

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Frank L. Baum

Uncle Henry sat upon the doorstep and looked anxiously at the sky, which was even greyer than usual. Dorothy stood in the door with Toto in her arms, and looked at the sky too. Aunt Em was washing the dishes.

From the far north they heard a low wail of the wind, and Uncle Henry and Dorothy could see where the long grass bowed in waves before the coming storm. There now came a sharp whistling in the air from the south, and as they turned their eyes that way they saw ripples in the grass coming from that direction also.

Suddenly Uncle Henry stood up.

"There's a **cyclone** coming, Em," he called to his wife. "I'll go look after the stock." Then he ran toward the sheds where the cows and horses were kept.

Aunt Em dropped her work and came to the door. One glance told her of the danger close at hand.

"Quick, Dorothy!" she screamed. "Run for the cellar!"

Toto jumped out of Dorothy's arms and hid under the bed, and the girl started to get him. Aunt Em, badly frightened, threw open the trap door in the floor and climbed down the ladder into

the small, dark hole. Dorothy caught Toto at last and started to follow her aunt. When she was halfway across the room there came a great shriek from the wind, and the house shook so hard that she lost her footing and sat down suddenly upon the floor.

Then a strange thing happened.

The house whirled around two or three times and rose slowly through the air. Dorothy felt as if she were going up in a balloon.

Glossary

cyclone: a rotating storm

1.

Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word that shows Uncle Henry was worried.

2.

Which characters are in this story so far? Choose all that apply.

- 1) ☐ Uncle Henry
- 2) ☐ The tin man
- 3) ☐ Dorothy
- 4) ☐ Toto
- 5) ☐ The wicked witch

3.

What do we find out in the first two paragraphs? Choose the best summary.

- 1) ☐ There was a storm coming. The wind was coming from both the north and the south. Uncle Henry thought it was a cyclone.
- 2) ☐ Uncle Henry and Dorothy looked at the sky. It was greyer than usual. Uncle Henry went to look after the cows and the horses.
- 3) ☐ The sky was greyer than usual. There was a storm coming. The wind was coming from both the north and the south.

4.

"Suddenly Uncle Henry stood up.
'There's a cyclone coming, Em,' he called to his wife."



What do you think made Uncle Henry realise there was a cyclone coming? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ The sky was greyer than usual.
- 2) ☐ The wind was making the grass ripple.
- 3) ☐ The wind was coming from both the north and the south.
- 4) ☐ The wind was making a wailing noise.

5.

What did Uncle Henry do when he realised the cyclone was coming?

- 1) ☐ He went to look after the animals.
- 2) ☐ He ran for the cellar.
- 3) ☐ He went to help Dorothy get Toto.
- 4) ☐ He whistled a tune.

6.

Why do you think Aunt Em told Dorothy to run for the cellar?

- 1) ☐ The cellar was far away.
- 2) ☐ The cellar was where she slept.
- 3) ☐ The cellar was cold.
- 4) ☐ The cellar was safe.

7.

Dorothy went to get Toto before the storm hit, and this stopped her from getting to the cellar in time.

What does this tell you about Dorothy?

- 1) ☐ She is kind and brave.
- 2) ☐ She is pretty.
- 3) ☐ She is funny.
- 4) ☐ She is clever and bright.

8.

"When she was halfway across the room there came a great shriek from the wind..."

What does the word "shriek" tell you about the wind? Choose **two**.

- 1) ☐ It was noisy.
- 2) ☐ It was gentle.
- 3) ☐ It was getting softer.
- 4) ☐ It was strong.

9.

"Then a strange thing happened."



Why do you think this sentence is in a paragraph on its own?

- 1) ☐ For emphasis.
- 2) ☐ A character is speaking.
- 3) ☐ The action moves to a different location.