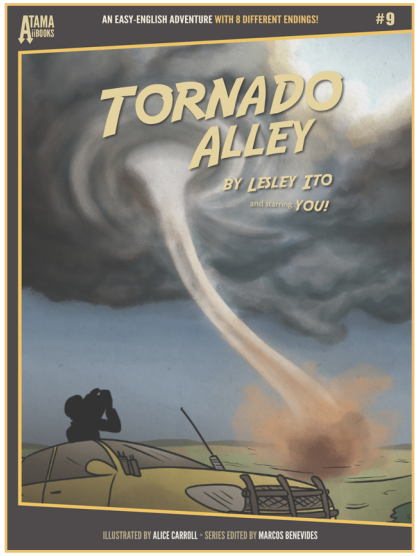
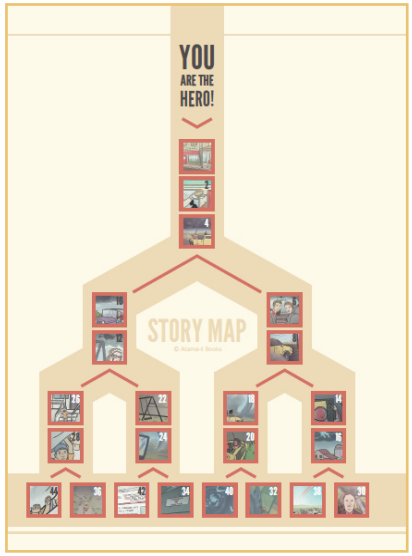
BEFORE READING





TORNADO ALLEY

This story is about tornados in a small town in the USA. You will try to avoid the tornados.

Before you read, think about these questions:

1. What do you know about tornados?

2. How do people protect themselves from tornados?

3. Is there dangerous weather where you live?

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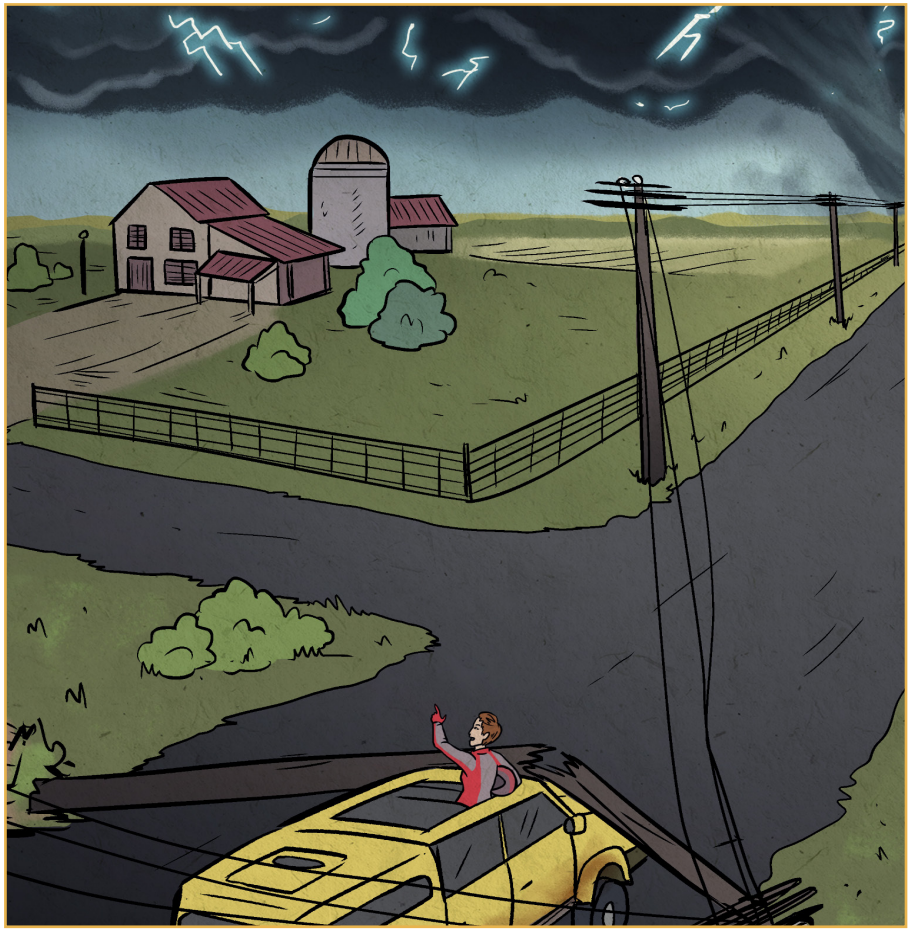

Look at the picture. Can you describe three things in it?

_____

_____

_____

Next, learn the story keywords

KEYWORDS

Learn these important words before you read the story.

boss (n.) the person in charge of a business; a manager

closet (n.) a small room with a door, often used for storage

cloud (n.) a white or grey mass of small water droplets which floats high in the sky and can release rain

cornfield (n.) an area of land where corn grows

debris (n.) broken pieces, rocks, dirt, etc. which are scattered around

funnel (n.) a tube shape that is wide at the top, narrow at the bottom, and hollow inside

giant (adj.) very big; (n.) a person or thing that is very big

helmet (n.) a hard shell which covers and protects your head

hunter (n.) a person who tries to catch something, usually animals

lightning (n.) bright flashes of electricity that shoot from clouds, often during a storm

mattress (n.) the soft, top part of a bed

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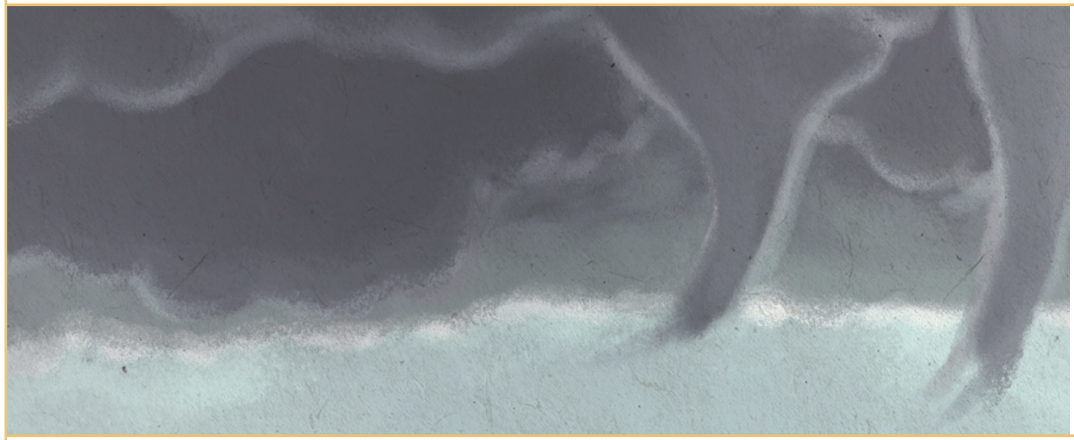
KEYWORDS



record (v.) to make a reproduction of an event; e.g. to take a video

shelter (n.) a safe place used in emergencies

shout (v.) to say something in a loud voice

siren (n.) a loud alarm for warning people of danger

sunroof (n.) a window on the top of a car

tornado (n.) a very dangerous weather event made up of strong winds spinning around a tight funnel shape; tornados can form very quickly, and are difficult to predict

whistle (n.) a high-pitched sound

Next, read the story

AFTER READING

EXTENSION QUESTIONS

Reading a good story can make you think about new things. Talk about these questions with your friends or teacher, or find out more online. Not all questions have a clear or simple answer!

1. This story takes place in a part of the USA nicknamed 'Tornado Alley'. Where exactly is that? Can you find it on a map?

2. Tornados are measured on a scale from 'F1' to 'F5'. This is called the Fujita Scale. What can you find out about this scale?

3. What is the difference between a tornado and a typhoon/ hurricane? Which one is bigger? Faster? Stronger?

4. What was the deadliest F5 tornado in history? When and where did it happen? Why did it do so much damage?

5. In the story, you meet two tornado hunters. People who hunt tornados really exist. Who are they, and why do they do it?

6. "As American as apple pie" is a common expression in the USA. Why is apple pie special? What other foods are popular there?

7. Only a few people have ever seen inside a tornado and lived. How did they describe the inside of a tornado?

8. Most people don't know what to do during a tornado. What are some tips to protect yourself during a tornado?

9. Tornado hunters take great risks to get videos to sell. Should people be allowed to put themselves in such danger for money?

10. Native American tribes in the Tornado Alley area had stories about tornado spirits. What are some of these stories?

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BOOK REVIEW

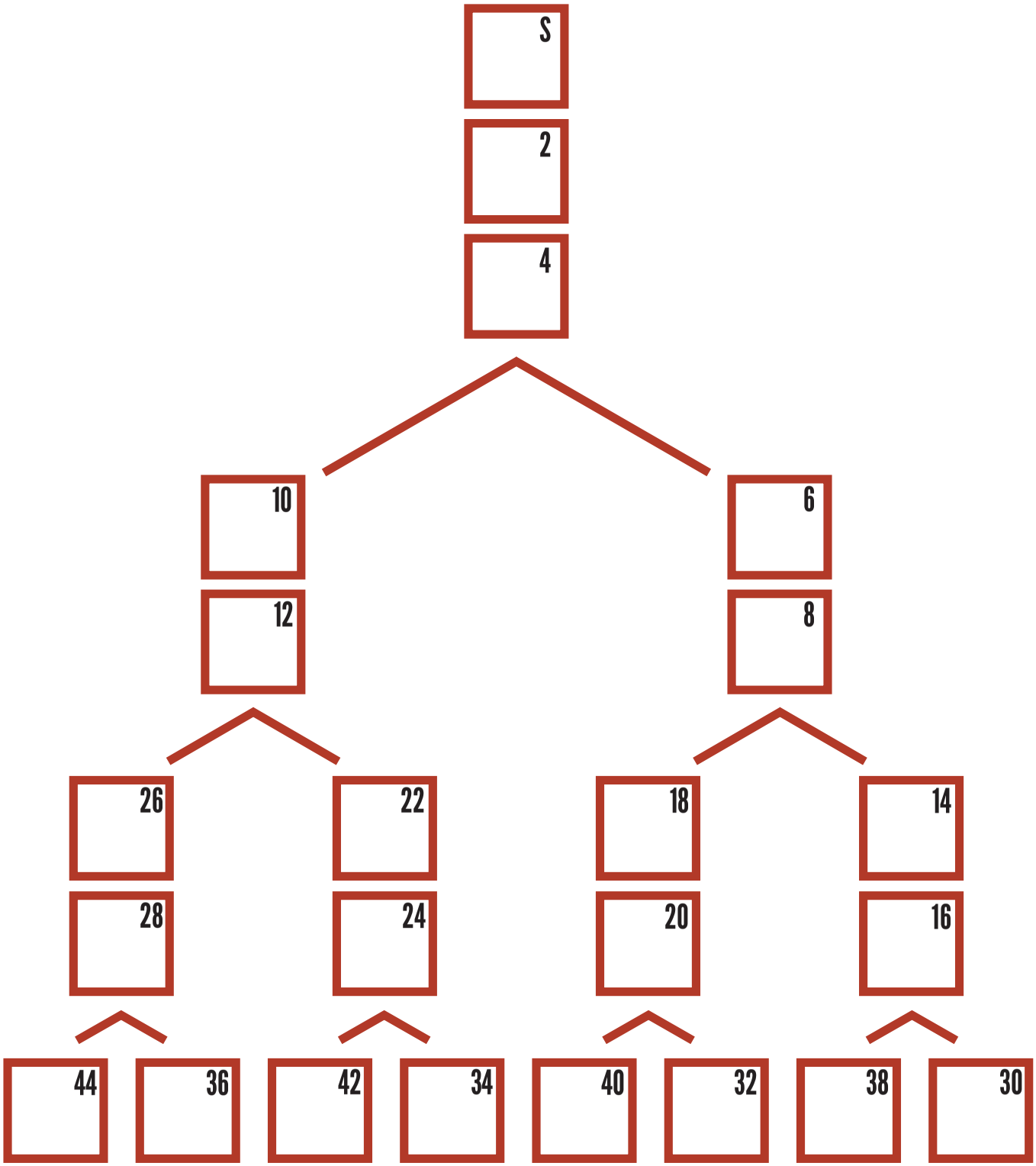
1. Did you enjoy this story? Why or why not?

2. Who are the main characters? Can you describe them?

3. Where does the story take place? Can you describe it?

4. Which ending did you like the most? Why did you like it?

5. Which ending didn't you like? Why didn't you like it?

STORY MAP

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