

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

by L. Frank Baum



“There’s a cyclone coming, Em,” Uncle Henry 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.

In the middle of a cyclone the air is generally still, but the great pressure of the wind on every side of the house raised it up higher and higher, until it was at the very top of the cyclone; and there it remained and was carried miles and miles away as easily as you could carry a feather.

It was very dark, and the wind howled horribly around her, but Dorothy found she was riding quite easily. She felt as if she were being rocked gently, like a baby in a cradle.

Toto did not like it. He ran about the room, now here, now there, barking loudly; but Dorothy sat quite still on the floor and waited to see what would happen.



Who Was It?

Circle the correct answer.

1. Who went to check the cows and horses?

- A. Dorothy B. Toto
C. Uncle Henry D. Auntie Em

2. Who hid under the bed?

- A. Dorothy B. Toto
C. Uncle Henry D. Auntie Em

3. Who sat still on the floor?

- A. Dorothy B. Toto
C. Uncle Henry D. Auntie Em

Sequence of Events

The events of the story are mixed up. Put them in the correct order.

Toto ran around the room barking. _____

The house rose into the air. _____

Uncle Henry saw the cyclone. _____

The cyclone hit the house. _____

Dorothy caught Toto. _____

Auntie Em went into the cellar. _____