

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Day 11**

# The Tornado Drill

by ReadWorks



The alarm went off again. Jonas knew what to do this time. They all had to go out in the hall, sit next to each other, and curl up into a ball. This was in case there was a tornado. Jonas hadn't understood how in the world going into the hall and curling up into a ball would help you if you got hit by a tornado. Then his teacher had told him that they went into the hall to be away from windows that might break during a tornado. Curling up was in case something fell on you. That's why they put their hands over their neck, to protect it in case something sharp fell.

Molly had just joined the class, and she sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall.

It turned out to be a drill, just like last time. After a few minutes, all the students went back into their classroom and sat back down at their desks. After school, Jonas teased Molly about hiding under her desk when the alarm went off. "Scaredy cat!" he said. Molly laughed at him. "I wasn't scared," she replied. Molly explained. She had moved to Oklahoma from California last week. In school in California, when the alarm went off, it was an earthquake drill, not a tornado drill. During the earthquake drill, you were supposed to hide under your desk.

Kanisha overheard them. She told them she had just visited her cousins in Florida, and there they are more likely to face a hurricane instead of a tornado or an earthquake. One time the weather forecaster on the nightly news said that a hurricane had formed near Florida, and that the hurricane would probably impact the area. So school was closed completely the next day.

There are other storms that can be predicted at least a day before they hit, and schools might close if severe weather were likely to impact the areas near the schools. Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn't stop snowing. They had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather forecaster the day before it started to snow.

"Any storm is scary, but I think earthquakes and tornadoes are the scariest," Molly said. "The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a hurricane or snowstorm will come. With earthquakes and tornadoes, you never know."

# alarm a · larm

## Definition

### noun

1. a bell or other loud noise used to signal danger.

*When they heard the fire alarm, they left the building.*

2. the sound of a clock that wakes you up.

*I didn't hear my alarm this morning, so I slept late.*

## Advanced Definition

### noun

1. a sudden apprehension marked by distress or anxiety.

*The report of a tornado filled us with alarm.*

2. any audible or visible warning, esp. by mechanical, electric, or other means.

*Smoke set off the fire alarm.*

3. the sounding mechanism of an alarm clock or warning device.

*The alarm sounded at six o'clock, but he fell back to sleep.*

### transitive verb

1. to cause sudden anxiety in.

*The child's violent behavior alarmed his parents.*

*The murderer's escape from prison alarmed the nearby community.*

2. to warn of danger.

## Spanish cognate

*alarma*: The Spanish word *alarma* means alarm.

---

## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. An **alarm** sounds! It is time for firefighters to race into action.
-



2. Your **alarm** goes off. The room is still dark. You squint at the alarm clock. It's not even 6 a.m.!
3. Gauri Nanda had trouble getting up in the morning. Her **alarm** clock would ring, and she would press the snooze button.
4. The skin has many nerve endings as well. They act like the body's **alarm** system. They are sensitive to cold and heat.
5. Fire officials are **alarmed**. Some lighters are made to look like toys. Parents who think they are toys are buying them for their children.
6. Have an **alarm** inside and outside each bedroom. You should also have a smoke alarm on every level of the home. Push the test button at least once a month. That will let you know whether the alarm is working.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do students do during a tornado drill?

- A. go into the basement
- B. go into the hall and curl up in a ball
- C. hide under their desks
- D. stay home from school

2. What is the setting of this story?

- A. a classroom in Oklahoma
- B. a classroom in California
- C. a classroom in Florida
- D. a classroom in Minnesota

3. Read the following sentences: "Molly had just joined the class, and sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall."

Based on the evidence above, what conclusion can be made?

- A. Molly did not know it was a tornado drill at first.
- B. Jonas didn't know what to do in a tornado drill.
- C. Molly was hiding from Jonas because she felt shy.
- D. The teacher forgot about Molly during the drill.

4. Based on the story, what conclusion can be made about emergency drills?

- A. Emergency drills are different depending on the different weather.
- B. All emergency drills are the same.
- C. Emergency drills are different depending on the different school districts.
- D. Emergency drills are different depending on the different countries.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A. the proper procedures for tornado drills
- B. the differences between Oklahoma and California culture
- C. the best way to make new students feel welcome at school
- D. the different ways people respond to weather across the US

6. Read the following sentences: "Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn't stop snowing, but they had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather forecaster the day before it started to snow."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**forecaster**" mean?

- A. someone who reports breaking news stories on TV
- B. someone who makes predictions of the future
- C. someone who gives people instructions for drills
- D. someone who is an expert on snow

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a tornado or hurricane will come. \_\_\_\_\_, with earthquakes you never know.

- A. Actually
- B. On the other hand
- C. Finally
- D. For example

**8.** Why did Molly hide under her desk during the tornado drill instead of going into the hall like Jonas?

---

---

---

**9.** Students in Oklahoma, California, Florida and Minnesota all have different ways of responding to weather in their areas. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

---

---

---

**10.** Why is it important to know what kind of weather is coming into your area? Use information from the story to support your answer.

---

---

---





**Objective** Concepts (instruments, concert; “oi” – join, “ar – charge); Sight words (grand, slant, drummer, remake, replayed)



Vocabulary	
grand	remake
slant	replayed
drummer	

## The Music Concert

By: Sue Peterson

A music concert has many instruments which are played by many musicians. “Musicians” is the word you use for people who play music with instruments. If you play the piano, you are called a “pianist”. There are upright pianos that stand with the back straight up  and there are grand pianos which have the top of the piano that goes up and stays up in a slant .

A drummer plays the drums. There are many kinds of drums. Sometimes the music concert has a song that is a “remake” of another song. “Remake” means that the song

was made over from what it was like the first time it was played. Maybe some instruments were added. Maybe some notes were added. Maybe someone's singing was added to the music.

Many different songs are played at a music concert. Sometimes a song is "replayed". "Replayed" means you play the song again, or sometimes someone can ask the musicians to play a song they would like to hear again.

Music concerts are held all the time at many places. There are many musicians who play in the concerts. You can go to the concerts to hear the music, to see the musicians who play, and to learn more about all of instruments that are in the music concert.

Sometimes you need to try out to play in a music concert. You pick a song to play and you play it at a try-out. If the person who is in charge of the concert likes the way you play, then you can join the music concert.