

Author's Viewpoint

When I sat down to start writing *Gorilla Thriller*, I actually had absolutely no idea what I was going to write about. I just couldn't get started. I sat down and started to do what I usually do when I begin writing – get a piece of paper and start making a mind map of ideas. It's usually a brilliant way to come up with ideas. But this time nothing was happening. I seemed to have a case of what's known as 'writer's block'.

So, I asked my wife if she had any ideas for stories. Straight away, she came out with this great storyline about a girl who does work experience at a zoo. She thinks she'll be feeding the animals, but ends up in the ticket office, bored out of her mind. Then, she spots an 'animal kidnap' on CCTV...

That was the spark I'd been looking for. From there, the ideas began to flow and I wrote '*Gorilla Thriller*' in no time at all.

I suppose the message from this story is that if you're a writer and you get 'writer's block', talk to other people about what ideas they have and see if they can give you any 'inspiration'. You don't always have to think of all the ideas yourself, and sometimes just talking with friends or family and seeing what they think can give you the push you need. There's no shame in asking for help!

Richard Taylor

Questions

Q What is 'writer's block'?

Q How did it make the author feel?

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Q What did he do to try and help start the story?

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Q Do you agree that his wife gave him the 'spark' of an idea? Or the whole idea?

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Gorilla Thriller (A)

Q How does the author describe 'inspiration'?

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Q What might have happened if he hadn't liked his wife's idea?

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