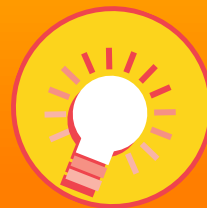


# Storm-chaser (Tornadoes)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 7

# Storm-chaser (Tornadoes)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss •



# Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

## Contents

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# Storm-chaser

Kevin is a storm-chaser. He runs a company that takes people on tours of storms and tornados. Why do people want to see wild, violent and dangerous weather? Sam says, "I don't go just to watch things get destroyed. I think storms are pretty."

Like most storm-chasers, Kevin is also a meteorologist. A meteorologist is someone who studies and predicts the weather. Driving to storms takes time, so storm chasers need to know in advance where the best storms will be.





Each storm-chasing tour lasts ten days. A few days before each trip, Kevin studies the weather to predict the area where a storm might be. On the first day of the trip, Kevin drives everyone to where he thinks the storm will be. That night, they check in to a hotel.

Each morning of the tour, the group takes measurements to help them predict exactly where the tornado might turn up. They look at all the information and decide where there is the best chance of seeing a tornado. Then Kevin drives everyone out to the area.



During the afternoon, Kevin takes more measurements of the weather to try and find the exact place where a tornado will touch down. Then they wait. If they find a tornado, Kevin also works to keep everyone safe by making sure they are not in the direct path of the tornado.



# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'meteorologist'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'meteorologist' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'meteorologist'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'meteorologist'.

**e** Describe some of the things a 'meteorologist' does.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: violent	fierce

3

# Summarising

## (the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.



**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



A few days before each trip, Kevin studies the weather to predict the area where a storm might be.

During the afternoon, Kevin takes more measurements of the weather to try and find the exact place where a tornado will touch down.

On the first day of the trip, Kevin drives everyone to where he thinks the storm will be.

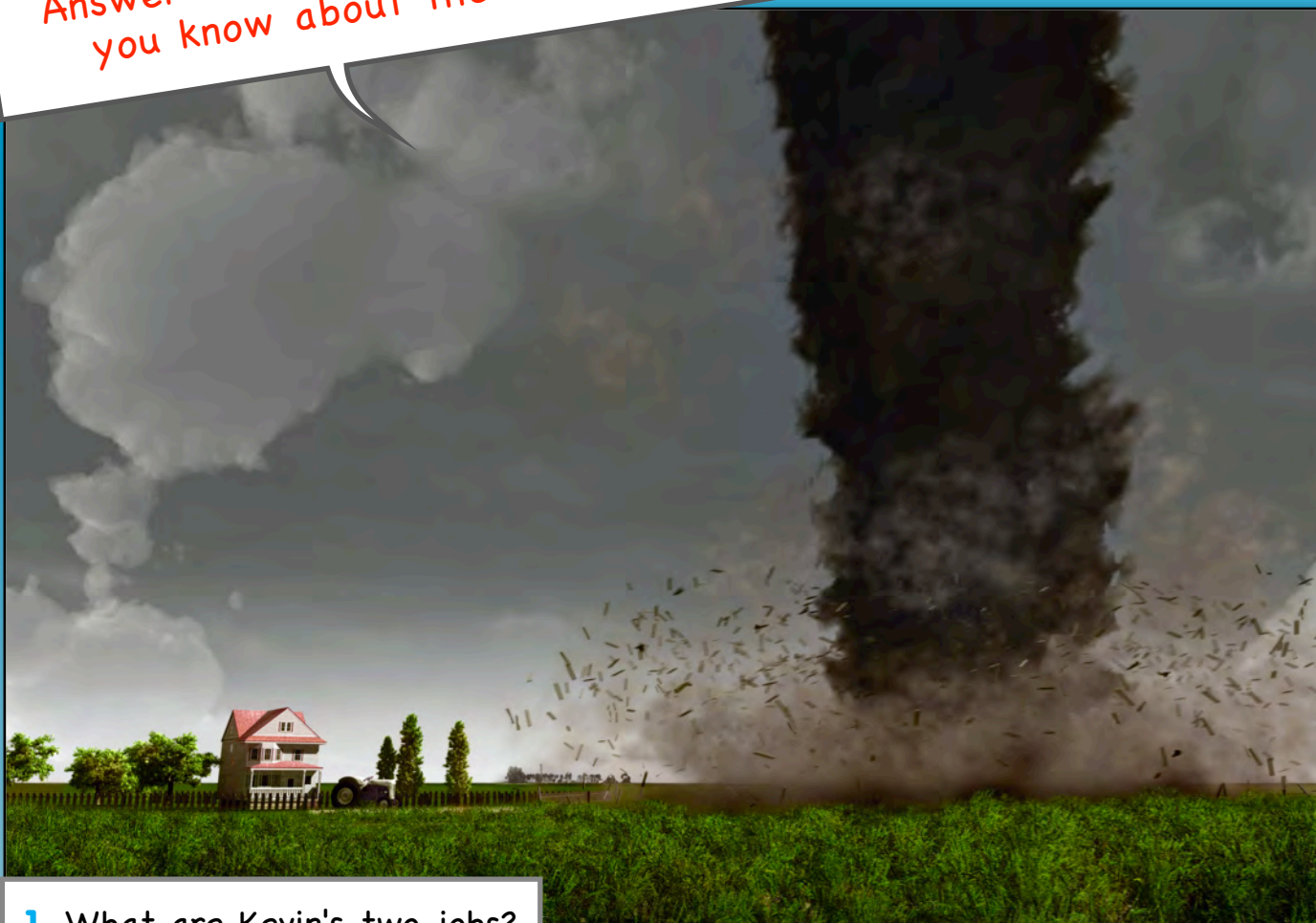
Then they wait.

Each morning of the tour, the group takes measurements to help them predict exactly where the tornado might turn up.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 What are Kevin's two jobs?

2 How long does each tour last?

3 What does Kevin do on the first

4 What do they do on the first night?

5 What does Kevin do each afternoon of the tour?



# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why do meteorologists need to know in advance where a storm will be?

2 Why does Kevin study the weather a few days before the trip?

3 What does Kevin do if they find a tornado?

4 Why does Kevin chase tornados?





# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



- 1 Why do you think Kevin spends a lot of time on the tour taking measurements?
- 2 Do you think it would be fun or scary to see a tornado up close?
- 3 What does Kevin think about storms?
- 4 Do you think the tour gets to see a lot of storms?
- 5 Why do you think people go on storm-chasing tours?



# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



**Discussion topic: Studying tornados**

Why do you think it is important to study tornados?





# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## Storm chasing

You are on a storm chasing tour. Your group has driven out to where you think the storm will be. Suddenly, you see a tornado touch down...



# Storm chaser

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