

Best Practices

NEW EDITION

in Reading

Level

C



Build Comprehension!
Develop Critical Thinking!

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Alex wants to stay cool on this hot, sticky day. But are those black clouds in the distance bringing danger?

Think About Genre

One type of literature is **fiction**. Fiction stories are made up by authors, but they may tell about events that could really happen. That is true for this **adventure** story, “Dangerous Storm.”



What do you think happens in an adventure story? Fill in the bubble beside the two sentences that tell about an adventure story.

- (A) It may be exciting.
- (B) It tells about something that really happened.
- (C) It tells how to make something.
- (D) The characters may face danger.

Think About the Topic

Read the introduction to “Dangerous Storm” again. Ask yourself: *What kinds of storms are dangerous?* Write two kinds of storms below.

1. _____
2. _____

Preview and Predict

Look at the story. Read the title and look at the pictures. Write what you think “Dangerous Storm” will be about?

STRATEGIES

QUESTION
MAKE INFERENCES
UNDERSTAND GENRE
VISUALIZE



“I don’t like the look of that sky,” said Grandpa. “Let’s go home.”

“Can’t we stay here at the lake and let the rain cool us off?” asked Alex.

The weather was hot and sticky. Fishing in Grandpa’s boat was the best thing to happen all day.

“I think we’re in for quite a storm,” Grandpa said.

By the time they reached shore, a breeze was stirring the air. Suddenly, a flash of lightning ran across the sky. Then they heard loud thunder.

“I’d say we got out of the lake just in time!” said Grandpa.

“Yeah,” Alex agreed. He knew it was dangerous to be in the water during a thunderstorm.

The sky looked black. Grandpa’s old truck bumped along the gravel road. Before he and Alex reached the highway, **hailstones** were beating down everywhere.

QUESTION

Ask yourself questions to better understand a story.



Where are Alex and Grandpa? They are in a boat fishing on the lake.

Why did Grandpa say “got out of the lake just in time”?



hailstones (HALE-stohnz)
 small round pieces of ice that fall like rain

“It’s not safe to be on the road,” said Grandpa. “Let’s head for Aunt Lou’s farm.”

Aunt Lou lived on a farm just outside of town. As they pulled into her driveway, Alex saw a strange, dark, V-shaped cloud.

“**Tornado!**” shouted Grandpa as he jumped from the truck. “Head for the **cellar**. I’ll help Aunt Lou!”

Aunt Lou called from her porch. “Where’s Lady?”

“I’ll get her,” said Alex. “I saw her go into the shed.”

Lady was Aunt Lou’s German shepherd. Alex ran toward the shed. Two voices called him back, but he didn’t hear them.

Just then the shed door flew off and sailed up. The wind roared like a jet plane. There was no time to run back into the cellar. The tornado was here!

MAKE INFERENCES

Sometimes the author doesn’t tell you everything. Use what the author does tell you and what you already know to figure out something.

Why does Grandpa say, “Head for the cellar”? I think that must be a safe place during a tornado.

Why did the adults call Alex back?

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for student response.



cellar (SEL-ur) a room that is below ground

tornado (tor-NAY-do) a violent windstorm

UNDERSTAND GENRE

(adventure story)

When Alex is in the cellar, the author tells you about the dangerous storm. This helps make an adventure story exciting. Two words that the author uses to make the storm sound dangerous are

_____ and _____.

VISUALIZE

Sometimes you have to make a picture of the story in your mind to understand the story better. What does Aunt Lou's yard look like in the story? Draw what you "see" below.

Alex thought fast. He remembered an old root cellar next to the shed. It was like a small cave.

"Here, Lady," he called. "Come with me!" He pulled the big dog out of the shed and into the cellar. Lady was shaking.

The storm crashed and roared over their heads. Alex gently stroked Lady's fur.

Then the wind became quiet. Alex looked out. He stared, surprised. The shed was gone! Aunt Lou and Grandpa were coming toward him.

They could not believe what the tornado left behind. Aunt Lou's porch was in ruins. Power lines were down. Broken boards, tree branches, and smashed flowerpots lay everywhere in her yard.

"You've got a lot of damage here, Lou," said Grandpa.

Aunt Lou just smiled. "We're all safe," she said. "That's what really matters!"

