

Name: _____

Weathering the Storm

by Kelly Hashway

Sara stared out the window, watching the gusts of wind blow the trees until they looked like they'd tip over. She sighed, thinking about the birthday party she would've been having if the hurricane hadn't ruined her plans. She didn't understand why her parents had to cancel the party. They didn't live near the ocean. Sure it was windy, but they could fly kites or something.



"Sweetie, you can't sit there all day and sulk," her mother said. "We'll have your party next weekend. I already called everyone and made all the arrangements."

"It's not the same. My birthday is today, not next weekend." Sara turned on the television. She wanted to watch anything other than the storm. But just about every station was talking about the hurricane. "I can't even watch my favorite shows. This hurricane is ruining everything."

Her mother sat down next to her. "The hurricane is ruining a lot. Look at that. Those people are trying to save their houses. Could you imagine if we lost our home?"

Sara looked at the images on the television screen. The storm did look bad. She knew she'd be really upset if her family lost their home. All her stuff would be gone forever, and where would they live?

"What's going to happen to all those people? Will they be okay?" Sara asked.

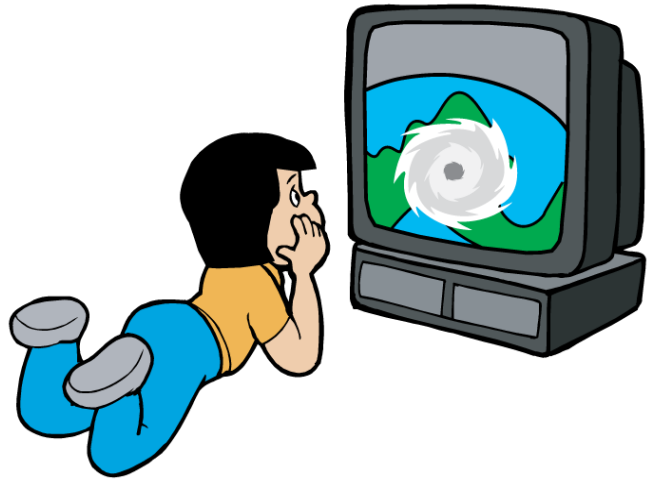
"Usually when there's a big storm like this, people raise money and send food and other supplies to the families who lost their homes. Some people even volunteer to help rebuild houses."

"What can I do?" Sara asked. Suddenly not getting to have her birthday party didn't seem so bad. "I want to help."

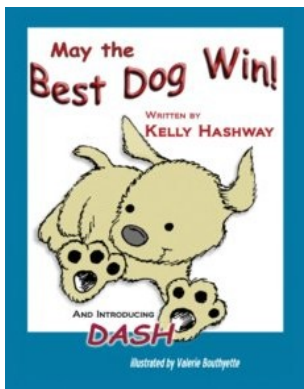
Her mother pointed to the screen. "There's a number to call to find out more about helping the victims. Would you like to call it with me?"

Sara nodded. "And maybe I could donate my birthday money. Those people are going to need it more than I do."

Her mother smiled and hugged her. "I'm really proud of you, Sara. Helping others is a great way to weather the storm."



About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. Which word best describes Sara at the beginning of the story?

- a. generous
- b. selfish
- c. thoughtful
- d. excited

2. Where does Sara live?

- a. near the ocean
- b. on a mountain
- c. inland from the ocean
- d. in the desert

3. Why do you think Sara's mother canceled the birthday party?

- a. She was afraid Sara's gifts would be ruined.
- b. She was afraid there might be a tornado.
- c. She wanted Sara to volunteer to help others.
- d. She did not think it would be safe for Sara's guests to come over.

4. What did Sara want to do to help the victims of the storm?

5. How do you think Sara's mother felt when Sara was complaining about her birthday party being canceled? Explain.

6. Which word best describes Sara at the end of the story?

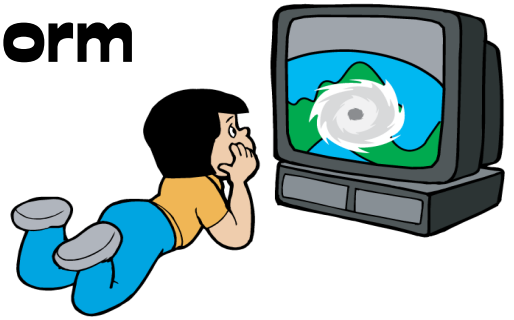
- a. generous
- b. cheerful
- c. selfish
- d. proud

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.



_____ 1. gusts

a. wrecked

_____ 2. sulk

b. pictures

_____ 3. ruined

c. spend time helping others

_____ 4. arrangements

d. strong bursts of wind

_____ 5. images

e. to give money or supplies

_____ 6. volunteer

f. feeling upset and staying quiet

_____ 7. rebuild

g. plans

_____ 8. donate

h. to build again

◆ **Now try this:** Find all of the vocabulary words in the story and highlight them.

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In the story, "Weathering the Storm," Sara's birthday is canceled because of a hurricane. When Sara realizes that many people will lose their homes in the hurricane, she donates her birthday money to help them.



Describe a natural disaster you've seen on television or heard about. Tell what people did to help.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

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by Kelly Hashway



1. Which word best describes Sara at the beginning of the story? **b**
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 - b. **selfish**
 - c. thoughtful
 - d. excited

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 - a. She was afraid Sara's gifts would be ruined.
 - b. She was afraid there might be a tornado.
 - c. She wanted Sara to volunteer to help others.
 - d. **She did not think it would be safe for Sara's guests to come over.**

4. What did Sara want to do to help the victims of the storm?

She wanted to donate her birthday money.

5. How do you think Sara's mother felt when Sara was complaining about her birthday party being canceled? Explain.

Her mother probably felt annoyed because she was more worried about her birthday party than all the victims who might be losing their homes.

6. Which word best describes Sara at the end of the story?
 - a. **generous**
 - b. cheerful
 - c. selfish
 - d. proud

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