

Name \_\_\_\_\_ • Class# \_\_\_\_\_ Due Friday!

Literacy Strands - Tornadoes - [www.weatherwizkids.com](http://www.weatherwizkids.com) / Willow Hambrick

Underline Details!

**Monday: What is a Tornado?** – “A tornado is a violent rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of up to 300 mph. They can destroy large buildings, uproot trees and hurl vehicles hundreds of yards. They can also drive straw into trees. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide to 50 miles long. In an average year, 1000 tornadoes are reported nationwide.” Many tornadoes that have struck Kentucky and Indiana have been devastating. Henryville, Indiana endured an EF4 tornado with winds in excess of 207 mph with the tornado on the ground for 45 miles. The tornado that struck West Liberty, KY in 2012 was on the ground for at least 34 miles, and it was an EF 3 tornado with winds in excess of 158 mph. There were 79 tornadoes in KY in 2012 resulting in at least 20 deaths! Tornado safety is essential, and that is why we practice tornado drills in March and April at RSMS.

Write one sentence that expresses your feelings about the power and destruction of last week's tornadoes:

Restate this ↑

Capitalize ↓

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Punctuation?

**Tuesday: When and Where are Tornadoes Most Likely to Occur?** – “Tornadoes can happen at any time of the year and at any time of the day. In the southern states, peak tornado season is from March through May. Peak times for tornadoes in the northern states are during the summer. A few southern states have a second peak time for tornado outbreaks in the fall. Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. The geography of the central part of the United States, known as the Great Plains, is suited to bring all of the ingredients together to form tornadoes. More than 500 tornadoes typically occur in this area every year and is why it is commonly known as “Tornado Alley”. Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana all make up Tornado Alley.” With all the devastating tornadoes that have occurred in Kentucky and Indiana in the last few decades, many people believe that those two states should be added to the Tornado Alley roster.

In one sentence, explain when the “tornado season” takes place in the United States.

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Dorothy!  
Where's toto?



**Wednesday: Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity** – “An F1 tornado has winds of 40-72 mph: Light damage/branches broken off trees/light roof damage. An F2 tornado has winds of 113-157 mph: Considerable damage/mobile homes demolished/trees uprooted/homes unroofed. An F3 tornado has winds of 158-206 mph: Severe damage/trains overturned/cars lifted off the ground/outside walls of homes blown away. An F4 tornado has winds of 207-260 mph: Devastating damage/houses leveled leaving piles of debris/cars thrown 300 yards or more in the air. An F5 tornado has winds of 261-318 mph: Incredible damage/strongly built homes completely blown away/often there is nothing left of buildings and homes but concrete slab foundations and sidewalks.” Mrs. Hambrick survived the 1974 F4 tornado that blew the roof and second floor off her dorm while she was at Hanover College and caused over 10 million dollars worth of damage on her campus. Mrs. Hambrick was almost G W T W (Gone With the Wind.) Yikes.

What kind of damage happened at Hanover College in 1974 as a result of the F4 tornado?

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**Thursday: Tornado Safety** – “Go to a basement. If you do not have a basement, go to an interior room without windows on the lowest floor such as a bathroom or closet. If you can, get under a sturdy piece of furniture, like a heavy table. If you live in a mobile home get out. They offer little protection against tornadoes. Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; leave it immediately. If you're outside, go to a ditch or low lying area and lie flat in it. Stay away from fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.” While seeking safety in your home, it is wise to wear bike or football helmets in case of falling or flying debris. It is also wise to get a mattress off the bed to help shield your body. You should have candles, matches, water, a battery powered radio and flashlights and batteries at the ready as often an entire neighborhood or town loses power if a tornado strikes. Stay away from downed power lines, and if you see broken gas lines or hear / smell natural gas – leave the house or building immediately as an explosion may occur. All these tornado safety tips are meant to help keep you and those you love safe during tornado season.

In one sentence, explain what to do at RSMS if a tornado warning has been issued and you hear the tornado alarm.

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\*Fact: Mrs. Schneider has been in 3 F2 tornadoes!  
Have you ever seen one?