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## *The Cyclone*

### **The farm in Kansas**

**D**orothy lived in a little farmhouse in the middle of Kansas. She lived there with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em. Uncle Henry was a farmer.

The farmhouse was small. There were four walls, a floor and a roof, which made just one room. In this room there was a place to wash things and a place to cook food. There was a cupboard for the dishes, and a table. There were three or four chairs, and two beds. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em had a big bed in one corner. Dorothy had a little bed in another corner. The only other thing in the house was a small door in the floor. Under it was a large, dark hole in the ground. It was called a storm cellar. If there was a storm called a cyclone, that was where Dorothy, Aunt Em and Uncle Henry went.

Dorothy stood at the door of the farmhouse. She could see the garden where Aunt Em grew vegetables. She could also see some sheds, where Uncle Henry kept the cows and horses. After that there was nothing but Uncle Henry's fields and Kansas grass. There were no other families to visit, or children to play with.

But Dorothy had someone to play with. He was a little dog. His name was Toto. He had long black hair, small bright eyes, and a funny little cold wet nose. Toto played all day long and Dorothy played with him. Dorothy loved Toto very much.

## A strange thing happens

One day Uncle Henry was sitting at the open door of the farmhouse. He was looking up at the sky. He could see some big black clouds. Dorothy was standing at the door with Toto in her arms. She was looking at the sky,  
5 too. Aunt Em was washing the dishes.

From the north Uncle Henry and Dorothy heard the noise of the wind. They could see the long grass moving. Then they heard the noise of the wind  
10 coming from the south. They looked that way. They saw small waves in the grass coming quickly towards them.

‘There’s a cyclone coming, Em,’ Uncle Henry shouted to Aunt Em. ‘Go down into the cellar. I’ll go  
15 and look after the animals.’ He ran towards the sheds.

Aunt Em stopped work. She came to the door.

‘Quick, Dorothy!’ she said.

Toto jumped out of Dorothy’s arms. He did not like going into the storm cellar. He ran and hid under the  
20 bed. The little girl went to get him.

Aunt Em climbed down into the dark cellar. Dorothy caught Toto, and turned to follow. She ran towards the cellar door. She heard the wind making a very loud noise. The house shook. Dorothy fell over.

25 Then a very strange thing happened.

The house moved. It turned round two or three times. Then it rose slowly into the air.

‘It feels like we are going up in a balloon,’ thought Dorothy.

30 What was happening? Well, the north and south winds met where the house stood. The house was at the centre of a cyclone. In the middle of a cyclone the air is still, but the wind rushes round and round on the