

# TOUCHDOWN OF THE WRONG KIND



## Characters

Sam  
Nina  
Mom

Mr. Whirltwist  
Mr. Dobbs  
Mrs. Specter

## Setting

This reader's theater takes place at Nina and Sam's home just after their town has experienced a tornado.



Mom



Sam



Nina



Mr. Dobbs

## Act 1

**Sam:** I don't want to go outside today.

**Nina:** I feel sick, Mom. I'm just going to stay in bed.

**Mom:** What's the matter with you two? We need to get some supplies to repair the barn.

**Sam:** Can we go visit Grandma?

**Mom:** Don't be ridiculous. Grandma lives in Arizona. Wait a minute. I think I know what's going on here. Let me make a phone call.

## Act 2

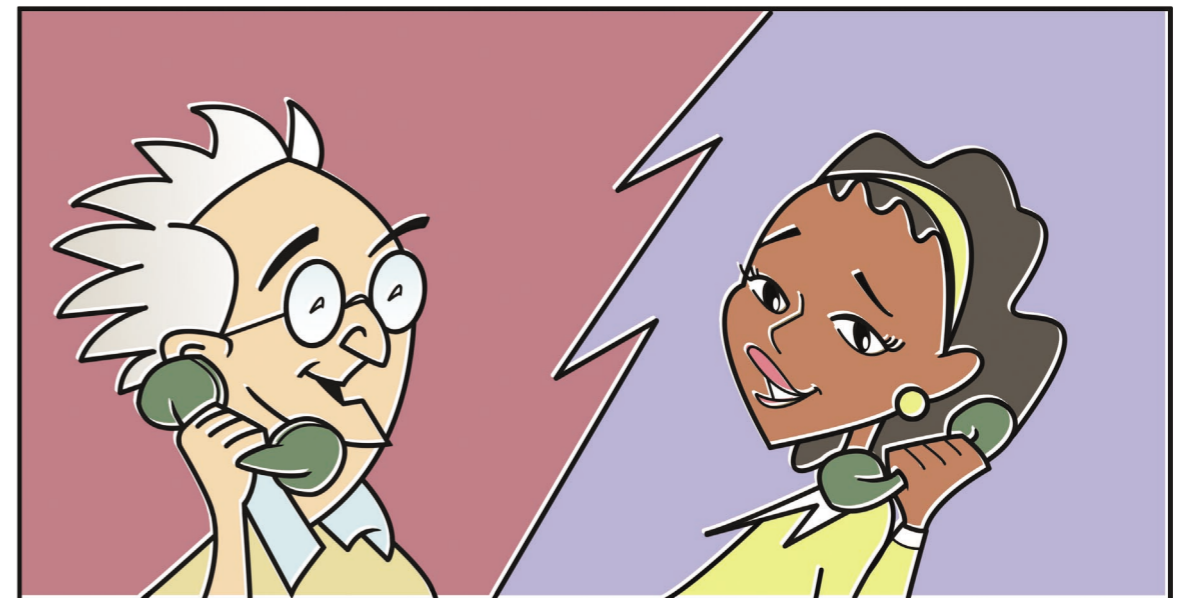
**Mom:** Mr. Whirltwist? Hi, this is Nina and Sam's mom.

**Mr. Whirltwist:** How are you doing?

**Mom:** We're fine, but the kids don't want to go anywhere. They're still afraid because of the tornado.

**Mr. Whirltwist:** Everybody's scared right now. It's understandable after what we've experienced.

**Mom:** I was wondering if you could come over and teach the kids all about tornadoes.



# Nature Lesson Plan

## Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will deliver oral presentations and read passages fluently with practice using recorded materials.
- **Content Area:** Students will learn interesting and important facts about tornadoes, safety tips, and how to prepare for a tornado.

## Summary

*Touchdown of the Wrong Kind* is story about two children who lived through a tornado. The children are too frightened to leave their homes for fear of another tornado, so their mother sends for Mr. Whirltwist and other local weather experts to help share their experiences with the children and discuss what to do in case of a tornado.



## Materials

- *Touchdown of the Wrong Kind* script booklets
- *Nature Character Masks* copied on cardstock

## Introduce the Literature

Ask students to brainstorm a list of natural disasters. Give students paper and old magazines to use to create collages of natural disasters. Allow students to share any of their personal experiences with natural disasters. Explain that the class will read a book about a family that endures a frightening night when several tornadoes touch down in their town. Read the book, *The Night of the Twister* by Ivy Ruckman, which complements the script, *Touchdown of the Wrong Kind*. Ask students to compare that book to their own experiences with natural disasters or with the pictures from the magazines. Students can write the comparisons on the back of the collages.



## ELL Support

Encourage English language learners to share any personal experiences with natural disasters. Discuss with these students the terms in the script that are specific to tornadoes. These terms may be difficult to understand. When possible, have the students find examples of these terms in either a picture dictionary or using other resources.

## Involving All Students

This script has only six roles, but there are a variety of ways to involve all students. For this reader's theater experience, assign the main roles to six of the students. Explain to the remaining students that they will create the sound effects for the performance. The script offers many opportunities for sound effects and students doing sound effects must coordinate with students doing speaking parts. Read through the script with students to determine where sound effects are appropriate. Assist students in determining the appropriate number of sound effects so that the sounds do not distract from the performance. Show a video of a tornado so that students can hear what a tornado sounds like.