Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Storm Journal: Reading Comprehension

Fiction story · about 275 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Storm Journal

Thursday, 4:15 p.m. The sky over our farm in Kansas just turned a strange greenish gray. Dad says the radio issued a tornado watch for our county. Mom told me and my brother Eli to bring the chickens into the barn. My hands are shaking a little as I write this.

Thursday, 5:02 p.m. The watch became a warning. A tornado was spotted on radar about ten miles west of us. The sirens in town started wailing. We grabbed the emergency kit, flashlights, water, and Grandpa's old radio, and went down to the storm cellar. Eli brought his stuffed rabbit, Captain Carrots. I didn't tease him. Honestly, I wished I had something to hold too.

Thursday, 5:20 p.m. It's dark down here. The wind sounds like a freight train. Something heavy just slammed against the cellar door. Mom is holding both of us. Dad keeps saying, "We're safe. These walls are thick."

Thursday, 5:34 p.m. It's quiet. Too quiet. Dad says to wait until the radio says the warning has ended.

Thursday, 6:10 p.m. We climbed out. Our house is still standing, but half the barn roof is gone, and our big oak tree is lying across the driveway. The chickens are fine. They were clucking angrily, like they wanted to complain to someone.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. Neighbors arrived early with chainsaws and tarps. Mrs. Kemp brought cinnamon rolls. By noon, the tree was cut up and the barn was covered. Nobody asked for anything in return.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. Today I learned that storms can tear things apart, but people can put them back together. I'm going to keep this journal forever.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a town builds a new school B. a family moves to a farm C. a girl learns to drive a tractor

   D. a girl's family survives a tornado and neighbors help them rebuild

2. **Detail:** Where does the family live?

   A. on a farm in Kansas B. in Florida C. on a boat D. in a city apartment

3. **Sequence:** What happened at 5:02 p.m.?

   A. They climbed out of the cellar. B. Neighbors arrived. C. The tree fell.

   D. The tornado watch became a warning.

4. **Vocabulary:** The wind "sounds like a freight train." This means it was...

   A. soft and gentle B. extremely loud and powerful C. very quiet D. far away

5. **Detail:** What damage did the storm cause?

   A. nothing at all B. the house destroyed C. the chickens lost

   D. half the barn roof gone and the oak tree down

6. **Inference:** What did the narrator learn from the tornado?

ANSWER KEY

The Storm Journal: Reading Comprehension (answers)

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