

Directions: Follow along as we read the informational article together. As we read, label each paragraph and ask yourself, “How is this article different than a narrative?” After we finish, you and your partner will complete the graphic organizer we just analyzed.



A great day for surfing – except for the shark

Jay Scrivner was waiting for waves off the Northern California coast near his hometown of Eureka on Sunday morning. He had been surfing for about two hours when a nine-foot great white bit his thigh and board. Jay learned that ocean can be an extremely dangerous place.

"Sometimes you have a feeling that the water is weird," Scrivner said. "But everyone was just so happy. I was lying on my board, paddling around just waiting for a wave." Scrivner regularly surfs at the spot near Humboldt Bay. He was aware that another surfer, Scott Stephens, survived a shark attack in the same area last year.

Scrivner said that "out of nowhere" he saw the shark's teeth and nose. After he was bitten, he took a swing at the great white and let out what a yell. "I couldn't believe it happened," Scrivner said. "When I turned away from the shark, I said, 'Did I really get bit?' Your mind doesn't believe it." Scrivner said he did a quick inventory of his body parts and found everything was intact. A friend encouraged him to keep paddling toward the beach.

Once there, friends and fellow surfers applied pressure on the wound and tied a T-shirt to stop the bleeding. Scrivner was alert and conscious on shore when rescue crews got to the scene around 8:45 a.m. There was some muscle tissue damage that required about 30 stitches, but he was expected to fully recover. He said he thinks he was spared from more damage by his old surf board, which is thicker than many modern boards.

Scrivner said he will "definitely surf again," but with some apprehension. "There's just a power in the ocean," Scrivner said. "When you see a shark or get bitten by a shark, you're just made critically aware of that power."

