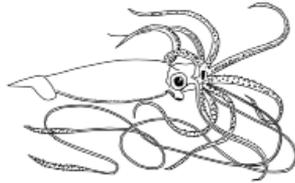


# Chapter 16

## Sharface and the Giant Squid



**O**n the fifth day while he was happily gorging himself near the bottom of the bay, he had a strange sensation. While he was pursuing a school of squid he suddenly had the feeling that he was moving backwards through the water. At the same time he felt like he was in some kind of giant net with ropes all around his body. He could only move one of his flippers and he started grasping at whatever it was that was holding him and discovered that he was in the grip of a giant squid.

The soft squid that Sharkface had been eating were only about a foot long but the giant squid was nearly sixty. Since he was less than one third its size, he was in quite a pickle. He had to get back to the surface to breathe but the squid only had to keep him under water until he drowned and then the tentacled predator could feed on him as his leisure.

All eight of the squid's tentacles were wrapped around Sharkface's body and he could barely move. Once he realized that his

struggles would not get him free, he stopped trying to escape from the squid's grip. He had to think his way out of this predicament. Maybe he could distract the squid by telling him one of his adventure stories and slip away, but he thought it unlikely, and anyway, he did not speak squid. He thought about blowing bubbles out of his snotter like he did with the great white shark but he figured that might just make the squid grab him even tighter. Then he had another idea.

Even though Sharkface didn't have any air in his lungs, his magic snotter had the special ability to inflate underwater and, in an emergency, get him quickly to the surface. Once he used it when he became tangled in a net and couldn't use his hind flippers, and it worked like a charm so Sharkface decided that this was his best way out.

Even if he could not speak its language he decided to first try and distract his captor. He remembered hearing that giant squids and sperm whales fought each other in the darkest depths of the ocean. Sometimes the whale ate the squid and sometimes the squid ate the whale. He hoped that each might be afraid of the other and since he knew a little of the sperm whale's language he tried to imitate the squid's mortal enemy.

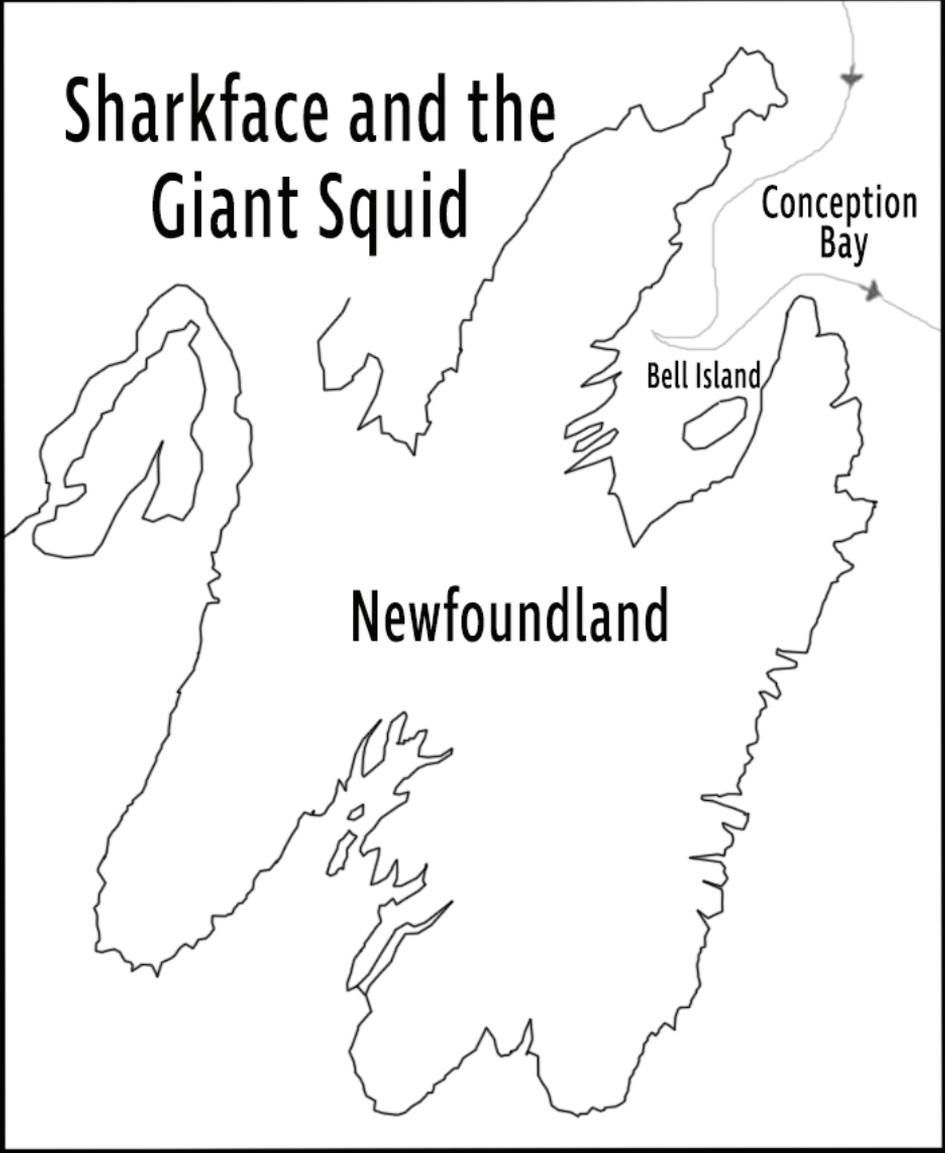
When Sharkface clicked like a sperm whale, the squid looked around and for a moment loosened his grip. The distraction did the trick and Sharkface immediately inflated his snotter and both he and the squid began to move quickly upwards. After only a few feet the squid released his grip and Sharkface raced for the

surface. He was moving so fast that he flew completely out of the water and floated for a moment in the air before falling back down into the bay. He made it back into the air just in time as he was about out of oxygen. He took a huge breath and then another and then another until he no longer felt dizzy.

The riders on the Bell Island ferry were amazed to see this strange-looking creature shoot from the water into the air. To them it looked like some kind of giant seal being lifted by a huge leather balloon. As he fell back into the water, the people wondered if they had seen anything at all.

After its extreme stretching, it took a few minutes for Shark-face's snorter to get back to its normal size, but when it did he headed quickly out of Conception Bay and didn't stop swimming for two days. He had eaten his fill of the tasty soft squid but it very nearly cost him his life. Now all he wanted to do was to get as far away from Newfoundland as he could. When he was many miles to the east he rested on the surface and thought philosophically about his close call when this phrase came to him. "He who lives by the squid could very well die by the squid."

# Sharkface and the Giant Squid



Conception  
Bay

Bell Island

Newfoundland