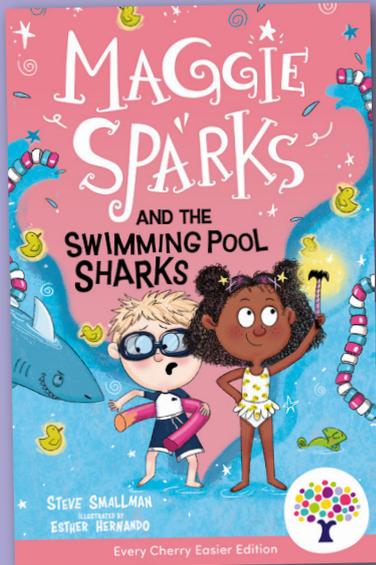




Big stories, fewer barriers.



MAGGIE SPARKS

AND THE SWIMMING POOL SHARKS

Teaching and Learning Resources

About This Resource

This resource can be used by parents, teachers, carers and young readers. It is designed to provide fun, engaging and creative ideas to explore **Maggie Sparks and the Swimming Pool Sharks**. The resources are suitable to use in and out of the classroom, allowing young readers to get even more out of the book!

Summary

Maggie Sparks is a mischievous little witch who uses her magic to turn every day into an adventure. When Maggie falls into a pond and is scared because she cannot swim, her mum books her some swimming lessons. But Maggie does not want to learn how to swim and her cousin is already in the top swimming group. Maggie helps her friend Arthur with his swimming and he moves up into another group. But when she uses magic on herself it isn't as simple.

DO Judge a Book by Its Cover!

Take a look at the book cover. What clues can the cover give us about the book?

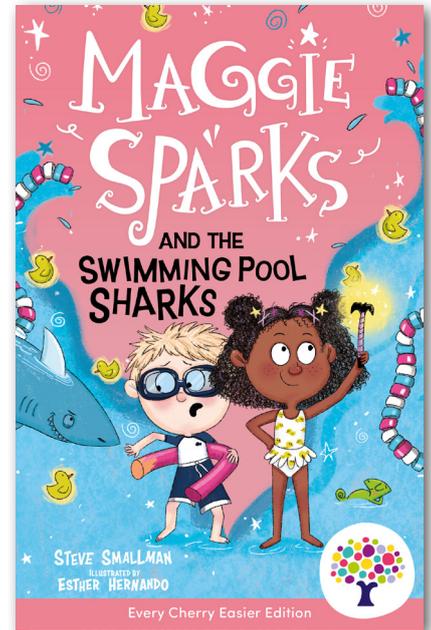
Activity 1: Front Cover Analysis

Can you find ...

- Who are the two main characters in the story? What can you find out about them from the illustration?
- Who is the author?
- Can you spot Maggie's pet chameleon named Bat?

Can you answer the following questions?

- What do you think the book will be about?
- How does Arthur look on the cover? What does this make you think about how he feels?
- What magic do you think Maggie will do?



Activity 2: Back Cover Analysis

Read the blurb.

- Why do you think Maggie doesn't like swimming?
- Why do you think Maggie wants to be in the top class?
- Do you like swimming?
- Do you want to read this story? Why? why not?

Pre-read discussion questions

Before you begin reading the book, how would you answer the following questions?

- Have you ever read any other stories about magic?
- What do you think about Maggie Sparks from the cover?
- Do you think Maggie Sparks sounds like a good friend to Arthur?
- If you could do magic, what spell would you use?



Activity 1: Maggie's Ice World

Maggie enjoyed skating on the ice until it melted underneath her warm boots.

Play With an Ice Small World

First freeze some water to make your own ice.

- You could add food colouring to change the colour of your ice.
- Think about the different sizes and shapes of your containers you will freeze your ice in.

Then collect small doll toys to use in your ice world, or create your own Maggie Sparks characters by sticking a picture of them onto a wooden block.

Once your ice is frozen create your own ice world to play with.

Time to think...

How does the ice make your fingers feel?

Is your ice melting?

Can you melt your ice any faster?

How did your water turn into ice?



Activity 2: Snowballs!

Maggie had a snowball fight with Arthur but he ended up falling on the floor when the snowball knocked him on his head!

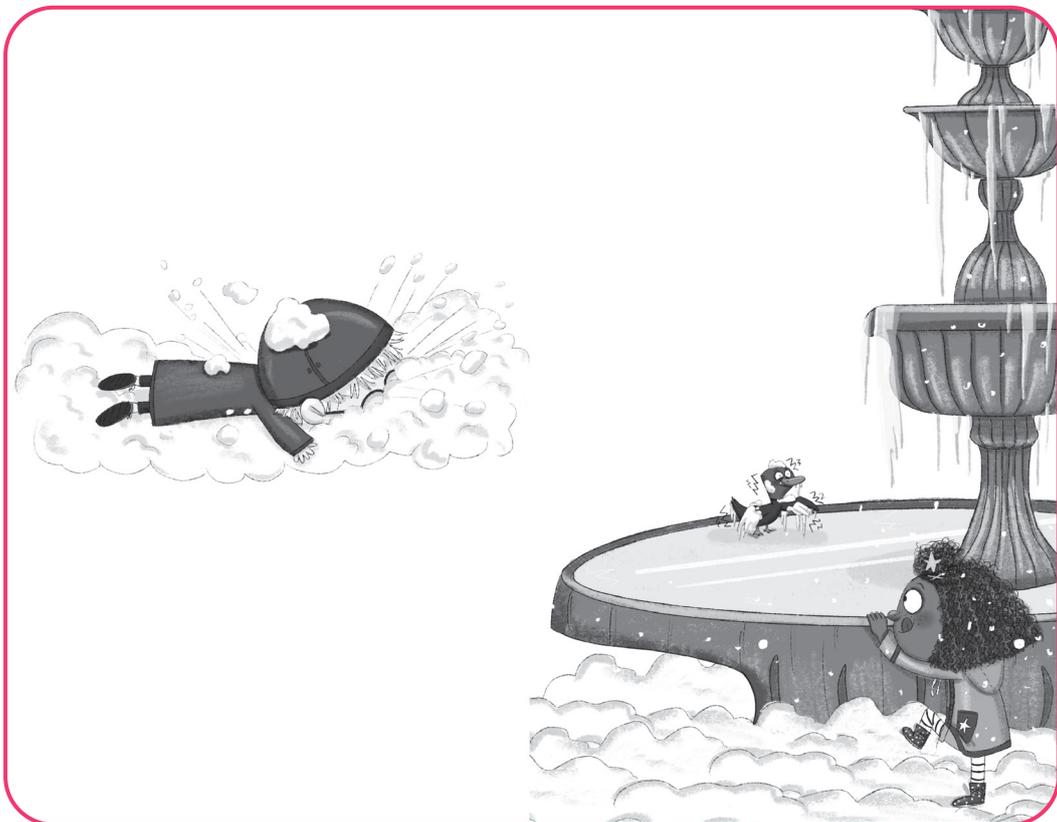
Let's practice our throwing and catching skills without our friends being knocked over like Arthur.

Choose your own perfect snowball to use for these activities. (Provide a selection of balls to choose from).

Activity 1: Practise throwing and catching the ball yourself first.

Activity 2: Throw your snowball to a friend and count how many times you can throw and catch it without dropping it.

Activity 3: Watch out, Maggie and Arthur! Have somebody draw around your body and colour it in so that it looks like Maggie or Arthur. Stick your own Maggie and Arthur to a wall and aim your snowball at them. How many times can you throw your snowball overarm, and have it hit Maggie or Arthur?



Activity 3: I Can't Do It Yet!

Maggie isn't happy that she cannot swim and that it is taking her a long time to learn. She needs to learn that sometimes it takes hard work to learn something new and that is ok, but instead Maggie uses her wand to help her with some magic spells.

We don't have a magic wand like Maggie and we need to keep trying even when things get tricky.

Think about something that you find tricky and you are still learning to do.

Draw or paint a picture of it and write a couple of sentences about what you would like to get better at.

Put your picture up in your room and keep trying hard. Every time you practice the tricky skill; you can draw your own little magic wand onto the picture.



Activity 4: Beware of the Sharks!

Maggie wants to join the sharks swimming group but instead accidentally turns herself into a shark.

Can you create a fact file all about sharks?

Draw a picture of a shark:

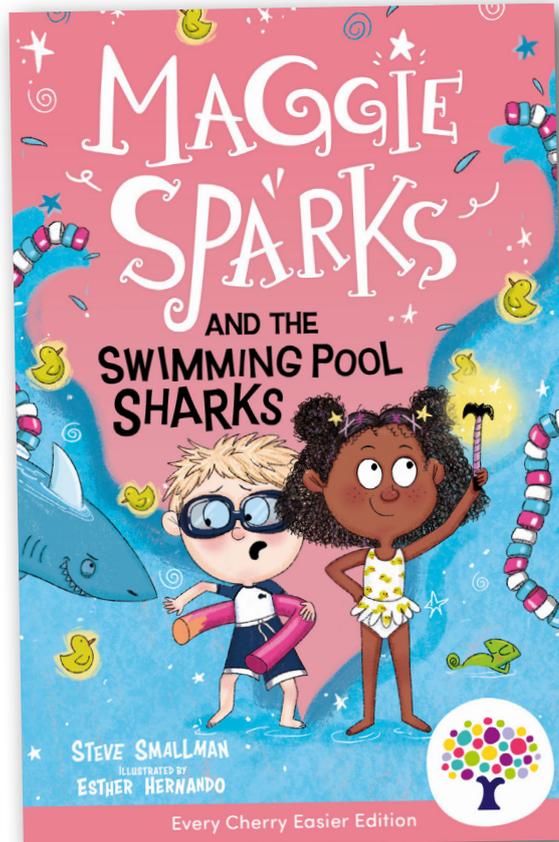
Where do sharks live?

Interesting facts about sharks:

- *Why did Maggie's mum get her to join a swimming club?*
- *What did Maggie's cousin do that was unkind?*
- *How did Maggie help Arthur with his swimming?*
- *How did Maggie feel when she couldn't swim?*
- *Who saved Maggie when she turned into a shark?*

Extra Fun Challenges!

- *Maggie didn't like her swimming costume that her dad bought her. Design your own dream swimming costume. You could use fabric or pieces of card and paper to add detail onto your design. You could even make a swimming costume for a doll using fabric if you wanted to really challenge yourself.*
- *Go swimming with your family. Can you swim like a shark or get something from the bottom of the pool like Maggie?*



*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by
Katie Corrigan as part of Every Cherry Publishing.*

*For more resources like this one, please visit:
<https://www.everycherry.com/resources>*