

# The Killer Whale

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

When Greg went to the giant aquarium near his house, he had one type of animal that he loved to watch. He liked dolphins and manatees, but he loved whales. Beluga whales from the arctic were really neat, but it was the Killer Whales especially that had his heart.

For hours, from the park opening until closing, he could watch them. Their black-and-white patterned skin reminded him of a tuxedo, a penguin, or even a zebra, but on the Killer Whales it seemed even more special. It made them stand out in the water.

Their playfulness and intelligence amazed him, too. He liked to watch the trainers coax them through jumps, leaps, and other tricks. They talked and squawked at the trainers. One time the trainer even got launched into the air off the Killer Whale's nose. It was an impressive feat.

It always surprised him how fast and agile such a massive creature could be. He always expected them to be slow and lumbering, but they were fast like a bullet, darting through their huge tanks and exploding from the water. It also surprised him to learn that they were actually in the dolphin family, despite their name! They were closer to dolphins, and were more like cousins to whales.

In the park, they ate fish and other snacks, and lots of them. In the wild, he understood why they had their fierce name. They could eat seals, sea lions, small whales, and just about anything they could catch. Their teeth were sharp and predatory. They were the top of the food chain – even more dangerous than sharks.

The Killer Whales were amazing animals. They inspired him to learn more about the sea. He thought that some day he might want to be a marine biologist. Then, he could learn about his favorite animals as a job.

For now, he'd have to settle for watching them through the tank's glass and reading about them. However, there was always the future!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

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  - A. the zoo
  - B. the park
  - C. the aquarium
  - D. the sea
  
2. What is Greg's favorite animal at the aquarium park?
  - A. seals
  - B. manatees
  - C. dolphins
  - D. killer whales
  
3. Which of these is NOT a reason why Greg likes killer whales?
  - A. their speed and power
  - B. their colors
  - C. their slowness
  - D. their intelligence
  
4. Even though they look cool and nice, Greg knows Killer Whales are what?
  - A. fierce predators
  - B. cute
  - C. friendly
  - D. very humorous
  
5. What does Greg want to do some day?
  - A. swim with the killer whales
  - B. be a marine biologist
  - C. feed the whales
  - D. take pictures of the whales

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