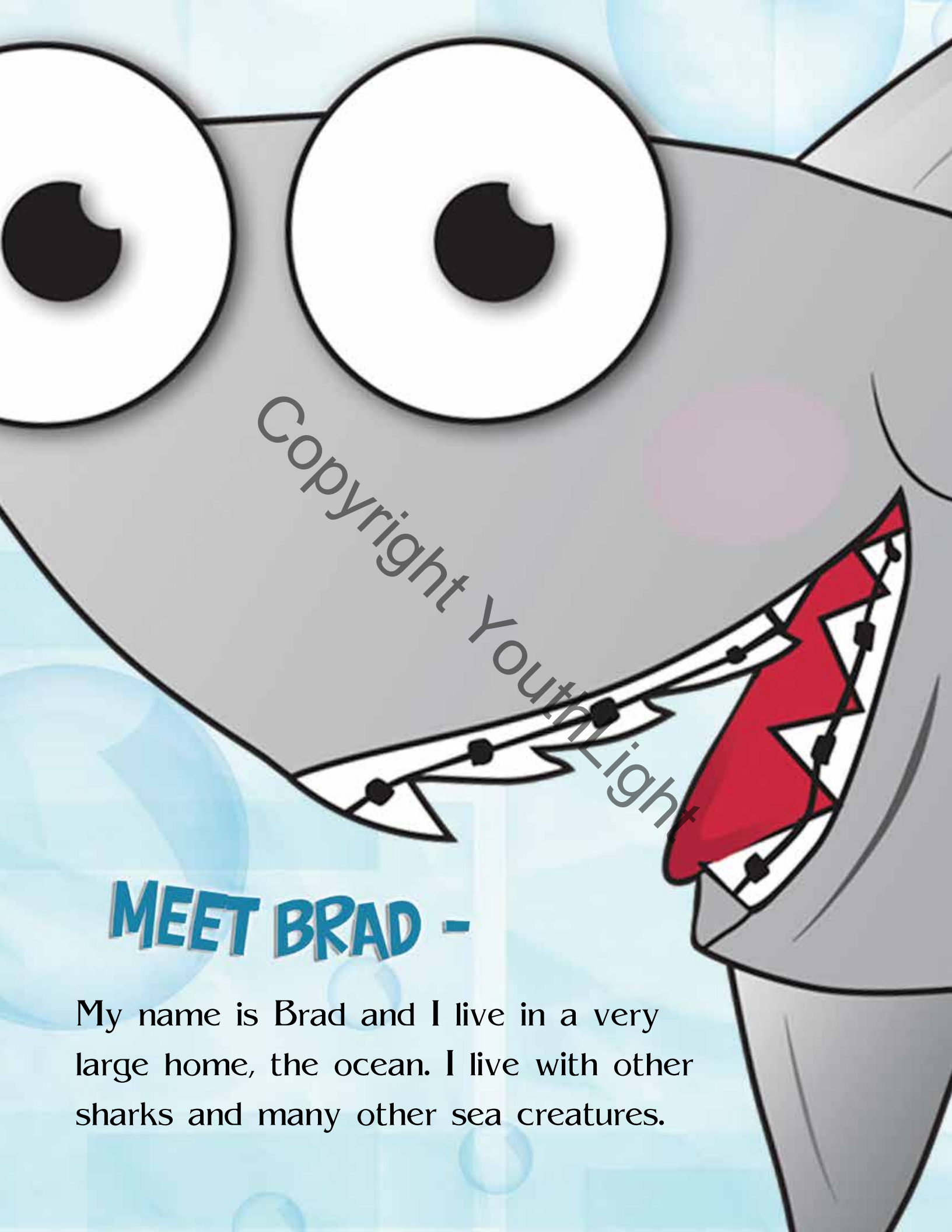


A WORD FROM THE DEEP..

Brad was an unusually small shark. He was different from the other sharks. He wore braces and was a vegetarian. He only ate sea plants and was very kind and caring. But none of the other sea creatures would even get to know him just because he was a "Shark." When he swam around the ocean, they would all quickly dart away afraid they would be eaten.

This bothered Brad so much that he wrote this story to help others understand that no one deserves to be teased, left out or called names because they are different. He also hopes his story can help kids deal with teasing and name calling without being mean back. When others are mean to you, biting back at them only makes matters worse.





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MEET BRAD -

My name is Brad and I live in a very large home, the ocean. I live with other sharks and many other sea creatures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it like to have a bad reputation?
2. Do you know someone who turned out different than what you thought they would be like?
3. Have you ever been teased because you are different?
4. What can you do if your friends don't want to be around you?
5. Who is someone special that you trust and can go to for help?
6. Have you ever seen another person being harassed or picked on? What did you do?
7. Tell three things you can do to show others that you are nice and caring.
8. Describe the difference between a true friend and a fake friend.
9. How can you change a bad reputation?
10. What does it mean to accept other's differences?



HOW TO BE A PEER HELPER



Directions: Tell what you could do in the following situations to help.

Another student in your class looks very sad.

You see a student who is being picked on for wearing thick glasses. Other students call him names at recess and in the cafeteria.

A new student has moved into your neighborhood. Other kids are telling you they heard a rumor that he was kicked out of his other school.

You see a student who always sits by herself at lunch. You notice that a group of girls walks by her and makes faces.

A student tells you that a group of other students at school are bullying and harassing him.

In PE, you notice a student, who is very overweight, having trouble catching the ball. Other students laugh at her and call her "Tubby."

In art class, everyone was asked to pick a partner for a project. One student was never picked and he sat quietly by himself.
