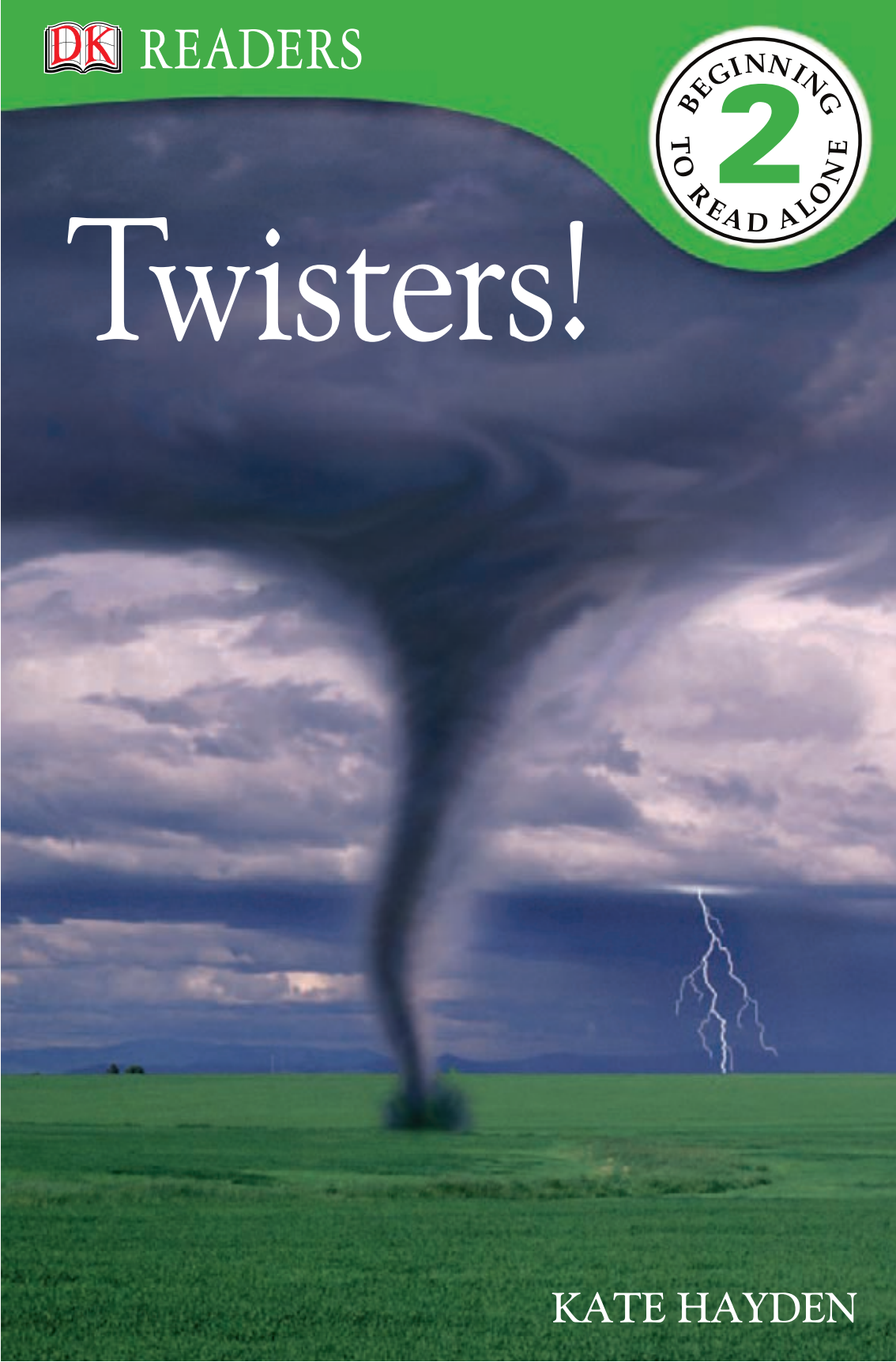


 READERS



Twisters!



KATE HAYDEN

A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling reading programme for children. The programme is designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Cliff Moon M.Ed., who has spent many years as a teacher and teacher educator specializing in reading. Cliff Moon has written more than 160 books for children and teachers. He is series editor to Collins Big Cat.

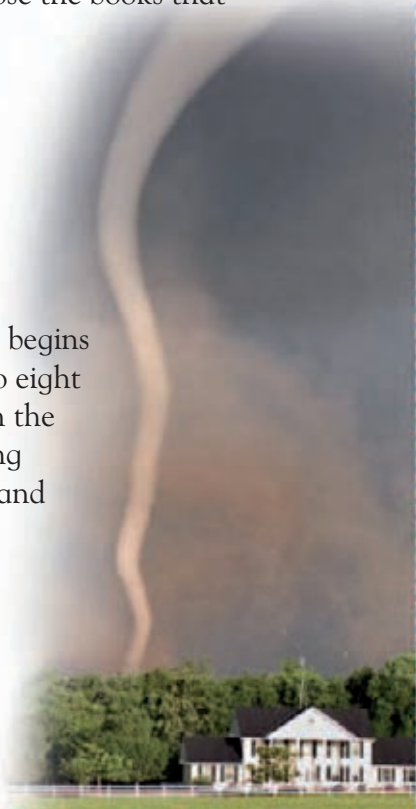
Beautiful illustrations and superb full-colour photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series. Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

- Pre-level 1:** Learning to read
- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
- Level 3:** Reading alone
- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!





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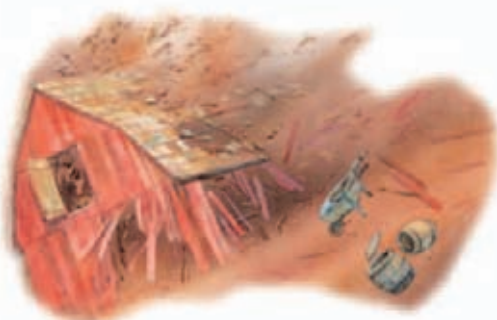
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READERS



Twisters!

Written by Kate Hayden



A Dorling Kindersley Book

Rob was working
in his farmyard in Texas.
It was a peaceful spring day but
his dog, Barney, was unhappy.
He hid under a tractor and
would not come out.
Rob wondered if Barney was ill.



Second sense

Animals have sharper senses than we have. Many can sense changes in the weather, like just before a bad storm.



Suddenly the sky went dark.
Hailstones as big as golf balls
pelted down from the sky.
Thunder rolled and
lightning flashed.
A few moments later
there was a deathly stillness.
Somehow, Barney had known!



As Bob looked on,
huge black clouds began to spin.
They bubbled at the top
like boiling milk.
Gusts of wind blew straw around.
Just then, a finger of cloud
spiralled down from the sky.
A twister!

Rob stood rooted to the spot.
The twister touched the ground.
Mud and grass swirled up
like smoke from a bonfire.
That was only the start of it.
The twister began to move.
It skipped and bounced
across the fields.
It grew bigger, faster and dirtier
as it picked up mud
from the ground.

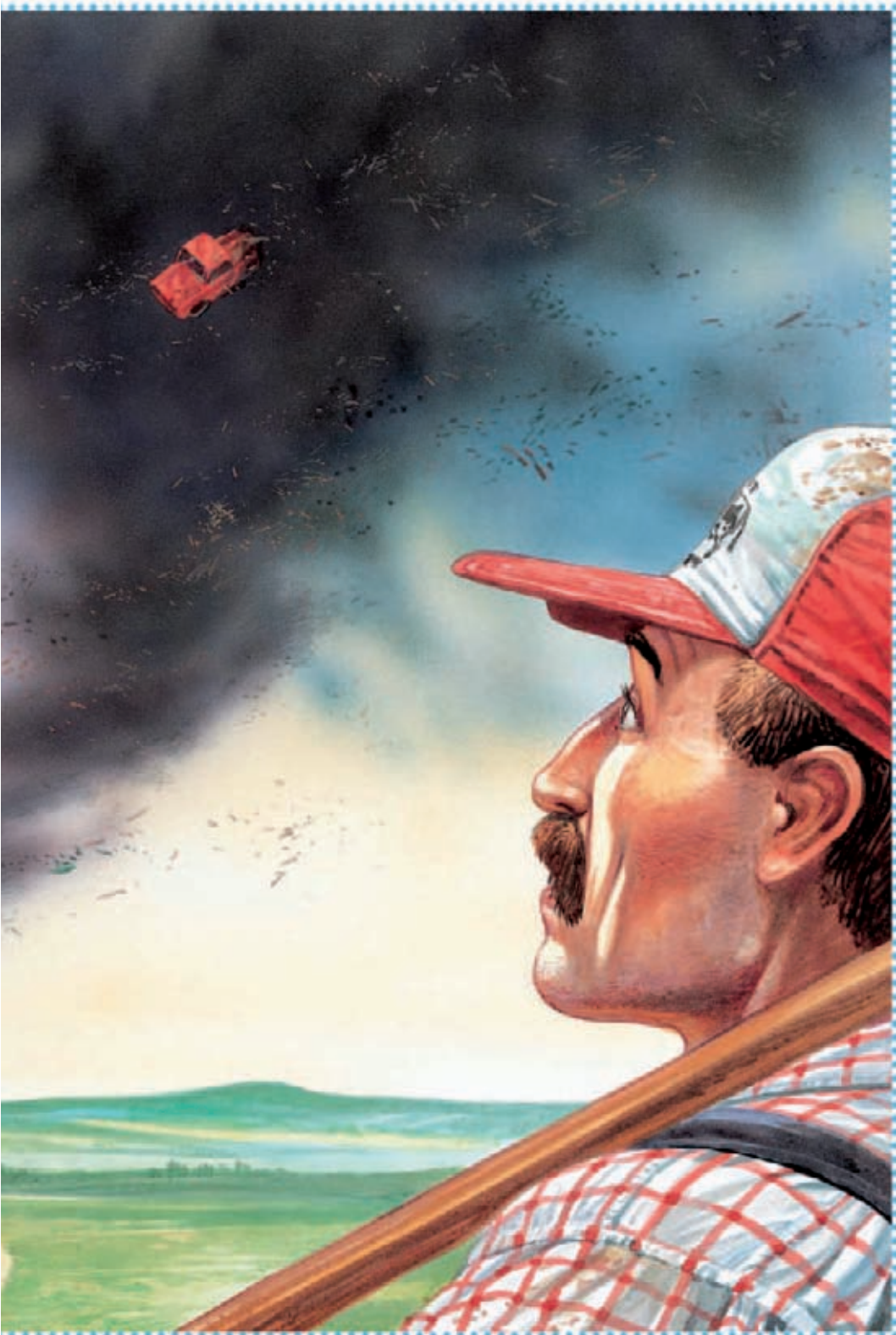
Waterspouts

Twisters out at sea
are called waterspouts.
They whisk up water.
The tallest one seen
was 1.6 km (1 mile) tall.



Rob watched in horror
as the twister went
towards his neighbour's farm.
It picked up straw, trees –
and even a farm truck.
It spun them around in its funnel.
Rob sighed with relief when
the twister moved away.
He thought he was safe.
But then the twister
changed direction –
straight towards him!





Suddenly the twister was hanging
right over Rob's farm.

There was a noise
like a rushing waterfall,
then – **BANG!**

The barn exploded
as if a bomb had gone off inside it.



Rob ran with Barney
to the cellar in his house.
His ears were hurting and
he could hardly breathe.
That's because the air pressure
inside a twister is very low.
This makes people's ears ache and
causes buildings to explode.



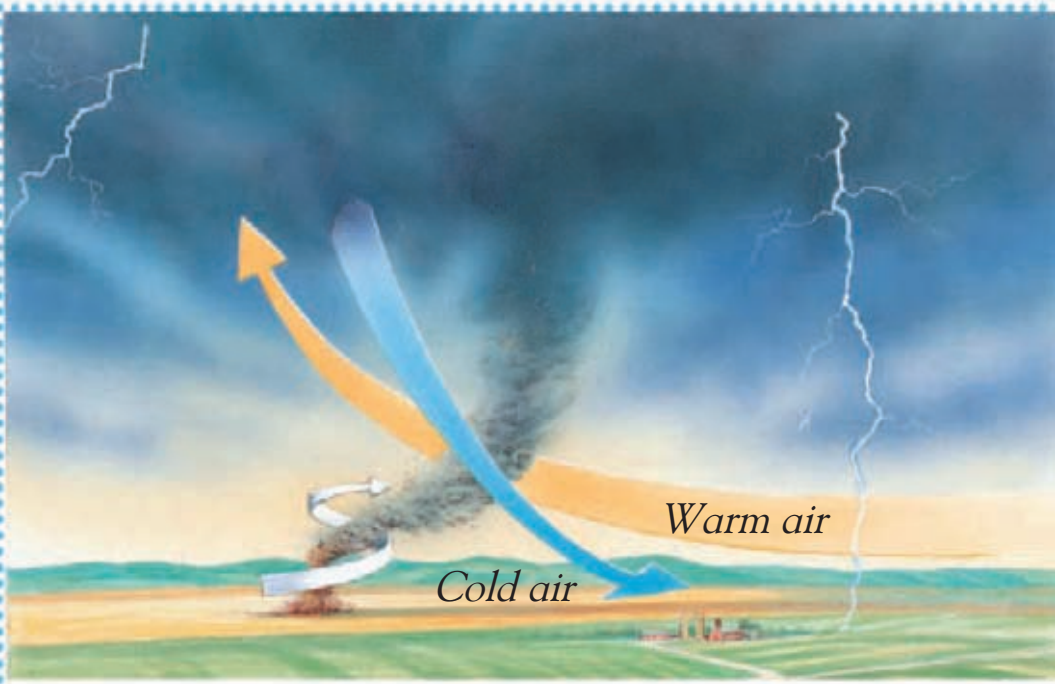


Just as Rob reached
the cellar,
his front porch flew off
with an ear-splitting CRASH!
Then came a SMASH
as the house windows blew in.
Two minutes later, all was silent.

Rob came up from the cellar.
Furniture lay smashed on the floor.
Most of the doors and
windows were gone.
Rob felt lucky
to be alive.



Friends helped Rob to clean up.
They lived nearby but
their house wasn't touched.



Twisters can form
when cold air meets warm air.
The warm air is sucked up
in a swirling column
called a funnel cloud.
It spins at great speed.
Twisters contain
the most deadly winds
in the world.

No-one knows
what a twister will do next.
It can lift up a large truck and
smash it to pieces, but
leave small objects undamaged.
One twister picked up a baby
and set him down safely
90 metres (300 feet)
away.



The baby did not
even wake up!

Strange showers

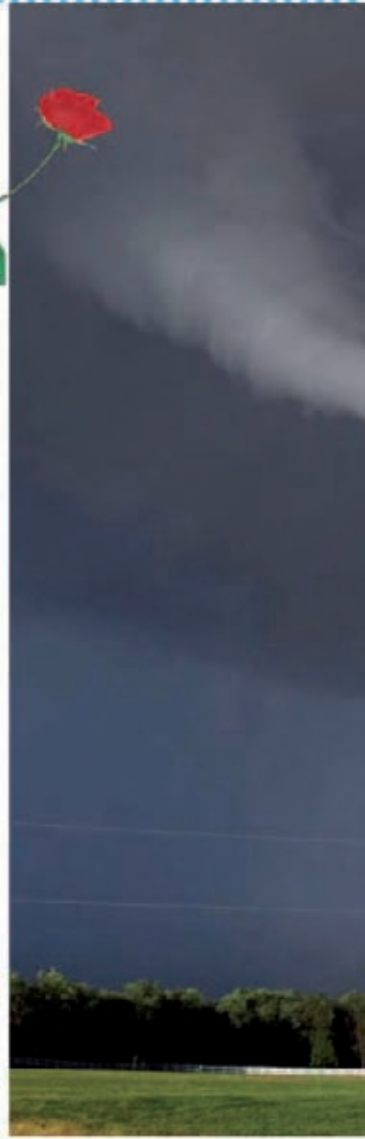
When twisters drop
things they've picked up,
strange things can happen.
A twister in England
caused a shower of frogs.



There are lots of
strange stories
about twisters.
A twister once
blew away
a man's
birth certificate.

The twister carried it
80 kilometres (50 miles)
then dropped it
in a friend's garden.

One twister sucked up
some roses and water from a vase.
It dropped them
in another room but
it left the vase on the table.





Another twister picked up a jar of pickles and carried the jar for kilometres (miles) without damaging it.

Twisters come in many different shapes and sizes. They can be thin, white and wispy. Or they can be big, thick and black.



They can even be red or green!
If a twister travels across a muddy field, the mud turns it brown – and very smelly!

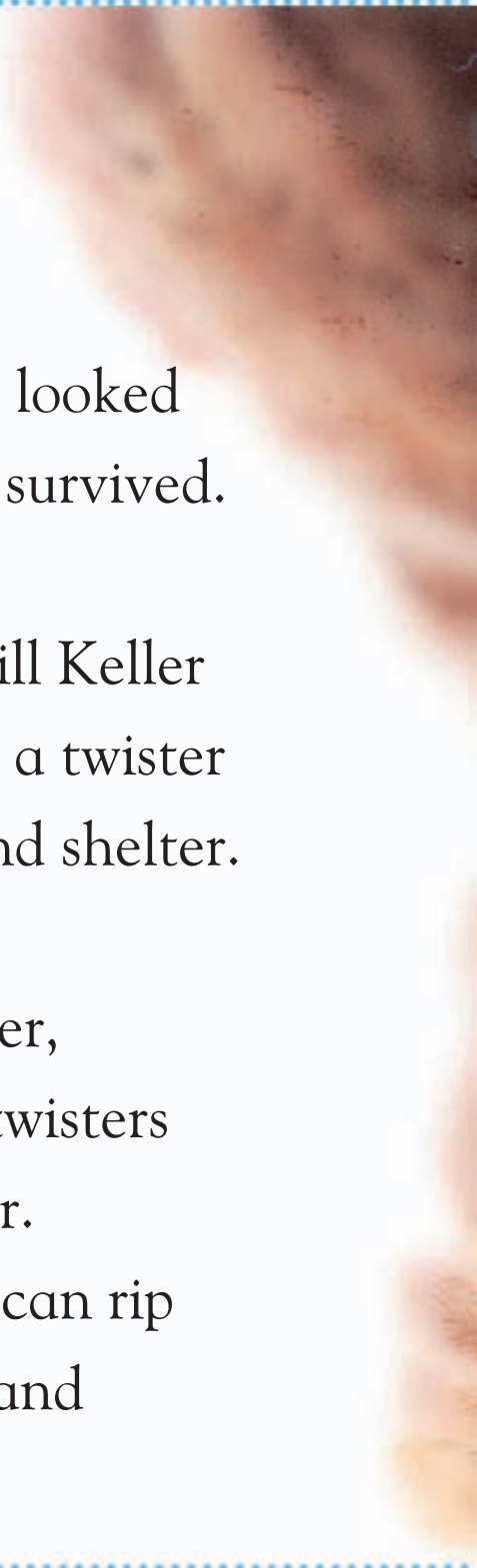
Twisters can grow bigger and faster as they go along.

Some look as if they have a loop or knot in the middle.

Some are wider at the bottom than at the top.

Some are shaped like a tube and others look like a slice of pie.





Lots of people
have seen a twister
from the outside.
But only a few have looked
inside a twister and survived.

A farmer named Will Keller
once looked up into a twister
from his underground shelter.
Just as he closed
the door of his shelter,
he saw lots of mini twisters
inside the big twister.
These mini twisters can rip
through a building and
slice it to shreds.

Twister speeds

Some twisters travel only as fast as a person walking. Others travel as fast as express trains.



Home sweet home

People stay in Tornado Alley because it is their home. If their houses are destroyed, they just rebuild.



Twisters are also known as tornados. There is an area in the USA that is called Tornado Alley. It is famous for its deadly twisters. Up to 300 occur there every year between April and July. They kill more than 80 people.



Twisters form during these months as warm air from the south meets cold air from the north – right over Tornado Alley.

 TORNADO ALLEY





Twisters are graded from 0 to 5 on a scale called the Fujita Scale. An F0 damages chimneys. An F1 snaps telephone poles. An F2 rips off roofs. An F3 turns over trains. An F4 destroys even strong homes. An F5 leaves few things standing. In 1999, an F5 ripped through Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It killed 45 people.

The worst twister

In 1925, one twister in Tornado Alley destroyed four towns in less than four hours. It killed 689 people.



People in Tornado Alley are well prepared for twisters. Most of them have an underground shelter outside their home.



Emergency supplies

People keep emergency supplies in their shelters – food, drink, torches and a first-aid kit.



Some people in Texas have a fibreglass shelter buried in their back garden.



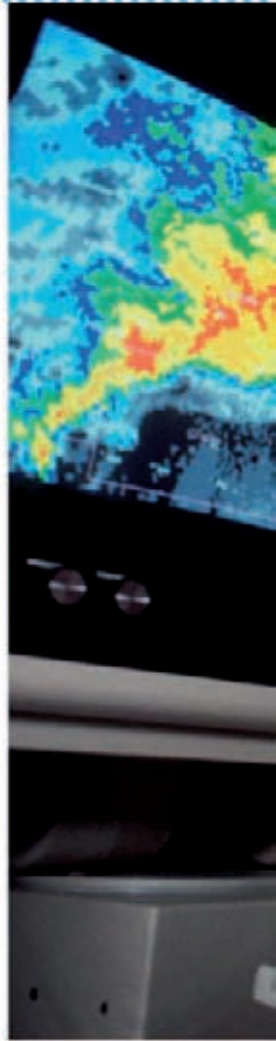
People without a shelter hide in a cellar or small room in the middle of their house.

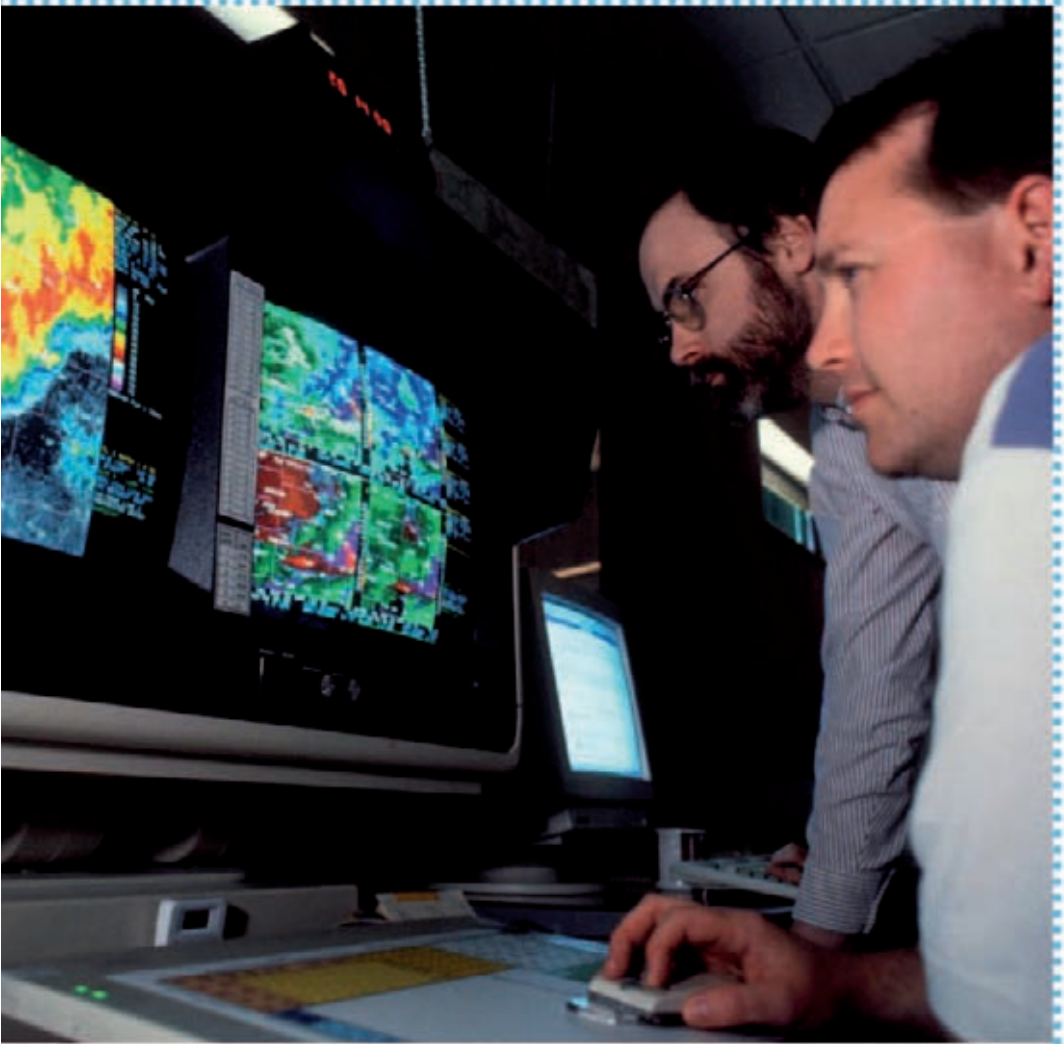
The Malone family next to their fibreglass shelter before it is buried

Gary England is a TV weather reporter in Oklahoma City. When lots of twisters are expected, Gary's team stays on the air for 30 hours or more.

Scientists tell Gary what the weather will be like. Gary can then tell viewers.

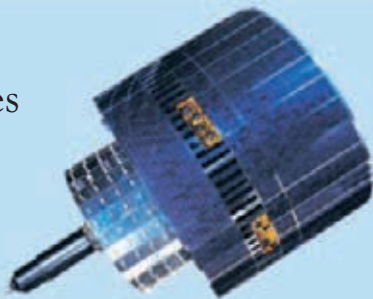
The scientists use a computer to help them forecast twisters. The computer makes a picture that shows where a twister is and how fast it is travelling.





Forecasts from space

Spacecraft called satellites orbit around Earth. Some send information about the weather to scientists on Earth.



The scientists can tell Gary what they think will happen. But storm trackers on the road know what is actually happening. These people risk their lives to find and follow twisters. Many of them have modern equipment such as a satellite dish.

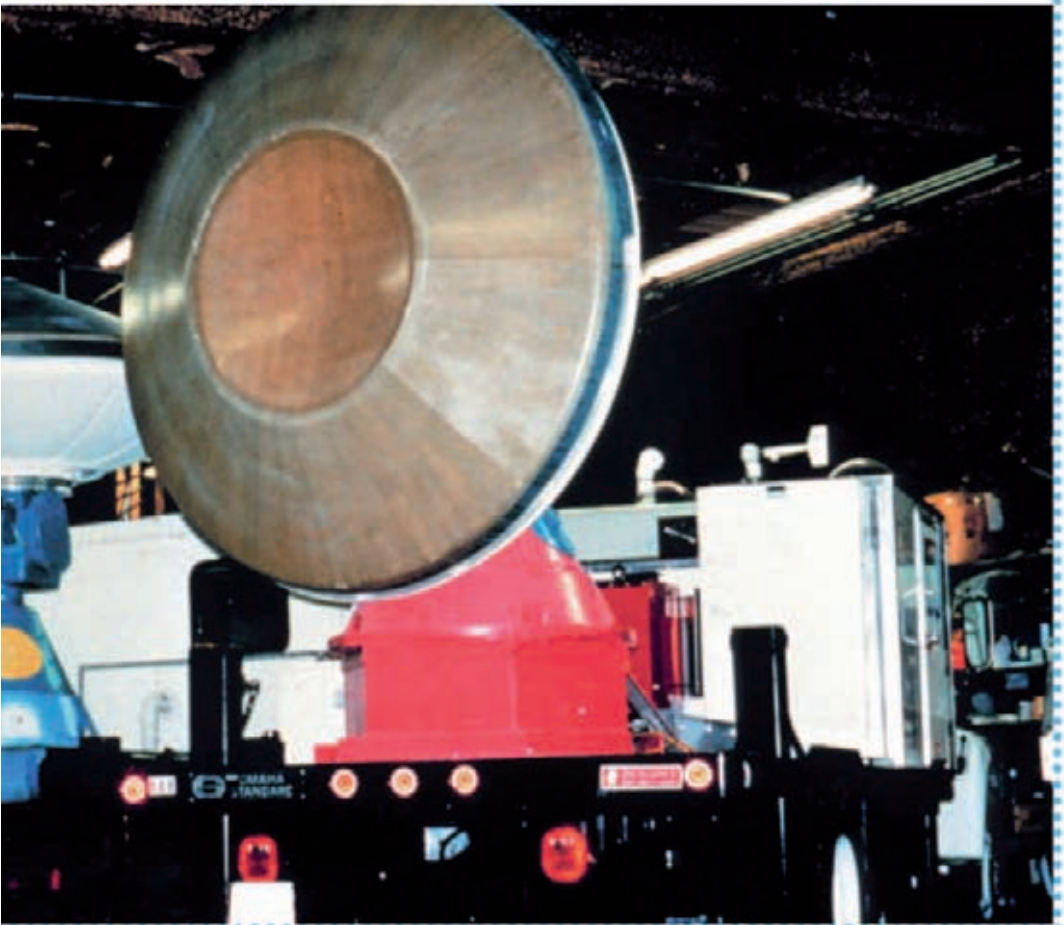
The trackers tell Gary all about a twister – where it is and where it is going. They can even tell him when a twister is brewing.



In the past, people did not know when a twister was coming.

Today, the trackers and scientists give people time to find shelter, and hundreds of lives are saved.

A storm tracker's modern truck



Twister facts

People in Tornado Alley
can check for twisters
when they fill their cars
with petrol.

Many pumps show
the weather forecast
on a screen.

Winds inside a twister
can spin around
at nearly
500 km (310 miles) per hour.

In April 1974,
148 tornados tore through
13 states in the USA.
Six of them were F5s –
the strongest type of tornado.

In 1994, in Australia,
hundreds of fish fell
from the sky.
This was probably
the work of a twister.

Twisters that suck up
sand in deserts
are called dust devils.

A twister can last
for any length of time –
from a few minutes
to an hour.

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READERS

My name is

I have read this book



Date



READERS

Level 2

Dinosaur Dinners
Fire Fighter!
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!
Slinky, Scaly Snakes!
Animal Hospital
The Little Ballerina
Munching, Crunching, Sniffing,
and Snooping
The Secret Life of Trees
Winking, Blinking, Wiggling,
and Wagging
Astronaut: Living in Space
Twisters!
Holiday! Celebration Days
around the World
The Story of Pocahontas
Horse Show
Survivors: The Night the Titanic Sank
Eruption! The Story of Volcanoes
The Story of Columbus
Journey of a Humpback Whale
Amazing Buildings
Feathers, Flippers, and Feet
Outback Adventure: Australian Holiday

Sniffles, Sneezes, Hiccups, and Coughs
Let's Go Riding
Starry Sky
Earth Smart: How to Take Care
of the Environment
Water Everywhere
Telling Time
A Trip to the Theatre
Journey of a Pioneer
Star Wars: Journey Through Space
Star Wars: A Queen's Diary
Star Wars: R2-D2 and Friends
Star Wars: Jedi in Training
Star Wars Clone Wars: Anakin in
Action!
Star Wars Clone Wars: Stand Aside –
Bounty Hunters!
Spider-Man: Worst Enemies
Power Rangers: Great Adventures
Pokémon: Meet the Pokémon
Pokémon: Meet Ash!
Indiana Jones: Traps and Snares
Meet the X-Men

Level 3

Shark Attack!
Beastly Tales
Titanic
Invaders from Outer Space
Movie Magic
Time Traveller
Bermuda Triangle
Tiger Tales
Plants Bite Back!
Zeppelin: The Age of the Airship
Spies
Terror on the Amazon
Disasters at Sea
The Story of Anne Frank
Extreme Sports
Spiders' Secrets
The Big Dinosaur Dig
The Story of Chocolate

School Days Around the World
Welcome to China
My First Ballet Show
Ape Adventures
Greek Myths
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Star Wars: I Want to Be a Jedi
Star Wars: The Story of Darth Vader
Star Wars: Yoda in Action
Star Wars: Forces of Darkness
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Enemies
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