

**Announcer:** From the brains behind brains on its smash, boom, best.

**Dito:** The show for people with big opinions.

**Molly:** I'm your host, Molly Bloom and you're listening to smash boom best. The show where we take two things, smash them together and ask you to decide which one is best. Today we've got a deep sea debate, so put on your scuba gear and jump on in. It's giant squid versus blue whales! These two large and legendary beasts are bound to stage a fearsome debate. Which team will take home the title of smash boom best? Here to help us make that decision is our Judge Dito. Hello, Dito!

**Dito:** Hi.

**Molly:** So, before we meet our debaters, I'd like to know how you're feeling about today's topic. Are you already a fan of either giant squid or blue whales?

**Dito:** Giant Squid sound really cool.

**Molly:** Why?

**Dito:** A regular squid sounds kinda boring, but like, when you make it like, 100 times bigger, that sounds scary.

**Molly:** That makes sense. Do you have any tips for how our debaters can win you over? Like, what kind of arguments you find most persuasive?

**Dito:** I like humor. I feel like if you can make your argument work, be persuasive, and funny and heartfelt -- I think that's the way to go for me.

**Molly:** That is excellent advice. So without further ado, let's introduce today's debaters! Here representing team giant squid is Tom Weber. Hi Tom.

**Tom:** Hello! Go giant squids!

**Molly:** Tom, in just one sentence, why are giant squid clearly the coolest?

**Tom:** Because we don't know anything about them. It's all mystery.

**Molly:** I love a good mystery. And now it's time to greet Tom's fearsome opponent, Kasha Patel. Hi Kasha!

**Kasha:** Hello!

**Molly:** Kasha, in a single sentence. Why are blue whales the best?

**Kasha:** Blue whales are the biggest animals that ever existed, but they're also really kind.

**Molly:** Oh, that is fantastic. Now before we dive in, let's run through the flow of our show. We've got four rounds of debate for you today and our Judge Dito will be awarding points during each segment.

We'll start with the declaration of greatness. This is Tom and Kasha's opportunity to make a moving argument for their team. They'll also have 30 seconds to rebut their opponents' declarations. Next, we've got the micro-round, a creative challenge each team has prepared for it in advance. Then we've got the sneak attack, a surprise challenge to see how well our debaters can improvise. Last but not least, we've got the final six, when both sides have just six words to capture why their side is the best. Dito will award points throughout the debate. But she'll keep her decisions a secret until the end of the show. Listeners -- be your own judge and tally your points along the way, too. We want to know who you think won. So, Dito, in this first round, you'll be awarded one point for the best declaration and one point for the best rebuttal. Are you ready?

**Dito:** Very.

**Molly:** Excellent. And Kasha and Tom, are you ready?

**Kasha:** Yeah!

**Tom:** Very, very much.

**Molly:** Then it's time for the declaration of greatness.

**Molly:** Our debaters are ready to deliver the most persuasive facts and stories about their side. We flipped a coin and Tom, you're up first.

**Tom:** This isn't so much a Declaration of Greatness as it is a Declaration of GIANT-ness. It starts... in dark, stormy waters.... (pirate voice) I tell ya... there be no scarier beast than the giant squid... yaaaar. Like in the classic Disney movie, 20-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea... arrrgh...

When a massive squid attacks a submarine -- the crew must defeat it or perish in the salty sea!

Yaaaar... the beastly beast... will kill all of yous!!! \*cough/hack\* (comes out of pirate voice) Okay, okay. Pirate voices are *not* easy. Ahem!!!

Okay! Actually... scenes like this one from a movie from the 1950s are typical for squids. But they're just not that credible. Or as one scientist put it - Rubbish! But here's the thing!!!! One reason we make up stuff about giant squids in movies and books is that we really don't know that much about them!

These giant squids live reaaaally deep in the ocean... so it's hard to study them! There might be MILLIONS in the deepest parts of the oceans... and we don't know it... There are no live giant squids in zoos or aquariums.... Most of what we DO know comes from studying the few dead carcasses that roll up on the beach.

Surfer 1: Brah - The coolest animal ever washed up on the shore.

Surfer 2: A blue whale?

Surfer 1: Nah brah. I said *coolest*.

Surfer 2: Oh - a giant squid.

Surfer 1: Totally!

Here's what we DO know: The giant squid has \*eight arms\* like an octopus... and then two ADDITIONAL feeding tentacles that are waaaay longer than their arms. These tentacles reach out to

grab food as far as 30 feet away -- 30 feet! That's as long as a school bus! Like... if a Giant Squid was driving a school bus... and it needed a snack... it could just reach back and grab that apple a kid left in the very last seat! These tentacles also have these awesome suckers on them that grab fish and shrimp to eat.

The tentacles bring that food to the squid's beak. SQUIDS HAVE BEAKS! And the beak slices the food which then goes into the main part of the body for digestion. And they need their food to be real small because when the food goes down their throat it actually passes through their brain!

Surfer 1: "WHAT???"

Yes! Giant Squids have brains shaped like donuts that go around their esophagus! The esophagus is the tube that food goes down to get from your mouth to your stomach. Have you ever eaten a piece of food that was so big it hurt when you swallowed it???

VO: Someone struggling to make a big GULP

Imagine it rubbing past your brain.

Surfer 2: EWWWW! Mondo harsh.

I know! Also... scientists are pretty sure NO creature on earth has larger EYES than the giant squid. Each eye... is the size of a dinner plate!

With facts this cool - it's no wonder scientists devote their careers to studying giant squids. Or trying to study them.

Did you know... we've only captured video of live giant squids in the water... in the past 15 years???!!!

The first time we saw one in its natural home was in 2012 -- off the coast of Japan.

A team of researchers sent cameras underwater with a lure that looked like a jellyfish... and waited. Eventually -- something came along -- something fast, graceful - GIANT. The crew watching the feed from a boat flipped out.

There it was!!! Nature's most mysterious beast.

One scientist noted the squid on camera somehow had its tentacles partially cut off. If they'd been full length... the animal would have been as tall as a two story house!!!

There's still so much we don't know. Are they aggressive? Do they hunt in packs? Do they host cocktail parties?

Here's how one magazine article put it...

"How could something so big and powerful remain unseen for so long—or be less understood than dinosaurs, which died out millions of years ago?"

Which leads me to my last point:

Every one of you listening might grow up to become the person that cracks the code on one of the planet's most mysterious animals! Future marine biologists, unite!

**Molly:** Wow, team giant squid with some very tantalizing facts. What did you think of that declaration of greatness? Dito, what did you think Tom's strongest argument was?

**Dito:** Um, the fact that we don't know very much about giant squids in that. It'll just be an adventure basically figuring out more about them. That's what makes them so cool is that we don't really know anything about them. So the unknown is the exciting part. Very true. All right, it's time to let Kasha launch a 32nd rebuttal. Are you ready Kasha?

**Kasha:** Yes.

**Molly:** And your time starts now.

**Kasha:** Okay, so I understand that mysteries are really cool. But if you had to pick a day to hang out with either the giant squid or the blue whale, you don't want to pick something that you don't know anything about. Like we understand that mysteries are really cool, but they're not all that great. Like, remember when you were young and you didn't really know what your burger tastes like, and you ate it and you're like, this doesn't taste like ice cream. It's not always good. The things that we don't know. Plus, his description of a giant squid sounds really creepy and weird. How would you like to see an organism where its eyes take up the majority of its face. That's just really creative

**Molly:** Time. Excellent work, Kasha. You have more to say, I can tell. Now channel all of that energy into your declaration for blue whales.

**Kasha:** Hollywood talks about enormous Great White Sharks and massive T-rexes, but what if I told you there's an animal bigger than any shark or dinosaur? I'm talking about the blue whale!

These blubbery giants weigh as much as 15 school buses, produce some of the loudest noises on Earth, and have massive poops that help maintain a healthy ocean ecosystem! And they're really nice!

Whale: "Whale hello there!"

Kasha: Hi, how are you?

Whale: I'm feeling pretty blue!

Kasha: Oh no, what's wrong?

Whale: No, that's a good thing- I'm supposed to be blue!

Kasha: Oh, right!

Whales in general are amazing. They're mammals, like me and you. They have lungs, give birth to live babies instead of laying eggs, and they're warm-blooded.

About 60 million years ago, they lived on land, but as they spent more time in the water, they evolved; their front legs turned into flippers and their back legs shrunk inside their bodies because they didn't need them to swim. Over millions of years, several species of whales formed and got bigger and bigger, until they were the largest animals on Earth.

Kasha: Who's the largest of the large? Blue whales!

Whale: "Bigger is better!"

Blue whales are 100 feet long. And their hearts are about the size of a Volkswagen beetle car. A child could fit inside the main artery of its heart! Though I wouldn't try it if I were you. Compared to blue whales, there is nothing *giant* about giant squids! Blue whales just call them squids.

If you came face-to-face with a blue whale though, it wouldn't be terrifying. Sometimes called "gentle giants," they don't eat humans. Instead, they eat tiny shrimp-like creatures called krill, which are about the size of your pinky.

To get enough energy, blue whales eat up to four tons of krill per day—using a technique called lung feeding. They open their mouth, rush through an area of the ocean where there's a lot of krill and close their mouth. Think about when you want to eat a lot of birthday cake all at once. You open your mouth and dive headfirst into the cake to get as much frosty goodness as you can. Lung feeding is like that, except more extreme.

Instead of teeth though, blue whales have baleen -- it's this stringy comb-like structure in their mouth -- think of bristles. Baleen acts like a net to keep the krill in while filtering water out of the whales mouth.

Why am I spending so much time talking about how blue whales eat?" Well, I want to show you how much nicer and more sophisticated blue whales are than giant squids, who viciously attack their prey with their tentacles.

Also, blue whales are great singers!

Whale: I've got the blues! That blue-grayish skiiin...

Okay, actually they sound more like this (plays clip).

These rumbles help whales communicate with each other over long distances. That's important because blue whales are generally solitary animals, so they're often swimming tens to hundreds of miles apart. Even though they like being alone or in small groups, they still communicate and like to keep track of other whales. Scientists think some of the blue whale noises are mating calls, or signals for mealtime, or for socializing.

Blue whales are also one of the loudest animals on Earth, hitting levels around 180 decibels. That's louder than a jack hammer or jet engine. And they can be heard from 500 miles away.

Whale: Blue whale sound.

Kasha: "Sorry, I couldn't hear you over the sound of that blue whale."

That's impressive. Do you know what a squid sounds like? Take a listen: (silence). Did you catch that? Did you catch the dull silence of a non-musical translucent ugly invertebrate? Scientists have never heard giant squids make a noise, which makes giant squids the most boring musicians in the ocean.

Not only are blue whales beautiful singers, but they can also protect our environment by fighting climate change. Well, not the whales themselves but their poop, which also happens to be pink.

You may have heard that Earth's climate has been changing in alarming ways. Global temperatures are climbing, ice sheets are losing mass, and sea levels are rising globally. One of the causes of climate change is a greenhouse gas called carbon dioxide.

Blue whale poop helps combat climate change by reducing the amount of this heat-trapping carbon dioxide in our air. When blue whales poop, they release *enormous*-I mean enormous-plumes of feces that are sometimes called "poo-namis. These poo-namis contain a lot of nutrients like iron, which is

actually what makes their poo pink. This iron gets released into the water and helps microscopic algae called phytoplankton grow. Phytoplankton are like the grass of the sea. Just like other plants ( think trees), they help take carbon dioxide out of the air through photosynthesis and give us oxygen in return.

Imagine if your poop was pink and could feed an organism that can combat climate change- that would be amazing! And that's what blue whales are: amazing.

Whale: "Aw, shucks!"

So, if you're looking for a big, musical giant that spews out environmentally friendly pink poop, blue whales are your friends!

**Molly:** Very nice work Kasha. Dito. What did you think? What was Kasha's best argument there?

**Dito:** Probably the environment one because it had the most real impact.

**Molly:** The fact that that is an issue that we're all dealing with now was impressive to you.

**Dito:** Yeah

**Molly:** Excellent. Well, Tom, it is time for your rebuttal. You've got 30 seconds. Your time starts. Now.

**Tom:** Look, I am all for poops that save the world. But you can't hold that against the giant squid because you don't know if they're poop save the world just like a blue whales. We're talking about stuff we just don't know. So you really can't take points away from the giant squid because we have to find out. You said it yourself. It'll be an adventure to find out more about giant squids. Let's go on that adventure and find out what their poop is like and find out if they sing. Because just because we can't hear them singing doesn't mean they're not. I'm telling you. It's gonna be a beautiful chorus.

**Molly:** Excellent. So, we're ready for our poop adventure. Dito, it's time for you to make your decision. Think about these declarations. Which one did you find more persuasive? Give the team with the best declaration of greatness one point and then award your second point to the side with the most impressive rebuttal. It's okay for one team to win both points to that just means their opponent has some catching up to do. Listeners at home, grab something you can write with and mark down who you think won those two points as well. Ditto. Have you made your decision? Was it a tough decision? No. Okay. Feel good about this?

**Molly:** Well, we're gonna take a quick break, but we'll be right back with three more rounds of this marvelous marine battle.

**Dito:** Stay tuned.

**ANNOUNCER:** This is STATE OF DEBATE, home to ragin' rhetoric and awe-inspiring argumentation!

**TAYLOR:** Taylor Lincoln here, with--

(A bagpipe is playing in the background.)

**TAYLOR:** (louder) 364-time DEBATE CHAMP AND BAGPIPE PLAYER, TODD DOUGLAS!

(The drone fades.)

**TAYLOR:** What's with the bagpipes, Todd?

**TODD:** I'm getting in touch with my Scottish roots! And look, I'm wearing a kilt, which is a skirt for men.

**TAYLOR:** It suits you quite well!

**TODD:** Thanks. I also put it on because of our debate today... which is SKIRTS VS. PANTS.

**TAYLOR:** Yes, we caught fashion designer Maximo Fiore having a heated debate with his mother Isabella, about which is better -- skirts or pants!

**TODD:** Here they are at a fashion show in NY, NY! Roll that tape!

*<Transition.>*

<RUNWAY MUSIC>

**ISABELLA:** Maximo. Every single model on the runway is wearing a skirt. Why? Pants are better than skirts!

**MAXIMO:** How can you say that, Mama?! Skirts are superior. That's why they've been the fashion choice for humans wayyy longer than pants. Phillippe will tell you about skirt history - he's a fashion historian!

**PHILIPE:** Sure! So, the earliest skirt ever found dates back to 3900 BCE, almost 6,000 years ago. Peoples in most ancient civilizations -- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome -- all wore skirts. In the Middle Ages, knights' armor even featured little metal skirts! Today, skirts are still popular, and are worn by women -- and some men!

<ALARM!>

**TODD:** Oooo, I love the way Maximo got an expert to support his side of the argument.

**TAYLOR:** It's a great debate tactic. But did it change Isabella's mind?

*<transition into scene>*

**ISABELLA:** Wow, I didn't know all of that about skirts!

**MAXIMO:** Yes, Mama! And they're simple to make and easy to wear!

**ISABELLA:** You've opened my mind! Skirts are pretty great!

*<transition into scene>*

**TODD:** (happy sigh) GOSH, I love it when people are persuaded. Don't you?

**TAYLOR:** I do! And getting an expert to provide evidence in favor of your side is always a good idea, debate-heads.

**TODD:** It is. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm gonna go practice the bagpipes a little more...

**TAYLOR:** Sure, sure--

*<bagpipes start>*

**TAYLOR:** Just don't do it here?!

**TODD:** Okay!

**TAYLOR:** Whew! Well, we'll catch you all next time, on...

**TODD/TAYLOR:** (Todd yells from far away) STATE OF DEBATE!

*<intense outro tag>*

**Molly:** You're listening to smash boom best. I'm your host, Molly bloom.

**Dito:** And I'm Dito, the judge for today's smash boom battle.

**Molly:** We love getting debate ideas from our listeners. And we thought this one was great.

**Ollie:** My debate idea is audio books vs podcasts.

**Molly:** That was Ollie from Sag Harbor, New York. We'll hear from Ollie again at the end of the show to hear who he thinks should win. And now it's back to our salty showdown between Team Giant Squid and Team Blue Whales.

**Tom:** Yay. The poop may help but we don't know when we need to become a marine biologist to go find out more.

**Molly:** Debaters, please prepare for your next challenge -- the micro-round. Today's micro-round challenge is called top of the hour. Kasha and Tom are both pretending to be local news anchors reporting on their side, Kasha, you're up first, fill us in on the latest Big Blue news.

**Newscaster:** Welcome to World Wide Whale News, the only network name that is also a tongue-twister. We're speaking with a blue whale off the California coast. His name is—I hope I'm getting this right: (make whale noises). I don't speak whale that well, so he'll be using a translator.

**Blue whale:** Thanks for having me.

Now, blue whales have gone through a lot. I know your ancestors used to live on land but moved to the water. How do you enjoy ocean life?

**Blue whale:** [KP3] I love it. To quote my crabby friend Sebastian: "Darling it's better, Down where it's wetter, Under the Sea."

Also, all of my food is down here.

**Newscaster:** I don't want to bring up bad memories, but it's important to talk about changes in your population. In the 1920s, the blue whale population dropped from around 35,000 to 1,000 because humans were hunting you. Why were people hunting you?

**Blue whale:** As you know, we don't have teeth but have baleens. Baleens are thin comb-like structures that are made up of keratin—the same thing human nails and hair is made of. For some reason, you humans really liked our baleens. To be fair, you humans like a lot of weird things—like mayonnaise? Anyways, you made different products for yourselves like corsets, which I heard are really skinny shirts that ladies used to wear to make themselves look smaller, which is ridiculous because you humans look so tiny to me already!

You also used them to make something that keeps you dry from water. I believe you called them "umbrellas," which seems silly to me because why would you not want to be surrounded by water!

**Newscaster:** Humans are weird. I don't understand why people like mayonnaise either. You are currently endangered, but I heard your population is increasing due to better conservation efforts.

**Blue whale:** Yes, I feel like I have thousands more friends to talk to now! (hears a whale call in the distance) I hear one of them now. She's found a bunch of krill- yum!

**Newscaster:** Thank you for joining us -- That's it for this interview. You can follow our guest on Twitter. He's at (makes whale noise for his name again).

**Molly:** Whale done whale interview. What do you think Dito?

**Dito:** Um, I think the balene and the corsets and the umbrellas were pretty compelling.

**Molly:** Yeah, I did not know that people used balene for those things. That is very fascinating. Well, it's time to change the channel and see if there's any news about those massive mysterious squids. Tom, let's roll.

**Ron:** We go live to reporter Jim Oceanguy who's on the scene... of a possible giant squid sighting. Jim!

**Jim:** Ron... I'm standing outside a small fishing hut near the pier and a few lobster sources of mine said a giant squid named Mortimer lives in this hut. He apparently spends most of his time inside... though he sometimes goes out for ice cream.

**Jim:** We're going to knock on the door and see if we can meet this giant squid... KNOCK KNOCK

**Giant Squid:** Who is it?

**Jim:** Uh, yes, Mr. Mortimer... this is Jim Oceanguy... Action 5 news. We understand you're a giant squid and we'd like to talk to you about... well... everything.

**Giant Squid:** GO AWAY!

**Jim:** Uh yes, well you see, Mr. Mortimer... scientists don't really know much of anything about giant squids... and so I know they'd really love to know a little more about... like... how you hunt... and socialize... and a whole bunch of things.

**Giant Squid:** I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU!! GO AWAY!

**Jim:** Well... Mr. Mortimer...

**Giant Squid:** MY NAME IS MORTIMER... NOT MR. MORTIMER! JUST MORTIMER!

**Jim:** Oh... well... uh... Mortimer... the... Giant Squid... maybe if you could just open the door so we could get a shot of you just to have that.

**Giant Squid:** DID THOSE LOBSTERS TELL YOU I WAS HERE? MAN... I AM GOING TO GRAB THEM WITH MY TENTACLES FROM SEVERAL FEET AWAY AND GIVE THEM THE WHAT-FOR. GO AWAY!

**Jim:** Oh... um... well... Ron... as you can see... Mr. Mortimer... uh... Mortimer... doesn't want to be disturbed... so we'll have to wait another day for another rare sighting of a giant squid... back to you in the studio.

**Ron:** Okay... Jim. Thanks. Coming up: what's a squid's favorite ice cream? We'll talk to the owner of Ocean Cone.

**Molly:** Some very tenacious reporting under difficult circumstances, Tom. Dito, what did you think?

**Dito:** Um, the giant squid seemed pretty mean.

**Tom:** Misunderstood, Dito. That's the key. We don't know. No, there's too much we don't know about him now.

**Molly:** Mysterious, too mysterious. All right, Dito. It is time to consider both newscasts and award a point. Listeners you should award a point too. Dito, have you decided on a winner for this round?

**Dito:** I think so.

**Molly:** Amazing. Now it's time for our third round the slightly terrifying and very exciting the... sneak attack! Kasha and Tom, are you ready to riff?

**Kasha & Tom:** Yes, yes.

**Molly:** Your challenge is secret handshake. We want you to imagine what happens in your side's secret handshake. Then using just words and sounds describe this secret handshake to us so we can do it ourselves. These handshakes are for humans, so make them very visual. We want our blue whale and giant squid superfans to have a super-secret and fun way of greeting each other. Does that make sense? Yes. Okay, cool. Okay, take a minute to think about your side secret handshake moves while we listen to this lovely hold music.

**HOLD MUSIC:** Giant Squids live way down deep. So many tentacles and ways to sneak away from the gaze of frying human. Blue Whales are really big. Their poop is pink and they munch on lots of krill.

**Molly:** Okay, Tom, you're up first, give us a detailed breakdown of the secret handshake for giant squid.

**Tom:** So this is where humans and giant squids finally unite. If you look at the four fingers on your hand, and the four fingers on the other person's hand, that represents the eight legs of a giant squid. And then the two thumbs are the tentacles. So, you come up to your friend. And just with the fingers, not with the thumbs yet. You do a little tapping each other, right? You put your fingers out like Hey, hello, how are you and you just kind of tap your fingers together. And then you'll lock those fingers together. Like you're gonna do thumb wrestling, you know why? You're gonna do some wrestling. So, you're locked in. And then you do the thumb wrestling thing. 1234 I declare a giant squid tentacle war

and then you go at it and you do your little thumb war. And whoever wins doesn't matter because at the end you go giant squid.

**Molly:** Excellent work. Okay Kasha, it's your turn, what kind of moves does the blue whale use in their secret handshake.

**Kasha:** So, take your two arms and put them on the side of your body. And then starting with your elbow from your elbow up, lift up your hand so your hands are kind of at your shoulder. And then what you're going to do is tilt your entire body to the left just a little bit. So, it's like these two arms are like the whale fins. And then you're going to tilt it because then one of the things is like it's coming out of water. And then the really cool part is you're going to take your mouth, and that's going to be your blow hole. Like if you've ever seen a whale that's in the water and then all of a sudden you see a big like spout of water coming out. We're going to do that with our mouth. So, you're gonna put your tooth poop like really big. And then you're gonna go. And so, whenever you see your friends you just like, take your hands to the side and go. And then you guys are blue wills. It's amazing.

**Molly:** Excellent work Kasha. Dito, you're the judge. You get to decide what's important and what it takes to win this point. Listeners at home you should award a point too. Dito, have you made your decision?

**Dito:** I think so.

**Molly:** Excellent. Well, we're down to our very last point. So good time to check in with our debaters Tom, how are you feeling?

**Tom:** A little misunderstood just like the giant squid.

**Molly:** Deep and mysterious. Kasha? What about you? How are you feeling?

**Kasha:** I feel pretty good. I feel like I want to be friends with Dito. Just like the blue whale would want to be friends.

**Molly:** Those friendly blue whales. Alright, it's time for our final round. Kasha and Tom have six words to convince Dito their side is this Smash. Boom. Best. A lot is weighing on this short, punchy statement. Kasha? You're up first.

**Kasha:** Blue Whales are big and beautiful.

**Molly:** Short and to the point. Tom, what is your six-word statement in support of giant squid

**Tom:** Eyes as big as dinner plates.

**Molly:** Nice work. Dito. It's time. Take a minute to think about their final six. And mark down your last point. This might take a while.

**Tom:** She's counting. Oh my gosh. I'm so nervous. So much counting.

**Molly:** Dito, are you ready? Alright, pick the winner.

**Dito:** Giant Squids.

**Kasha:** Thanks, Dito!!

**Molly:** So Dito, talk us through your decision making process. Were there certain moments that really clinched it for you?

**Dito:** Well, the first round, I was taking notes, like we usually do in debate, and I had so many notes on cautious like, I think her vocabulary was good, like, so I was able to relate to it. And just, I guess see her side. So yeah, that went to her. The reporter one I actually gave to Tom, because the fact that the giant squid was so like, harsh and hostile, was kind of funny. I was not expecting that. Oh, the sneak attack I gave to Tom. And the six words, in a usual debate how we sum up things the third speaker usually uses overall and general speech. So, I think cautious was more of a conclusion to the entire argument. So, I gave that one to Kasha which makes her total points three. And Tom's two.

**Molly:** Well, it was a close debate and you were a very fair and thorough judge. So thank you so much ditto. Tom Kasha? Do you have any closing thoughts to share?

**Kasha:** I learned a lot of things about the giant squid, namely that they are real, because we don't know anything about them. And we just got our first video of them not too long ago that I was like, are these things even real? And who knows? They could be fake. Still. I don't know. Maybe that was just like a fake video that they found. But I think Tom has convinced me enough that I do think giant squids are real now. So thank you, Tom.

**Tom:** I'll say congratulations on winning. I think that obviously blue whales are big majestic animals. And you presented that great of course. And I hope that blue whales and giant squids unbeknownst to all of us are actually having fun and hanging out in the deep depths of the ocean. We just don't know.

**Molly:** Dito crowned blue whales the Smash boom best but what about you?

**Dito:** Head over to [smash boom.org](http://smashboom.org) and

**Molly:** Tell us who you think won! Do you remember Ollie from Sag Harbor, New York and his idea for an audio book versus podcast matchup? Here's who Ollie thinks should win.

**Ollie:** I think audiobooks would win because you get more hours of entertainment.

**Dito:** Do you have an awesome idea for a matchup? Head over to [smash boom.org](http://smashboom.org) and tell us about it.

**Molly:** Smash boom best is brought to you by Brains On and American Public Media. It's produced by Rosie duPont, Marc Sanchez, Sanden Totten, Molly Bloom and Elyssa Dudley. We had engineering help from Corey Schreppel and we had production help from Menaka Wilhelm and Kristina Lopez.

**Molly:** Anna Weggel is the voice of our hold music. And our announcer is Marley Feuerwerker-Otto. We want to give a special thanks to Taylor Kauffman, Austin Cross and Veronica Rodriguez. Kasha? Is there anyone you want to thank today?

**Kasha:** I would like to thank our wonderful Judge Dito for doing a great job and evaluating the arguments very fairly and thoroughly. I would like to thank my speech and debate teacher from high school for teaching me how to use Google appropriately and responsibly for constructing these arguments.

**Molly:** How about you, Tom?

**Tom:** I just want to thank -- I really mean this. I want to thank all of the people who actually do this work of studying all the scientists out there who spent days and days and weeks on boats and trying to figure out stuff about the ocean, so thank you to them.

**Molly:** We'll be back with a brand new debate battle next week. See you then.

**All:** See you later.

<OUTRO MUSIC>

**Dito:** Podcasts are weird.

**Kasha:** There's never been a truer statement.

**Molly:** (laughs)