

Reading for Fluency

Read the passage with prosody. Chunk the words into phrases and create an image in your head as you read.

The Storm

The man on TV said the storm should hit just before dawn. That is between five and six a.m. There are storm warnings out. He said the winds will gust from 80–90 mph. Wind that hard can do a lot of harm. It can blow off a roof and move cars around. We may get five or six inches of water, as well. I need to be following the storm on the Web site with the tracking pictures.

This scares me a little. Why now? Mom and Dad are out of town on a trip to Rome. While they are away, Gram and Gramp are staying with my little sis and me. Gram and Gramp live out west, so they do not know about the kind of storms we get here. They get storms with wind, sand, and dust, but not the kind with lots of water. Gramp can do some tasks. He just mowed the lawn. The clumps of grass are smooth. Gram makes our meals and cleans. But, there is a lot of hard work to do before the storm hits. I know some of the things we need to do. But I wish I had a list of everything. I would like to check the things off, one by one. I need to be smart about what I need to do here. I can look out for our home while Mom and Dad are away, but I need to start now.

The bedrooms all have glass panes. So, it is not safe to ride out the storm there. We will plan on camping in the basement. I hate to think about time in the basement. It is damp, dark, and dank. And it stinks. But there is no glass. That is good. There is a bathroom down there. I will move the camping cots and sleeping bags down. We have an old stove in the basement, so I will bring in logs from the shed. We can use the stove to heat our food. We will need pans. Gram can get spoons, forks, plates, bowls, and glasses. We need a clock without a plug to tell time. I will put the stuff in boxes to take to the basement.

Reading for Fluency (cont.)**The Storm (cont.)**

Mom has a storm kit in the shed. It has water to get us through two days. We may need more. There are flashlights. I need to check them for life. I may need to stop by the store for another box and more water, as well. Mom cans things. So, there are jars of corn and beans on the racks in the basement. And, right below there are jars of pork and fish. Sis needs to get the dog's dishes and food for her dog. I think we are good with food.

We each need a change of tops and shorts.

We can play a game in the light of our flashlights to pass the time. Or, I may read. It seems like it takes years for a storm to pass.

Here in town the wind may harm the roofs, the trees, bushes, and the plants. But, the people who live in the country have to think of their animals. Also, a storm can wash away the sand on the beaches. What do the fish, sharks, and whales do? How do they take care of the chimps and other animals at the zoo?

It is time to go pick up my little sis at school and go to the store. I think I will take her little dog, Spot, with me. Spot hates the sound of the wind. She whines and whines. But she feels safe when my sis has her in her arms.

The wind is up. Look at the flag in the air. It blows out; then it is limp. The trees are twisting and bending. That hawk glides in the wind. The temp is down. It is starting to get cool.

We are back home. Gramp can help take the small things off the deck so the wind will not blow them away. We have a tarp that hides the pool. But, we will not use it because the wind would just blow it away. We will take the grill inside off the porch. I will put the broom and dustpan and the wheeled cart inside. We may need them to clean up outside after the storm. I will get the planks from the shed. They fit over the panes to keep the glass whole. We should shut off the gas.

I look outside. Now, it is as dark as ink. The wind is howling. There are thumps on the roof. I think branches just broke out of the tree that hangs over the roof. The lamps are blinking. There is a green glow in the sky. I hope we have everything we need. Soon the town will blow the warning. Grab everything; it is time to go to the basement. The house is dark. The storm is here.