



## The Shark King

*R. Kikuo Johnson*

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**Meet Nanaue, a boy craving to be who he truly is.**

From the islands of Hawaii comes the electrifying tale of Nanaue, who has to balance his yearning for Dad's guidance with his desire for Mom's nurture. Award-winning cartoonist R. Kikuo Johnson transports young readers to the lush tropical shores of his native Hawaii. Fluent or not, young readers will be thrilled when they experience the transformative powers of a stirring literary work.

## The Shark King Details

Date : Published April 10th 2012 by TOON Books

ISBN : 9781935179160

Author : R. Kikuo Johnson

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Childrens, Fantasy, Mythology, Picture Books

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## **From Reader Review The Shark King for online ebook**

### **Elizabeth says**

Folktale

Target Audience: Grades 1-2

Summary:

Main Characters: Nanaue (half god/half mortal boy); Kalei (Nanaue's mother); Shark King (Nanaue's father)

Setting: Hawaii, long ago.

Narrative: Nanaue, son of a mortal woman and the Shark King, is born with an extra shark mouth on his back. As Nanaue grows more hungry for adventure (and fish!), his parents try to protect him from suspicious and frightened humans.

Strengths & Weaknesses:

The sequence of this graphic novel would be very easy to follow for a beginning reader. The language used is simple but not repetitive. And the drawings are attractive, colorful, and easy to interpret.

The story left me with a lot of questions about the legend of the Shark King and Nanaue. That could be a positive if it encourages students to hunt for more books on Hawaiian legends or it could make the book unsatisfying.

Personal critique:

I would recommend this book to students. It should be a fun introduction to folktales and legends that aren't traditional European fairy stories. Also, the graphic novel format is accessible to a lot of different readers.

Illustrations:

Color illustrations

Notable awards:

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature for Children (2012)

Lesson Planning:

This graphic novel would work well for a unit on legend and folktales as well as learning more about the culture of Hawaii.

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### **Kendra says**

I wish there was a whole series about this kid! So great.

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### **Sarri says**

Helppolukainen, pieni sarjakuvaromaani hawaijaisesta kansantarusta oli ihan kiva lukukokemus. Albumin sarjakuvaltaide oli miellyttävä vanhanaikaisen näköistä, tarina sijoittuu menneisyyteen.

Nuorehko nainen nimeltä Kalei saalistaa simpukoita ja meinaa jäädä hain hampaisiin. Hänet pelastaa nuori mies, johon Kalei rakastuu. Kalei tulee raskaaksi, mutta ennen kuin lapsi syntyy, isä lähtee paikkaan, jossa hän voi tulevaisuudessa suojella poikaansa. Kalei jää pojantanssia kahden. Hyvin pian poika, Nanaue, osoittautuu vallan merkilliseksi, hän on vähän villi, syö kuin hevonen ja pojantanssia on hampaat.

The Shark King kuuluu Toon into reading - sarjaan, jossa on enemmänkin eri tasoisia aloittelijoiden sarjakuvia. Sarja herätti kiinnostuksen, sillä sarja sisältää sarjakuvaan todellakin aloitteleville lukijoille. Kolmeen eri tasoon on sisällytetty sarjakuvia, joissa on alimmissa 200 ja parhaimmissa yli 800 sanaa ja muutenkin päähenkilöiden määärä, sarjakuvaruutujen määärä, lauseiden pituus ja juonen monimutkaisuus kasvaa tasojen myötä. Nämä voisivat hyvin sopia alakoululaisille, jotka aloittelevat englannin opintoja.

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### **Christi says**

The house second grader adored this! She read it three times in two days.

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

Beautiful retelling of this Hawaiian legend.

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### **Lindsay says**

A beautifully illustrated Hawaiian folk tale. There is a fair amount left unexplained and the main characters aren't clearly good or bad, as is often the case in folklore, but the plot is simple enough and it's a nice introduction to more complex comic conventions. There is also a wealth of discussion material for parents and teachers. I really loved this.

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### **Kaye says**

A very pleasing visual arrangement and written story of a popular legend. My first graders raved about it and both read it multiple times.

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### **Liz says**

A fun, sweet little story. Lovely artwork, great visual storytelling. My little students and my big students alike were into it.

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### **Dan Tandarich says**

Every teacher wants to find that book that will capture the imagination of their students. The Shark King fits the bill and provides wonderful panels and splash pages where a reader can "stop and think" to absorb everything that is going on in this Hawaiian tale. Readers will be automatically pushed into gathering meaning due to the comic book format of word balloons and silent panels. For example, early in the story a woman named Kalei is caught by a tide under water. One panel shows a shark swimming menacingly towards her while the next panel reveals a willing hand ready to help. As a teacher, this is a perfect opportunity to ask one of my students, "What is happening here?" It is a perfect way to "see" what is going on in the reader's mind based on his or her response. Nanaue, the main character, will have readers wanting to know what will happen next. This early-reader graphic novel will have both boys and girls flipping pages and saying how much they love reading. Plus, I wouldn't be surprised if this story had them reaching for the nearest atlas finding out exactly where Hawaii is and when they can get there.

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### **Amy Jewell says**

- 1.) The layout of this graphic novel was easy to follow. The panels were not too busy and I was easily able to determine which panel came next in the sequence of the story. I think the students will be able to focus on the story (the tale of a boy trying to find out more about his father [the shark king]) and follow along with the sequence of events.
- 2.) There are multiple applications for this book. This graphic novel could fit in either a science class (learning about fish/the sea), history class (learning about Hawaii/studying states) or a language arts class (studying folklore). The audience would be a 2nd to 3rd grade level as the sentences in this graphic novel are a bit more complex and the story is divided into 3 chapters.
- 3.) At the very end of this graphic novel, there are tips for parents and teachers. The tips give teachers and parents different ideas for reading comics to their children. Suggestions include: using your finger to follow along, hamming it up by doing character voices and asking questions about the pictures in the comics to encourage high level of thinking. I feel that having these tips really added to my learning and understanding of how to read children a graphic novel-the tips were very helpful.

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### **Melki says**

A young boy tests his mother's patience as he discovers his true identity. A graphic novel for young'uns that's based on a Hawaiian folktale. It's a pretty unique story you can be sure most kids haven't heard before.

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### **Eric says**

A great book. Almost perfect. R. Kikuo Johnson is an amazing artist.

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**Ann says**

Top Ten Graphic Novels for Youth 2013 (Booklist)

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**Sarah says**

This was just a really nice story and my 6-year-old has read it several times since he checked it out from the library 2 days ago. It was so good he even told me I had to read it to myself.

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**Alyssa says**

THE SHARK KING is a simple retelling of a Hawaiian folktale, and is both a unique and interesting book. The pictures will appeal to older elementary kids, but I wish it had been a little bit longer and had some more explanation for the events in the story.

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