

It did not take long for Hamilton to regain her footing, and in January of 2004, only two months after the shark attack, she returned to competitive surfing. Remarkably, in August of 2004, she won first place in a Hawaiian contest, beating out the previous year's national champion. Soon after that event, she won a place on the national surfing team.

Hamilton has inspired people around the world. Her story has been covered on TV and in magazines, and it will soon be a movie. She wrote her autobiography, *Soul Surfer*, in 2004. In it, she described the attack, how it changed her life, and how her determination helped her through the whole ordeal. For Hamilton, returning to surfing was about more than just regaining her balance on a surfboard. It was about regaining the balance in her life.

Hamilton **truly** views what happened to her as both a challenge and an opportunity, and she has used her amazing story to inspire other people facing difficult challenges. She is a motivational speaker. She has visited soldiers returning from the war in Iraq who have lost limbs. She is involved with World Vision, a group that fights poverty around the world.

As she rides the waves of her life, Bethany Hamilton offers this **assessment**: "People can do whatever they want if they just set their heart to it, and just never give up, and just go out there and do it."

## WRAP IT UP

### Find It on the Page

1. What kind of shark attacked Bethany Hamilton?
2. What did Hamilton's friend do to help stop her bleeding?
3. What seeming coincidence occurred when Hamilton was brought to the hospital?

### Use Clues

4. How did Hamilton show her determination after the shark attack?

5. Why are so many people inspired by Hamilton's story?
6. Do you agree with Hamilton that "people can do whatever they want if they just set their heart to it"? Why or why not?

### Connect to the Big Question

After reading the article, what role do you think attitude plays in dealing with difficult circumstances? Explain your answer.