

REASONING AND EVIDENCE

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

The Very Hungry Tiger Shark by Liz Huyck

Okay, I have eaten some funny things. But it's not my fault!

See, we tiger sharks are predators. And we're really good at it! We'll eat fish, seals, turtles, jellyfish, squid, crabs—pretty much anything we can catch. Let me tell you, not much escapes these teeth.

The secret of our success is: chomp first and ask questions later. Other sharks are more choosy, but if a tiger shark sees something in the water—BAM, gulp! If it moves, eat it!

This strategy has kept us at the top of the food chain for millions of years.

But now it's causing us a bit of a problem. That's because, frankly, these days the ocean is full of weird stuff! Sometimes when I go after a shiny fish, it turns out to be a license plate. Bleh! Too late, I've already eaten it.

But really, what's a license plate doing down here? If it's in the ocean, it should be something I can eat!

I'm just hunting in the stupendously efficient way tiger sharks always have. Please, instead of making fun of us for eating weird stuff, get all that weird stuff out of our lunchroom! If you keep your boots on land, I promise you, I won't eat them.



1. Which part of the passage is the best evidence that the author is trying to persuade you that the tiger shark's eating habits are not its fault?
 - a. That's because, frankly, these days the ocean is full of weird stuff! Sometimes when I go after a shiny fish, it turns out to be a license plate. Bleh! Too late, I've already eaten it.
 - b. The secret of our success is: chomp first and ask questions later. Other sharks are more choosy, but if a tiger shark sees something in the water—BAM, gulp! If it moves, eat it!

2. Select the statement that best describes the author's purpose. You can select more than one sentence.
 - a. The author is trying to inform us about the eating habits of tiger sharks.
 - b. The author is trying to persuade the reader to not throw junk in the ocean.
 - c. The author is trying to persuade the reader that tiger sharks have a good strategy for hunting.

3. Based on the passage, which statement best describes the author's opinion about the impact of human activities on tiger sharks?
 - a. The author believes that human activities are responsible for the weird stuff found in the ocean.
 - b. The author believes that tiger sharks should adapt their eating habits to avoid consuming non-edible items.
 - c. The author believes that humans should take responsibility for keeping the ocean clean to ensure the well-being of tiger sharks.
 - d. The author believes that tiger sharks are solely responsible for their eating habits, regardless of the ocean's contents.

