Joe The Library Ghost

Once there was a ghost. His name was Joe. His favorite thing to do was to make himself invisible and read books over children's shoulders. His parents worried about him. He should never go into places where there were humans. The humans could find them. Humans might dress up as ghosts on that dreaded night known as Halloween. The ghosts might think humans were real ghosts! On these nights, all of the ghosts would hide away. On other nights, ghosts would stay in the ghost community.

But Joe loved to read and so did all the other ghost children They especially loved mystery books because there were ghosts in them sometimes. When Joe went to the library he would choose certain children who always read exciting stories, to read over their shoulders

Then, Joe got a library card. Joe was flitting around the library one night when suddenly he saw a stack of papers that told about library cards, with forms attached. "That is exactly what I need", he whispered. So, he filled out the form and typed it into the machine. Out came a shiny new library card. "Wow," gasped Joe. He carefully picked up the library card and looked at it very carefully. "Wow," he said again. But, he still didn't know how to use it. He knew that you could check out books with it, of course. He just didn't know how.

Joe told his friends about his new library card. They weren't allowed to go to the library. Joe wasn't really allowed to either but his parents couldn't restrain him. "Really?" they all gasped. And they closed in a tight circle around Joe to get a look at the shiny new library card. "How'd you get it?" asked Percy, a five year old ghost who didn't like his name. Joe told the story. Everyone gasped when he came to the part of the library card coming out of the machine. Everyone clapped and cheered when the story was over. "You are brave!" exclaimed a young ghost.

"Can I have your autograph?" asked another.

The next day Joe watched what the librarians did with the library cards very closely when the people coming to the library checked out books. That night, Joe flew over to the library and picked out some books that were left out lying on the librarian's desk. He dragged them over, struggled opening the book cover but finally got it. The scanner was on its stand and he turned it on. He scanned his library card and pushed a book towards the scanner. He went over, pressed the button, and..... a red light came out of the scanner, scanned the book's tag and the computer sprang to life. It showed his name, and the book he checked out! It was a success! He pushed over the next book, pushed the button and the red light came on again, scanning the books sticker label. He couldn't help flying in the air a little with excitement as the computer put another title onto the list of books. Joe kept scanning and the list was growing longer and longer. He brought them home so he could read them. After that, he came to the library a lot to check in and out books. Then, on the darkest day of the year, Joe forgot. Joe forgot that it was day and not night. Joe forgot to make himself invisible. He went to the library.

The library had a few people milling around and luckily they didn't notice him. But the librarian did. Wha? What? How?!? She led him over to a corner and they had a little talk.

"Who are you?" asked the librarian

"I'm Joe, a ghost" said Joe.

"Why are you in the library?" asked the librarian

"I like reading. And I wanted to read over people's shoulders." said Joe. That was a sensible explanation, thought Joe. Even though it was only partly true, he didn't want to admit it. When she finished her interview, she said, "Well, Joe, I guess that makes you our new library mascot. You can come whenever you want and bring whoever you want, as long as they don't disrupt the library."

"Ummmmmmmmmm Okay?" said Joe.

The next day, Joe brought his parents to the library. The librarian had put together a party to welcome the new mascot. After the party, Joe's parents told the other ghost parents that the humans in the library were very nice and kind. The other ghost parents let their children go to the library whenever they wanted. And of course, they all lived happily ever after.