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**I AM A SHARK**  
**By Tara Meddaugh**  
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*Jaime is a child or teen (may be played by a male or female actor), anywhere from 10-20 years old. Jaime is standing at a beach when confronted by a group of bullies.*

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JAMIE

Sometimes, when I stand on the beach and look out at the ocean, I imagine I'm a shark. My feet are hot, so hot they're burning. Burning so much, I start to not feel the pain anymore. I take several deep breaths, and I breathe out the heat through my nose. I can feel it leaving me. My feet are tingling. A little numb. But I feel no pain. I am a shark. I'm swimming through the water and you can cut me with your knives, but my skin is hard and I am tough. And I feel no pain. A boy, this boy I know, but wish I didn't, runs out of the ocean and past me. I feel the cold water he's brought in on my legs. He's tossed sand on me too and it's sticking to me. I reach my hand down to feel the roughness on my legs. It's like sandpaper. His friend runs out of the water too, chasing him, and he bumps into me. Pushes past me. My body turns with him, but my feet stay grounded. Like a rooted flower blowing in the wind. I don't fall over. He yells something. *Freak...Try again..Knock...*but I can't make out these words. I can't understand them. My head is under water. Sound is muted down here. I am swimming fast. I am a shark. As two bodies now run past me, run into me, there is the sound of laughter. My roots were not deep enough. My face is burning hot against the floor of the beach. My hands push my body up and I taste sand in my mouth. It's rough in my mouth now. Like my legs, my arms, my chest. I feel a kick to my side, but it is nothing to me. I am strong. My skin is tough. I feel nothing. I am a shark.

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