will involve researching online and looking through available collections of poetry.

**Write and illustrate** a letter (or postcard) about a favourite summer holiday or outing (a trip to the local park, a picnic or a bus/train ride, for example).

**Create** an easy origami shark toy (follow the video or written instructions) <https://www.redtedart.com/origami-shark-toy/> Or enjoy one of the colouring sheets based on *Sharks! Sharks! Sharks!* <https://bsmall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/COLOURING-SHEETS.pdf>

## NOW READ ON

*There's a Beach in My Pants!* by Michelle Harrison & David Tazzyman (Simon & Schuster, 2024) First story in the 'in my pants' series.

*Shark in the Park!* by Nick Sharratt (Corgi, 2007) First of a series of hilarious rhyming stories.

*Sharks! Sharks! Sharks!* by Susan Martineau & Vicky Barker (b small, 2023) Everything you ever wanted to know about sharks.

Dip into this great list of books about the seaside.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/genres/seaside-books-for-children/>