

Answer Key

Analyzing a Passage The Wizard of Oz

Read the passage from the classic story *The Wizard of Oz*, then answer the questions on the following page

“There’s a cyclone coming, Em,” Uncle Henry called to his wife. “I’ll go look after the stock.” Then he ran toward the sheds where the cows and horses were kept.

Aunt Em dropped her work and came to the door. One glance told her of the danger close at hand.

“Quick, Dorothy!” she screamed. “Run for the cellar!”

Toto jumped out of Dorothy’s arms and hid under the bed, and the girl started to get him. Aunt Em, badly frightened, threw open the trap door in the floor and climbed down the ladder into the small, dark hole. Dorothy caught Toto at last and started to follow her aunt. When she was halfway across the room there came a great shriek from the wind, and the house shook so hard that she lost her footing and sat down suddenly upon the floor.

Then a strange thing happened.

The house whirled around two or three times and rose slowly through the air. Dorothy felt as if she were going up in a balloon.

The north and south winds met where the house stood, and made it the exact center of the cyclone. In the middle of a cyclone the air is generally still, but the great pressure of the wind on every side of the house raised it up higher and higher, until it was at the very top of the cyclone; and there it remained and was carried miles and miles away as easily as you could carry a feather.

It was very dark, and the wind howled horribly around her, but Dorothy found she was riding quite easily. After the first few whirls around, and one other time when the house tipped badly, she felt as if she were being rocked gently, like a baby in a cradle.

Toto did not like it. He ran about the room, now here, now there, barking loudly; but Dorothy sat quite still on the floor and waited to see what would happen.



Name _____

Date _____

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The Wizard of Oz

After reading the passage from the classic story *The Wizard of Oz* on the previous page, answer the following questions.

1. Find two similes in the passage. Write the two things that are being compared and tell how the simile provides added description for the reader.

a. The house is being compared to a feather.

This simile tells the reader that the tornado was strong.

b. Dorothy is being compared to a baby.

This simile tells the reader that Dorothy was soothed and relaxed while in the tornado.

2. This passage has great imagery, using the senses of sound, sight, touch, and emotions. List three sensory details that help the reader feel like they are in the middle of the action:

a. There came a great shriek from the wind.

b. The house shook so hard that she lost her footing and fell to the floor.

c. It was very dark, and the wind howled horribly around her.

Other possible answers:

- The great pressure of the wind on every side of the house raised it up higher and higher.
- Toto did not like it. He ran about the room, now here, now there, barking loudly.

