



Impact Statement

Danrosy Wang, Grade 9

***The Shark Lady: A Hero of the Ocean*, 2026**

Paper collage, marker, colored pencil on paper, 14 x 11 inches

Luckie Art Studio, Lexington, MA

Unsung Hero: Dr. Eugenie Clark

When my teacher asked me to join this competition, the first person I thought of was Dr. Eugenie Clark, which is also known as "The Shark Lady." She was a biologist who spent her whole life studying sharks and other marine animals. Even though Eugenie Clark made some important contributions to science, a lot of people do not know who she is. That is why I think Eugenie Clark is a unsung hero. Her work helped scientists understand ocean life better. It also changed the way people think about sharks and the ocean.

Eugenie Clark had an important impact on science and society. A time ago people thought sharks were dangerous animals. This fear got even stronger after the movie Jaws came out in 1975. A lot of people started thinking of sharks as monsters. Eugenie Clark wanted to change this. So, she spent years studying sharks and found out that they are not mean to humans. Sharks are curious animals that behave in complex ways. They also help keep the ocean ecosystem balanced.

What I really admire about Eugenie Clark is her courage. She did not just study sharks from far away. She got in the water and swam close to them many times. This was very dangerous. She still did it because she wanted to understand sharks better. Her bravery and hard work earned her a lot of respect and awards. Importantly, her work helped people stop being so afraid of sharks and care more about the ocean. Because scientists like Eugenie Clark we can learn more about the world around us.

My artwork is about Eugenie Clark's life and what she did. It has three parts. First, I drew a picture of Eugenie Clark using colored pencils. I wanted to show what she looked like so people can relate to her. Second, I did a shark in the back using paper cutting. This part shows what Eugenie Clark spent her life studying and makes the sharks stand out. Behind the sharks I also added a tent to show where she worked. In such a difficult condition, Eugenie Clark kept studying sharks, which shows how dedicated she was. Third, I used collage to create a blue ocean background. The ocean brings everything together and represents what Eugenie Clark explored and protected. By combining art forms, I tried to make my artwork more interesting and meaningful.

Making this artwork helped me understand Dr. Eugenie Clark's story better. While I was working on it, I thought a lot about her courage and determination. It is not easy to spend your life studying something that scares people. Eugenie Clark kept doing her research and used

science to change people's minds. This inspired me to think about how art can be used to share ideas and inspire others.

Through my artwork I hope to make a difference. I want people to see sharks in a new way: Not as scary monsters but as important animals in the ocean. I also hope my work encourages people to protect life and the environment. Additionally, I want to show that true heroes are not always famous. Sometimes they are people who work hard to explore the unknown and help others understand the world better.

Dr. Eugenie Clark's story teaches us a lesson. A real hero is not someone who's never afraid, but someone who keeps going even when they are scared. Eugenie Clark's life inspires people to stay curious, to protect nature, and follow their passions. That is why I chose Eugenie Clark as my Unsung Hero and why I wanted to share her story through my art.