



## ACTIVITY GUIDE

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES MAKE A LITTLE WAVE

1. **Create #BookSnaps:** Sometimes, when reading a book, a line may resonate so profoundly we feel it deep in our hearts. All books have some snippet of a universal truth to which readers can relate. It's exciting to know why a thought or quote touches a reader, and that's where booksnaps come in. [Click here](#) for more information on how to create #booksnaps, and then create your own using lines from *Make a Little Wave*. If you post them publicly, be sure to tag me. I'd love to see them.

5 requirements I used for my own students.

1. the book's cover
2. the line(s) from the book that touched you in some way
3. your reflection based on the line(s) you selected
4. at least four fun emojis or graphics that complement the feel of the #BookSnap
5. a fun background For samples I've made and shared, [click here](#).

2. **Analyze the cover.** Before reading, check out the cover. What do you think the book will be about? In which genre do you think the book will fit? Describe the girl on the cover and tell what she might be thinking. What do the colors and the font type evoke regarding the book? What is the purpose of the sharks? How might the title relate to the storyline?

3. **Which shark are you?** [Launch the Shark Reel video](#). Hit play and watch the sharks spin. When you're ready, yell, "Stop, shark!" and hit the pause button. That's your shark. Research it, and present fun facts to your class.

4. **Create a t-shirt** like the ones Tanner's Grandpa wears or the one at the end of the book. Use a slogan to promote a cause you care about and include fun items to decorate the shirt.

5. **Choose an important event from the story** and tell how you may have handled it differently than the character did. Explain if/how this may have affected the outcome of the entire book.

6. **Track a real shark:** Check out the [Ocearch shark tracker](#). Click around until you find a shark you'd like to keep track of. What type of shark did you pick? What is the shark's name? How big is it? How much does it weigh? Over the course of four months (past and/or future), follow the shark's pattern. What do you notice? Where does your shark hang out the most? Look back six months to see if the location varies when the weather is warmer or colder. What is the furthest your shark has traveled? When was it tagged?

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7. **Learn about an organization:** Select one of the following organizations (or perhaps find a different reputable one approved by your teacher) and give a slide presentation about it to your classmates. Include things like its mission statement, where it's based, photos/videos, 1-2 super cool facts about its work, and a slide stating your opinion on the work the organization does. Don't forget to add social media handles and hashtags so your classmates can follow these changemakers, too.
8. **Endangered species project:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#)) keeps a Red List of Threatened Species—a tally of plants and animals on the endangered or soon-to-be endangered list. Select an animal from the list and create a slide presentation. Include a slide for each of the following: name of the animal, a picture of it, the continent your animal is located on, their natural habitat, three reasons why the animal is endangered, how many animals are left, what size group do they live in, what's being done to help this species, why we should care about this animal in terms of how it contributes to earth, and list resources on how your classmates can help.
9. **Protest Poetry:** Sometimes it's easier to write down our frustrations rather than stand up and lead a rally. Select a cause you care about and write a protest poem. [See my example here.](#)
10. **Write a Letter:** Find a cause you care deeply about (Freedom to Read, equitable education, gun control, animal rights, safe schools, etc) and write a letter to your state or national representative expressing your concern(s). Learn how to find out who your reps are, how to contact them, or better yet, go in person to meet them. Your voice matters!
11. **Create a book trailer:** Watch the trailer for Make a Little Wave. After reading the book, create your own trailer. Don't forget to share it with me, the author, if you do. I'd love to see it.
12. **Explore character flaws:** When writing books, authors must give their characters a flaw that prevents them from getting what they want or need until later in the book. What would you say is Sav's biggest flaw? Write a paragraph or two explaining your theory and cite at least three examples (list quotes and page #s) to support your thoughts.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why is Sav afraid of going in the ocean? What eventually changes her mind?
2. How do Sav's feelings about sharks shift over the course of the story?
3. Sav is surprised that Tanner describes her as "funny." What adjectives would you use to describe her?
4. How has Sav's hearing loss affected her outlook on being misunderstood?
5. Why is Arbor uninterested in the sharks for much of the story? What do you think of her responses to Sav?
6. Sav's parents tell her she has to promote her cause "the right way" and not get into trouble. But Ms. Nichol tells her that activism is "complicated and messy and sometimes even dangerous." How does Sav figure out how to act both responsibly *and* bravely?
7. Why is Sav angry that Tanner posts pictures of her without getting her permission first? What other boundaries does Tanner cross with Sav? How does he make amends?
8. How does Sav handle the mistakes she makes over the course of the story? What do you do when you realize you've made a mistake or let someone down?
9. What do you think are the most effective tactics Sav uses to help the sharks? How might you use tactics like these to support a cause that matters to you?





***Make a Little Wave***

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Photo credit: Bachi Frost

**Kerry O'Malley Cerra** is an award-winning author of middle grade books. Her work includes *Hear Me*, *Make a Little Wave*, the upcoming nonfiction picture book *The Gallaudet Eleven: The Story of NASA's Deaf Bioastronauts*, and *Just a Drop of Water* which landed on five state reading lists, won the Crystal Kite Award, a Florida Book Award, and was named to VOYA's Top Shelf Fiction list for 2014. Kerry's work has received praise from *The New York Times*, *Kirkus*, *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *VOYA*, and the Horn Book Guide calling her stories moving, perceptive, well-developed, and woven with an expert hand. Kerry, a former high school media specialist and social studies teacher, lives in South Florida with her husband and two poorly behaved rescue dogs.

This guide was created by Kerry O'Malley Cerra.

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