

A Storm Is Coming



Topic: Our marvellous world

Curriculum link: Earth and Beyond; Society and Environment

Text type: Description

Reading level: 9

Word count: 172

High-frequency words: when, I, up, this, that, it, is, to, be, there, are, of, in, the, our, and, for, a, on, from, says, her

Vocabulary: today, getting, hotter, light, fluffy, clouds, sky, dog, looking, cool, rest, barometer, rain, still, quiet, outside, strong, ants, ground, busy, dark, storm, coming, darker, flash, lightning, large, drops, crash, soon, heavier, noise, louder, stops, sun, beautiful, rainbow, stretches, ground, shining

Possible literacy focus:

Understanding the construction of text in the present tense using time markers to denote the sequence.

Understanding descriptive language.

Reading expressively to denote increases in dramatic tension.

Follow-up activities

Summary chart

Draw up a chart like the one below and ask the children for ideas. Encourage them to use the book to gather the information.

Before the storm	During the storm	After the storm
Barometer points to rain Fluffy clouds in the sky Wind starts blowing Ants start to move Dark clouds come in	Lightning Rain Grandma's hands ache	Rainbow Sun comes out

Ask the children to think of more ideas for each column.

Storm drawing

Ask the children to think about what happens just before a thunderstorm starts. Have them draw a picture of something that shows that a storm is coming, and to write a sentence underneath their drawing to explain what it is about. Encourage children to write in present tense. For example:

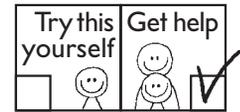
I can see dark clouds gathering. The ants are starting to move very quickly. The wind is starting to blow.
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Children can share their finished work and then it can be displayed.

Weather report

Ask the children to work in small groups to present a news report about a storm. Encourage them to use appropriate terminology – clouds, lightning, thunder, rain and so on. Children can make and use props to enhance their performance, e.g. costumes, microphone, weather maps. If possible, video the reports and play them to the whole class at a later time.

Musical reading



You will need:

musical instruments such as cymbals, triangles, drums, tapping sticks and shakers

1. Choose instruments to play while reading *A Storm Is Coming*.



For example: shakers for the wind, triangles for the ants being busy.

2. Practise reading the book while people play the instruments.
3. Perform your musical reading.

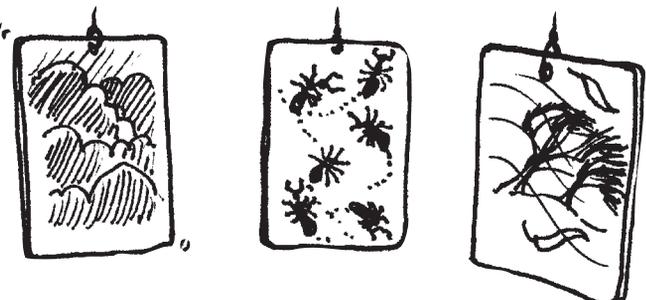
Stormy mobile



You will need:

cardboard, scissors, felt pens, string, wire coathanger

1. Think of three things that can happen before a storm.
2. Draw a picture about each of these things on a card. On the other side, write a sentence about the pictures.
3. Use the string to attach the three cards to the coathanger.
4. Hang your mobile.



Name _____

Before, during, after!

Draw and write about a storm.

Before the storm

During the storm

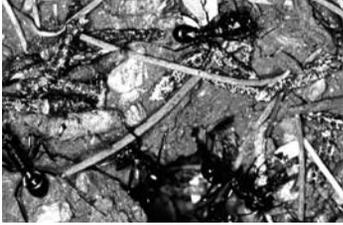
After the storm

Instructions Ask the children to write and draw to show the approach of a storm, what happens during the storm and what it is like after the storm. Encourage children to compare their sequences and to discuss the differences that arise.

Name _____

Word cloze

Write in the missing words.

	<p>11 o'clock It is very hot. A strong _____ is blowing. The ants on the _____ are very busy.</p>
	<p>12 o'clock It is still very hot. There are lots of dark _____ in the _____.</p>
	<p>1 o'clock It is getting darker and darker. There is a _____ of _____ in the sky.</p>
	<p>2 o'clock It is dark outside. Large _____ of rain crash on our _____. The rain gets heavier and the _____ gets louder.</p>
	<p>3 o'clock The rain stops. The _____ comes out. A beautiful _____ stretches from the sky to the ground.</p>
	<p>4 o'clock The clouds and _____ have gone, and the sun is shining again. The _____ is over.</p>

Instructions Ask the children to complete the cloze by filling in the correct nouns from the text.