

Gone Fishing | Behind-the-Scenes  
Joe Rover

I wanted to have a Halloween-type story. I started off with the news, looking for any news of murder, mayhem, or creepy clowns. What I found was an article about a shark attack. That made me think of the movie *Jaws*. It was pretty scary. So, I began thinking about a shark attacking someone. The more I brainstormed on this, the longer the story became—and I was looking for something about 1,000 words (give or take). I needed a story that began in “Act 3,” one where the characters plopped right into the action from the beginning—no build up, no investigation, just action.

Next, came the problem of characters. I wanted it to be a Dogboy story, but a horror superhero story can be difficult because in order for it to be scary, the main character has to feel powerless, so how can a superhero feel powerless? I figured the best way was for the hero to be caught off guard, such as on vacation. This idea was reinforced after watching a show where a main character solves murder mysteries. It always seems like the character, no matter where they are visiting, eventually encounters a murder. And so the opening joke was created.

Finally, I realized that the hero might be strong on land, but he would be at a disadvantage at sea.

As I continued to polish the story, I realized it wasn't as frightening as I wanted. I may have to try something else later. Maybe a missing child story...