

Read the storm setting description below. Analyse the vocabulary and descriptions that have been used.



A dark, misty haze swept over the evening sky warning people to take shelter from the ferocious disturbance that was about to occur. Swirling, ebony clouds gathered together as if preparing for battle while icy winds whirled across the town gaining in power. Overhead, seagulls squawked and screeched while they tried desperately to escape the upcoming storm. A fine sprinkling of rain quickly turned into a heavy downpour, drenching everything in its path. Suddenly, a powerful flash of jagged lightning tore through the clouds and fiercely lit up the sky. In the distance, the monstrous thunder's voice boomed, rumbling closer and closer as the storm wreaked havoc. The angry sea swallowed the beach as colossal waves crashed against the rocks. As the wind howled and wailed, it ripped off loose tree branches and knocked over garden dustbins. Destructive and dangerous: nothing was going to stand in its way.



Read the storm setting description below. Edit and improve the vocabulary to make it more descriptive. Add different sentence starters to make the text more engaging.



It was evening and the sky was dark. People went indoors because there was a storm coming. There were black clouds and cold winds. The seagulls were noisy. They flew away to try to escape the storm. There wasn't much rain to start with but then it became heavy. It was really wet. There was lightning and it was very bright. The thunder was noisy and it got closer and closer. The sea was very rough. Then, the wind knocked over bins and tore off tree branches. It was very dangerous.

# **Setting Description Checklist**

| Did I  | Child | Friend | Teacher |
|--|-------|--------|---------|
| describe what can be seen?                               |       |        |         |
| describe what can be heard?                              |       |        |         |
| describe what can be felt?                               |       |        |         |
| describe the time of day?                                |       |        |         |
| describe the weather?                                    |       |        |         |
| use powerful adjectives to describe the atmosphere/mood? |       |        |         |
|  |       |        |         |

## Extreme Earth: Natural Disasters

Descriptive Words

#### How Could a Flood Be Described?

deep, devastating, excessive, extensive, mighty, overwhelming, periodic, rapid, recurrent, seasonal, severe, tremendous, unprecedented

#### What Is a Hurricane Like?

catastrophic, deadly, dreadful, forceful, intense, powerful, severe, strong, terrible, unexpected, violent

### What Is a Volcanic Eruption Like?

active, deafening, explosive, fiery, infernal, massive, pressurised, pyroclastic, thermal

### How Could People Feel during a Natural Disaster?

angry, anxious, confused, desperate, despondent, displaced, empty, frightened, grieving, irritable, lost, shocked, traumatised, unsafe, withdrawn, worried

### How Could an Earthquake Be Described?

brief, cataclysmic, continuous, convulsive, large, localised, minor, powerful, violent

#### What Is a Tsunami Like?

amplified, coastal, damaging, deadly, devastating, gigantic, monstrous, phenomenal, powerful, seismic, silent, tall, unstoppable, widespread

## How Could a Tornado Be Described?

conical, critical, destructive, ferocious, fierce, furious, intense, loud, sudden, thunderous, tropical

# **Descriptive Settings: Storms**

| What Can I Describe? | How Can I Describe It? | What Can It Do? | Examples of Effective Phrases  |  |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| wind                 | blustery               | blow            | the banks of the river burst because of  |  |
| rain                 | boisterous             | pour            | the ferocious current  |  |
| clouds               | fierce                 | gush            |  |  |
| thunder              | sharp                  | bend            | the bleak sky gushed a heavy downpour  |  |
| lightning            | cold                   | break           |  |  |
| sun                  | heavy                  | snap            | a fierce crack of thunder  |  |
| trees                | vicious                | drift           |  |  |
| grass                | strong                 | destroy         | delicate flakes of snow began  |  |
| precipitation        | monstrous              | fly             | to drift through the air   |  |
| hail                 | scary                  | crack           |  |  |
| river                | bleak                  | flash           | only one stream of sunlight  |  |
| air                  | grey                   | billow          |  |  |
| sky                  | frightening            | bounce          | THE THE PARTY OF T |  |
| weather              | dangerous              | dance           |  |  |
| temperature          | hazardous              | glide           |  |  |
| snow                 | slow                   | sway            |  |  |
| leaves               | rapid                  | howl            |  |  |
| branches             | turbulent              | overflow        |  |  |