

Dodge and the Tornado

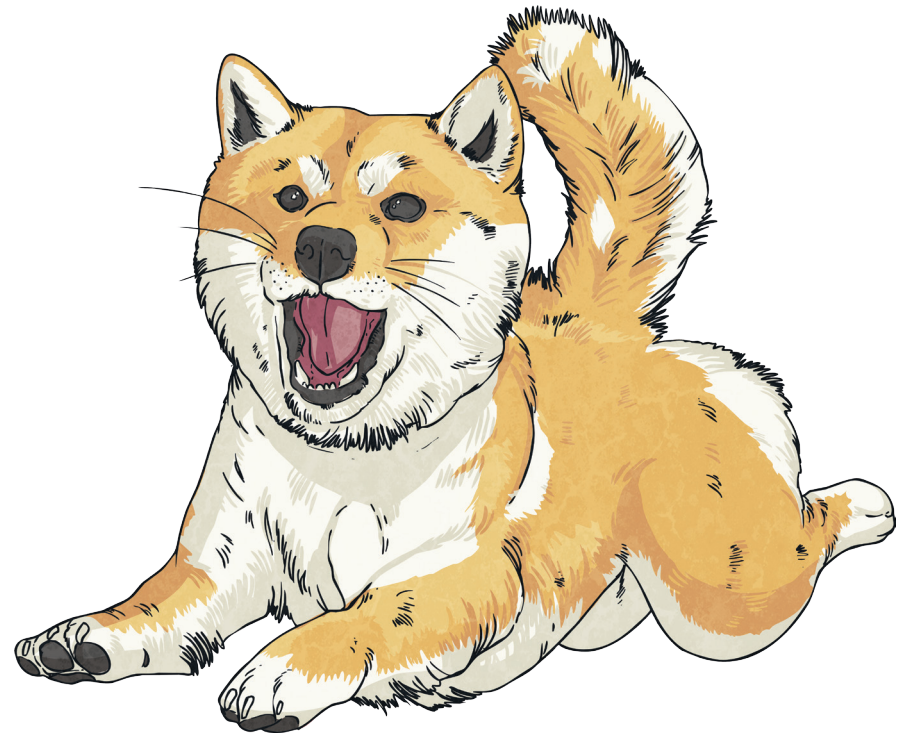
Chapter 1

Dodge tilted his head to the wind and sniffed the air. It smelt dry and dusty like it always did just before it rained. He listened. A strange roar rumbled in the distance, like a heavy train thundering down the track. He tilted his head again, trying to get a better view but the buildings were in his way. He looked along the street towards the park, then back towards the underpass where he had sheltered for the night. Strange, he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.



The roar was getting louder. He scampered up the hill to get a better view. Raising his front paws against an old bin, Dodge stared over the buildings towards the vast plains of the American Midwest. There, in the near-distance, tearing up everything in its path and reaching high into the sky like a giant spinning-top, was a raging mass of swirling wind. He'd seen something like this before - the humans called them tornadoes - but this one was the biggest yet, and it was headed straight for the town. Dodge made a little whimpering noise and sprinted towards the underpass.

The wind was getting stronger. Leaves, rubbish and old plastic bags danced in circles in the air as Dodge darted between them. Trees bent unnaturally on the street-side and tiles torn from roofs landed like missiles on the road. Dodge focused on the underpass. It was a strong-looking bridge made to carry heavy lorries. If he could make it there, he would be safe. The roar of the tornado was louder than ever now; the sound of ripping metal adding to the deafening noise as the wind whipped at his fur. He weaved through a mist of dust and rubble and with a huge leap dived into the underpass. He nuzzled under his blanket, clenching it with his teeth. With his eyes tightly shut and with the tornado raging around him, he wondered where Banjo was.



Question

Read the first chapter carefully.

Using evidence from the text, give two examples of how the author builds a sense of danger surrounding the impending storm. [3 marks]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Answers

Acceptable points:

AP1. The author uses powerful verbs when talking about the storm's movements.

AP2. The author implies that the storm turns everyday items into dangerous weapons.

AP3. The author shows the main character's fear towards the impending storm.

AP4. The author implies that the main character is already being hurt by the storm.

Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.

- The author builds a sense of danger by using powerful verbs, such as 'thundering' and 'tearing'. The author also shows that Dodge is already scared of the storm. [AP1 + evidence and AP3]
- The author makes the storm sound dangerous because they imply that it has turned everyday items into weapons. They do this by saying that the roof tiles land 'like missiles'. Dodge is already being hurt by the storm because it's 'whipping at his fur'. [AP2 + evidence and AP4 + evidence]

Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

- The author makes the storm sound dangerous because they use powerful verbs to describe what it is doing, such as 'tearing up everything in its path'. [AP1 + evidence]
- The author uses powerful verbs to describe the storm's actions and they imply that Dodge is already being hurt by the storm. [AP1 + AP4]

Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.

- The author implies that Dodge is already scared of the storm. [AP3]
- The author uses powerful verbs to describe the storm. [AP1]