

# Online Book Club

## The Treacherous Tornado Mystery

### Bring It To Life!

1. Dr. Brindle communicated with the Masters kids through the trendy, cryptic method of text message lingo. Exchange notes with a friend using abbreviations and emoticons and see who can decode their note first!
2. Nick and Curie were very specific about the importance of a well-stocked safe room in case of a tornado. Gather items mentioned in the book and create a Tornado Warning Safety Box.
3. Draw a map of the United States. Label the states. With a bold marker, draw a line through Tornado Alley. Where do you live in relation to this line?
4. Designate a place in the classroom as a mock safe room. Set a timer for five minutes and walk around the room, talk with your friends, work on a project, etc. When the timer goes off, stage a practice tornado drill and quickly get to the part of the room that is the safe room. Make sure to take time to pretend to turn off the electricity and gas. Once everyone is in the safe zone and properly ducked and covered, check and see how much time it took to get there safely. Can you do all of that in 15 seconds like the Masters kids?



# Online Information

## The Treacherous Tornado Mystery

# Fascinating Facts

1. A tornado can toss a 2000-to-3000-pound van into the air!
2. A tornado that forms over water is known as a "waterspout."
3. The strongest tornadoes can last for over an hour!
4. In April of 1991, the Plains states saw 54 tornadoes in one day! States affected included Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa.
5. Tornadoes can happen at any time, but they are most likely to form between 3 p.m. and 9 pm.
6. In the most extreme cases, a tornado's winds can reach up to 300 miles per hour.
7. Tornadoes may not be visible until after the funnel has picked up debris.
8. The destruction from a tornado can cover a very long path. In 1953, chunks of a mattress from Worcester, Massachusetts ended up in Boston Harbor, 50 miles away!
9. Tornadoes have been described as sounding like a train, a jet plane, or a waterfall.
10. The Fujita Tornado Damage Scale estimates the speed of a tornado by categorizing the degree of damage that a tornado caused. There are six categories, known as F-0 through F-5. F-0 tornadoes cause slight damage like broken tree branches. F-5 tornadoes cause disastrous consequences with just about everything demolished in their path.



# Online Quiz

## The Treacherous Tornado Mystery

1. Where do you go in your house if there's a tornado warning?
2. What were the names of the two vans in the story?
3. How many different states did the Masters visit on their tornado chase?
4. Why didn't Curie like being so close to Nick during their tornado drill?
5. Why didn't Dr. Brindle respond to phone calls from Nick, Curie, and Artemis?
6. What did the numbers in Dr. Brindle's email address mean?
7. What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?
8. What are some important signs in the weather that a tornado is nearby or forming?



# Tornado Safety Tips

1) Decide with your family where your Tornado Safety Room should be in your house. This room should be a basement, bathroom, or closet. The lower in the house you can get, the better.

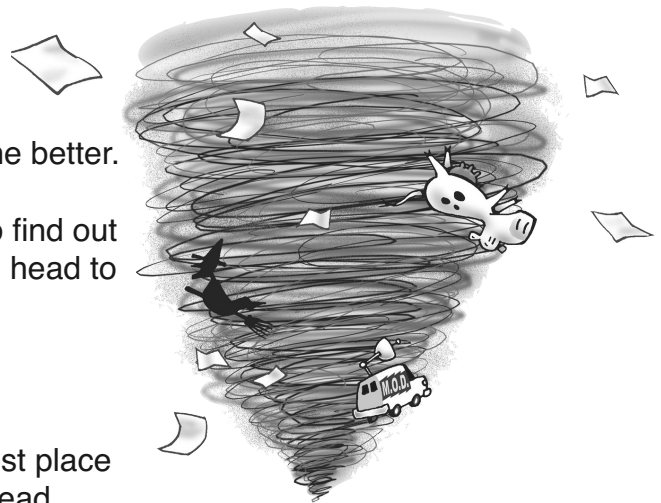
2) Watch the weather or listen to a battery-powered radio to find out if a Tornado Watch turns into a Tornado Warning. If it does, head to that Tornado Safety Room right away!

3) Stay away from windows!

4) If you're outside and a tornado is coming, get to the lowest place you can (like a ditch), lie on your stomach and cover your head.

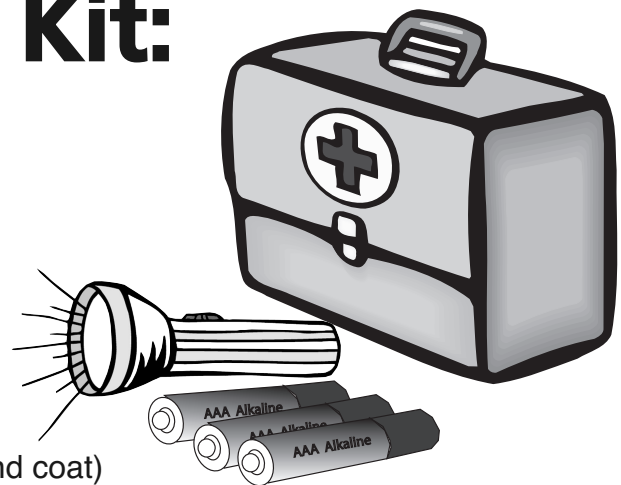
5) Remind your parents to turn off gas and electricity if a tornado is in the area.

6) Remember, what seems like just a bad thunderstorm can quickly turn into perfect conditions for a tornado. Keep listening for heavy winds that sound like a train. If you hear this, head to that Tornado Safety Room!



# Tornado Safety Kit:

- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Canned food and a can opener
- A first aid kit and any medicines you might need
- A few gallons of water (per person in your family)
- Battery-powered flashlight
- Sleeping bags
- Comfortable and functional shoes
- Rain gear (boots, hat, and coat)



# Know your SAT Words!

Mystery Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAT Words



1. antagonism
2. concise
3. disgruntled
4. flagrant
5. ruse

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.

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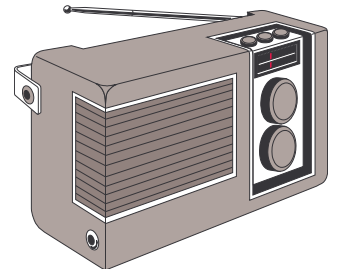
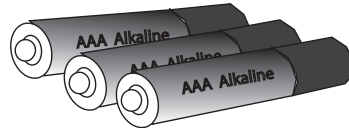
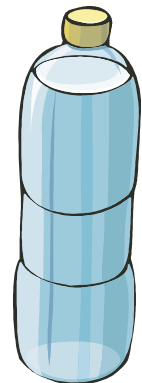
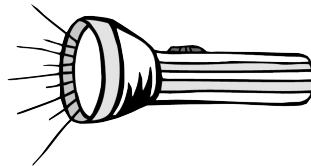
# TORNADO



## Scavenger Hunt

Go on a Scavenger Hunt around your classroom and/or school for these ten items to create a Tornado Safety Box for your class. Remember to ask before taking any items for the box!

1. Flashlight
2. Cell phone
3. Batteries
4. Bottled water
5. Band Aids
6. Battery-powered radio
7. Canned foods
8. Can opener
9. Clothes
10. Swiss army knife



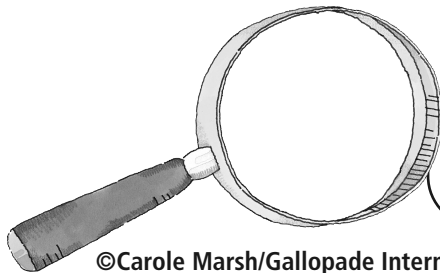
# TORNADO



## Word Search

P G Y C E C Z S J L F W F C S  
M H R M T X R R Y B Z T L U C  
T S I T N E I C S T A B W R M  
U Z S P T X K O A R T E M I S  
J B Q S H P W D V B A U F E C  
M Z A L N G X A K L R D I N Y  
H M J A Q R B N O I W P N S B  
O J F I C P Z R I H D K H O Y  
S G H H R S T O N J Z I L Y R  
O A A P G M R T B K F S A P O  
B S H I B W D O C E P W G W E  
E I Q S K C I N S U N M D V Q  
M C I H G V I W X N Z T H B X  
H X T H U U E X R F E Y S U E  
I I K M A H L A Y E Y S B O Q

### Word Bank



SENSORS  
MASTERS  
ARTEMIS

RADNOR  
CURIE  
CHASE

TORNADO  
NICK  
SCIENTIST

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## The Treacherous Tornado Mystery

### Talk About It!

1. Can you remember the scariest storm you've ever been in? What did you do?
2. What part of the Masters' tornado chasing adventure did you find most exciting?
3. Would you ever want to see a tornado up close? Why or why not?
4. Where is the safest place in YOUR house to go if there's a storm? Have you ever had to retreat there because of a tornado warning or other form of severe weather?
5. Why do you think *The Wizard of Oz* was set in Kansas?
6. Why do tornadoes and hurricanes rotate in different directions depending on their location on the globe?
7. If you had a van to chase storms in, what would you call it?
8. What parts of the story made you laugh?

